



Cambodia

HOPE IN THE KILLING FIELDS

Fast Facts

Location

Part of Southeast Asia, bordered by Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

Population:

13.9 million (2004), 21% urban. About 60% of the population is 20 years or younger. Phnom Penh, its capital and largest city, has 1,100,000 (2002). Average life expectancy is 59.3 years (USA 77.5).

People/Ethnic Groups:

85% Khmer, 3% Vietnamese, 4% Chinese, 4% Cham (Muslim) 4% Other. 17 languages, of which Scripture is in two. Official language: Khmer. 26 of 39 people groups are unreached, and less than 2% of the total population is Christian. Seven of these are least reached people groups. 26 groups have at least one known Christian congregation while the rest do not.

Economy:

Cambodia receives more aid *per person* than any other nation. Average annual income is \$300 per person (1% of the USA's average). Human Development Index is 130 of 177 nations ranked in 2004 (USA 8th). 40% is below national poverty level (1997 est.) There are 4,100 riel to 1 US dollar. The economy slowed dramatically in 1997-1998 due to the regional crises, civil violence, and political infighting. Tourism was Cambodia's fastest growing industry. Today Cambodia remains one of the least developed countries in the world.





Recent History

Cambodia was part of French Indochina from 1887 until gaining their independence in 1953. Communist Khmer Rouge forces captured Phnom Penh in 1975 and ordered evacuation of all cities and towns. In the following years at least 1.5 million -or 20% of all

Cambodians-died from execution, enforced hardships or starvation as chronicled in the acclaimed movie *The Killing Fields*. Later Vietnamese occupation and subsequent civil war ended with UN-sponsored elections in 1993, which brought some

normalcy and the surrender of the Khmer Rouge in 1999. Factional fighting and unstable coalition governments followed until the 2003 elections. Cambodia today is much more stable and secure.

Religion in Country

Historically, since the 1500s, Buddhism has been the national religion. Prior to that it was mainly animistic, and some Cambodians practice a mix of Buddhism and Animism. The Khmer Rouge tried to wipe out all religion, killing 90% of the Buddhist monks and most of the Christians. Since 1990, Christians have

been able to worship freely, but are considered second class. Seven of the 26 least reached people groups have at least one known indigenous congregation. There is one new church started per week. Because of the quick growth over the last 15 years, the now 2% Christian population lacks maturity.

85% Buddhist
4% Chinese
(Taoist, Confucian)
4% Muslim
2% Christian
5% Other

Ministry in Country

Mission to Unreached Peoples' ministry in Cambodia stretches from the neglected and poor of Cambodia's minorities to the business elite. Also we work with you to facili-

tate God's call on your life to reach the Unreached of Cambodia for Christ Jesus, whether your interest is short-term or long-term. While our primary target is unreached

peoples and minority groups, we utilize a variety of entry platforms and ministry strategies that provide ministry opportunities for those with God's call to Cambodia.

Placement Options in Cambodia



Current Mission to Unreached Peoples Involvement:

- Language Study so as to work in various ministry opportunities: Children at Risk, theological education, church planting.
- Teaching in an International School
- Practical teaching at a computer and English school
- Church Planting among the Kuy.
- Church Planting among the Chinese of Phnom Penh
- Medical and community services to poor village women
- Theological Education by extension
- Developing a Bible Institute
- Foster care network
- Outreach to University Students.

Personal Qualifications

- A mature Christian with a working knowledge of the Scriptures and a consistent walk with God.
- If married, a godly family which is also committed to missionary service.
- Demonstrated skills in evangelism and discipleship.
- Unusual flexibility and adaptability, perseverance, independence, good communication skills, and sense of humor.
- A willingness to experience the rigors of life and work in a developing country while maintaining an excellent Christian witness.
- Ability and commitment to build and maintain good interpersonal relationships.
- A local church body and pastor who are supportive of your application for missionary service and who will commission and send you out from the church as a missionary.
- A willingness to learn the language and understand the culture.

Important Information

- **Training Provided:** Excellent training and preparation is vital for successful ministry in Cambodia. Mission to Unreached Peoples' training program includes Cross-Cultural Living, Friendship Evangelism, Interpersonal Relationships, Spiritual Warfare, Language Acquisition, and a variety of other ministry related topics. Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) training is also available.
- **Local Support:** A supporting team of co-workers is important to us. You will be connected to and have fellowship opportunities with MUP personnel and other missionaries and have the opportunity to develop a strong local team of co-workers.
- **Support Services:** Mission to Unreached Peoples is dedicated to providing the support that will facilitate your ministry. Services include newsletter and electronic mailings; online, automatic, and manual receipting of the financial gifts from your friends and supporters; and full online web access to financial and other organizational information. In addition, our national and field offices are available to respond to and help with special requests. Field and organization-wide conferences are scheduled regularly for spiritual and emotional refreshment, encouragement, and further equipping for the work.
- **Pastoral Care:** Pastoral care is a very important part of our ministry to you. While you are in Cambodia, field-based or itinerant member care personnel will visit with you to encourage, counsel, share, and pray with you. Our staff is there to help with special needs.
- **Financial Arrangements:** Financial needs vary depending upon the missionary's unique situation: family size, schooling options, personal standard of living, and transportation costs, etc. A customized budget is created for each missionary. One-time initial costs must be raised or paid to cover the outgoing costs such as airfare, training, and health insurance. In most cases, you will need to raise personal support to cover personal expenses, health insurance, home leave transportation, and monthly Support Services.
- **Terms of Service:** The normal term of service is two-four years, with three months of home leave for every year overseas. Actual service terms vary with the type of placement and work. Shorter placements, including short-term, summer, and internships are also available, depending on need and individual qualifications.



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