

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada



CAMBODIA: CHURCH PLANT AND GIRLS DORM SUPPORT COMMUNITY

Multiple efforts also spread the Gospel in a country where there are very few Christ-followers



Current facilities at an Anglican church in Prey Smach allow four to six girls to live in a dorm and attend school. A new dorm included in this project will host 20 additional girls.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CONTEXT: Cambodia's population of 16.9 million is about 95 percent Buddhist, with the remaining 5 percent people of other faiths, including Christianity. The constitution allows for freedom of belief and religious worship as long as such freedom does not interfere with others' beliefs or create disturbances. Most of the towns and villages in Cambodia lack a Christian presence as new church plants have been more focused in the cities. In addition, due to higher rents and cost of living in the big cities, many are choosing to move to the outskirts of the cities to areas such as Phnom Penh Thmey. In this city, to the west of Phnom Penh, there are few churches.

NEED: The needs for evangelism, church planting, and discipleship remain high, especially in suburban and rural Cambodia. A new Anglican church in Phnom Penh Thmey will meet the needs of newcomers and also provide a place for people to explore faith through the Anglican church. Likewise, opportunities for a good education outside of the city are inadequate due to a lack of qualified teachers, low family income, and the lack of basic infrastructure, such as water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities, which particularly impact adolescent girls.

SOLUTION: The Anglican Church of Cambodia seeks to establish a new church in Phnom Penh Thmey. It will be located in a growing municipality in the suburbs of Phnom Penh. This will allow the diocese to provide church and discipleship services to members, train church leaders, conduct youth and children ministries, and support community development programs to meet the needs of the congregation. The diocese will also establish a hostel for girls from poor surrounding villages.

LIFE IMPACT

Benefits 200 people, some in multiple ways:

- 20 girls from remote villages gain access to a high school education and safe accommodations
- 80 people (20 teenage girls and 60 family members) are nurtured in the Christian faith through discipleship and mentoring through the new dorm facility
- 100 people join a new church plant in Phnom Penh Thmey and grow to form a thriving community of Christ-followers

PROJECT PROFILE

ID: ARDF-0921-Cambodia

Lead Ministry

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CAMBODIA



LIVES IMPACTED 200

SECTOR Church planting & Education

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$61,150

TOTAL COST PER BENEFICIARY \$558.25

ARDF COST PER BENEFICIARY \$305.75

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Church of Christ our Peace (CCOP) "is a vital place for Christians (and non-Christians) of all backgrounds to gather together and worship in English. Many congregants pour out to the Cambodian and international community during the week, so CCOP is a place to seek the Lord, hear the Gospel, and fellowship with others in preparation for another week of ministry. The new location will cut down on commute times, often 50+ minutes, and will replicate the welcoming spirit of CCOP in a strategic location."

– Rachel Meyer, a congregant at CCOP since 2011

WHAT IT'S LIKE NOW



“Cambodia is moving towards 100 percent enrollment of children in primary education.

Government spending on education has increased substantially in recent years. Hundreds of new schools are being built, and literacy rates have improved. But while some areas of education have made big advances, enormous challenges remain.”

– <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/topics/education-and-training/>

“While elsewhere in the region, Christians face government restrictions, Cambodia’s church leaders have seen their work not only permitted but championed and celebrated from the highest levels of government. ... The prime minister assured Christians that their religious freedoms would continue, meaning evangelicals can continue their coordination in a years-long plan to reach all of Cambodia – every village – with the gospel.

“Looking back through all the struggles in the history of the gospel in Cambodia, this is nothing less than a modern-day miracle. The year 2019 will prove a landmark year for Cambodia, with the growth of the church standing in stark contrast to the repression and trauma of its historic past.”

– <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2019/december-web-only/cambodia-christian-prime-minister-bgea-rally-religious-free.html>

PROJECT DESIGN

The Anglican Church of Cambodia plans to establish a new church plant in Phnom Penh Thmey, a growing municipality, with the goal that the church become self-sufficient in three years. Funds will be used to rent two adjacent facilities, for no more than \$700 a month each, for at least two years, to house the new church. The church will also renovate, repair, furnish, and outfit the place, as well as set up an AV system and seats. Plans call for services on Sunday and English and Chinese classes on weekends.

Along with the local Cambodians, many expatriates and mainland Chinese live in Phnom Penh Thmey. The new church plant will host services in Khmer and Chinese languages and is projected to serve 100 to 150 people in the first year.

Prior to the pandemic, CCOP, the English congregation in the Anglican church in Phnom Penh, grew to over 200 from an initial group of 70. Many who attend the Sunday service have come to appreciate and love the beauty of Anglican worship and through the ministry of the church many have come to faith.

Along with the church plant, the Anglican Church of Cambodia seeks to provide safe accommodations for teenage girls from poor families in the villages surrounding Prey Smach, Pursat, so they can continue their schooling. For a number of years, the church in Prey Smach has allowed four to six girls to stay on its premises during the school term. Requests have come in from other families, but the church staff is unable to take in more due to space and manpower constraints. By building a new single-story building on available church land, 15 to 20 more students can be accommodated. An additional staff member will be added to care and guide the girls, who will pay a monthly fee and contribute to the community life by cleaning and cooking for each other. The community surrounding the hostels will be invited to contribute funds to help support the girls. The estimated budget is \$10,000 to cover the cost of a staff member and food for all residents. The Diocese of Singapore and St. Andrew’s Community Chapel (the main supporting parish for this work) will cover the subsidy for ongoing expenses as part of its mission.

Measuring impact. Work will be overseen by the Rev. Steven Seah, Dean of Cambodia, and the Rev. Tit Hieng, Vicar of the Rural Mission Districts. Expenses are monitored and controlled by the Dean and reported quarterly to a church council. Attendance at the new church plant and the number of girls hosted at the new dorm will also be tracked.

IMPLEMENTER FINANCIALS*

This project adheres to some or all of this sector’s established best practices

INCOME	2018	%	2019	%	2020	%
Donations			\$880	1	\$337	1
Donations - Mission Team	\$5,101	9	\$2,672	3		
Service collections, offertories, tithes	\$52,346	90	\$64,247	82	\$42,056	79
Other income	\$422	1	\$11,253	14	\$10,878	20
TOTAL	\$57,869	100	\$79,052	100	\$53,271	100
EXPENDITURES	2018	%	2019	%	2020	%
Personnel	\$31,997	56	\$29,706	44	\$33,246	52
Ministry & Mission Outreach	\$10,617	18	\$12,666	19	\$10,386	16
Office Administrative Expenses	\$9,114	16	\$7,063	10	\$5,992	9
Quota Allocation	\$4,904	9	\$6,424	9	\$4,206	6
Transportation (fuel & vehicle maintenance)	\$838	1	\$408	1	\$655	1
Miscellaneous	\$102		\$11,711	17	\$10,490	16
TOTAL	\$57,572	100	\$67,978	100	\$64,975	100
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$297	1	\$11,074	14	(\$11,704)	-22

NOTES:

*Income and expenditures reported in U.S. dollars

INCOME: The Anglican Church of Cambodia presented unaudited profit and loss statements for 2018, 2019 and 2020 in USD. These are a sub-account of the diocese’s larger account, which includes a hostel. A review of these statements indicate fluctuations in the church’s revenue during the period under review (2018-2020), with the most significant growth in 2019 as a result of an increase in church offerings and collections. A decline in the same is noted in 2020. Though not stated, this could be attributed to partial closures of churches in 2020 due to Covid-19. General donations were presented separate from donations to the missions team. Altogether, both sets of donations represented 9% of the church’s income in 2019 and less than 5% in 2019 and 2020. Other income, presented without additional details, grew from 1% in 2019 to 14% and 20% in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

The church reported a surplus over income amounting to 1% in 2018, 15% in 2019, and a deficit of 22% in 2020.

EXPENSES: The Church’s major expenses were personnel (staff stipends, staff welfare, medical fees, training and professional fees). These averaged 50% over the three years with negligible actual amounts between the three years. Ministry and Mission Outreach expenses included programs serving the poor and needy. These costs represented 18% of the church’s annual expenditure in 2018, 19% in 2019, and 16% in 2020. Office and administrative costs included utilities, repairs and maintenance, office furniture and equipment, communication and stationeries, depreciation, banking and license fees. These declined 23% in 2019 and 34% in 2020, in comparison to 2018 when they represented 16% of total expenditures. The church’s annual quota allocation averaged 8% during the three years. A slight increase is noted in 2019 before a return to 2018 levels in 2020. Transportation costs for the church and missions team all together represented the lowest cost at 1% in 2019 and 2020. However, growth in miscellaneous expenditure was noted representing 17% and 16% in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

RISK ANALYSIS



CONCEPT: 1

Church planting in a nation with less than 5 percent Christians is welcomed. The diocese wants to plant this new church at a time when the government of Cambodia has been open to allowing Christian organizations to carry out their missions with fewer restrictions.

PROGRAM DESIGN & EXPERIENCE: 2

Anglican Church of Cambodia has taken a conservative approach by renting space to host the new church plant before purchasing buildings or land. The girls dorm is a reasonable-sized project and one that the church has done before. However, the hostel hosts just 20 girls, which is far lower than the number who need a safe place to stay.

LEADERSHIP: 1

This project has the support of the archbishop who oversees all activities in the deanery in Cambodia. The team has experience in church planting. The dorm will be located within walking distance to the school, allowing for oversight by church leaders.

FINANCIAL CONTROL: 3

The annual budget for the church plant is \$31,800 and will be funded by the Diocese of Singapore and from local tithes and collections. The church does not have externally audited financial reports or independent governance as all board members are Anglicans.

SUSTAINABILITY: 2

Diocese of Singapore has been committed to supporting work in Cambodia by sending missionaries, raising funds, and interceding for the work there. It has a strategy to ensure that the new church plant is self-sustaining within three years. For the hostels, ongoing costs will be covered through fundraising and local in-kind donations.

EXTERNAL: 2

Religious freedoms experienced now could change at any point should leaders from the dominant faith have a change of heart. However, so far, the government leaders have been welcoming of all faiths as long as they do not interfere with the peace of the nation.

PROJECT BUDGET

ITEM	SOURCES OF FUNDS	
	REQUESTED FROM ARDF	LOCAL/OTHER FUNDING
\$1,400/month rent for 2 years	\$28,000	\$5,600
Research and evaluation	\$6,150	
Renovations, repairs	\$2,000	\$1,000
AV and musical equipment	\$3,000	\$2,000
Furniture and fittings	\$2,000	\$1,000
Staff		\$12,000
Utilities		\$3,000
Subtotal of church plant costs	\$41,150	\$24,600
Construction	\$20,000 ¹	\$20,000
Furnishings (beds, mirrors, kitchen)		\$2,000
Staff		\$3,900
Subtotal of dorm costs	\$20,000	\$25,900
TOTAL	\$61,150²	\$50,500

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

For \$1,000, you can give one girl a safe place to live so she can gain an education.
 For \$700 a month, you can pay one month’s rent that allows up to 100 people to gather for church services.
 For \$8,400, you can provide a congregation with a secure place of worship for one year.

NOTES

¹ includes cement, wiring, electrical fittings, windows, plumbing, masonry, painting, architectural designs, approvals, and all that is necessary to complete the 20-bed building.

² initial ARDF cost per beneficiary is \$235.75, but the building will serve many more people over the years. This cost is based on 20 girls being housed at the dorm, 60 of their family members being impacted, and 100 people attending the new church in a year.

This mark is used throughout the report to indicate additional information available upon request.



LEADERSHIP PROFILES

The Rev. Steven Seah was installed as the fourth Dean of Cambodia in 2019 and is based in Phnom Penh. He is an ordained minister from the Diocese of Singapore, serves as Vicar of the Church of Christ our Peace (CCOP) and the Dean of Cambodia, and provides oversight of all activities in the Deanery in Cambodia.

Fr. Gregory Whitaker, an ordained minister and a member of Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders, has been the priest in charge of the English congregation of CCOP for the last eight years. Prior to serving in Cambodia, he was involved in church planting at Church of the Resurrection, Illinois.

REFERENCES

“Girls in Cambodia, as with many other third-world Asian countries, have for years never been given the same opportunities as boys. For some families, the unavailability of a safe and affordable/free accommodation could cause the child to lose the opportunity to be educated in the city. Safety and good management, including reliable Christian dorm parents (are critical elements to consider in hosting girls).”

– Dr. Seet Ai Mee, founder and chairman of E2STEM Education Ltd., Cambodia

“The Rev. Steven Seah as a leader is an apostolic leader with a missionary heart. He loves to see the gospel go out and connect with those who do not yet know the Lord. He also lives and works with compassion for the poor and those in need. I have known Rev. Seah for four to five years of direct ministry partnership. The ministry in Phnom Penh has a great deal of potential. I have seen first-hand the effectiveness of the dorm ministry in exposing people to the gospel and offering an invitation to them.”

– Jesse Blaine, church planter, Wellspring Church, Englewood, Colorado

RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT



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Sr. Research Analyst
September 2021

Diocese of Singapore remains committed to bringing the Word of God to Cambodia. It has planted thriving churches in the city of Phnom Penh, along with outreach programs that meet the needs of the people. For young people in particular, the diocese has sought to offer programs that address the challenges young people face, such as the need for good education. By establishing the new church plant and girls dorm, the Diocese of Singapore will

be laying a foundation for nurturing the spiritual wellbeing and growth of Christian pupils, their families, and those interested in the Christian faith.

IMPLEMENTER'S INSPIRATION

“And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

– Acts 2:47 (ESV)

HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT

PROJECT RECAP

ID - ARDF-0921- Cambodia
Timeline - 12 months
Requested - \$61,150
Modified - 011022

For information about the Fund or Projects, write to:
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The Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada

