

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Matthew 25 v 35-36
(NIV)



Tearfund
*following Jesus where the
need is greatest*



NEWS FROM THE CAMBODIAN HOPE ORGANISATION (CHO)

Reducing poverty in a sustainable way is about giving people the capabilities and skills to help themselves. Tearfund is supporting local partner the Cambodian Hope Organisation (CHO) to provide life-changing skill training programmes for rural communities in northwest Cambodia, as part of their Integrated Community Development (ICD) programme.

Participants are trained in areas such as agriculture, sewing, motorbike repairs, computer skills, and carpentry. They are also given business training and the chance to apply for microloans to start their own enterprises, which creates jobs for others in the community.

Here is the story of how one man was helped through the programme:-

Before Kosal enrolled in one of CHO's vocational skill training courses he struggled to make enough money to provide for his elderly parents and five younger siblings. Without training in a particular skill or vocation, he relied on irregular, low-paid jobs as a building labourer to make money. Times were very hard.

The work was exhausting and paid very little: 'For my job I received US\$2 (£1.60) a day, because I was not skilled. Construction labour is a gruelling job and I had to do this every day. Sometimes I had no energy and couldn't go to work.'

In search of something better, Kosal took up the offer of a job in Thailand. But after working there for five months his employer refused to pay him and Kosal was forced to come back to Cambodia with nothing. Kosal was offered a lifeline when he heard about CHO's vocational skill training programme offering free training in motorbike mechanics. He successfully completed the training and was provided with a loan to open his own motorbike repair shop. This has enabled him to become self-sufficient and earn enough to look after his family, including supporting his siblings through their education.

'Now I am repairing for a lot of customers and saving around \$5-\$10 (£4 to £8) each day,' he remarks happily. 'I have repaid my loan and I can pay for my siblings to go to school and support my parents.'

Kosals' training has given him new capabilities, purpose and improved self-esteem, and allowed him to support others. His family are now looking forward to a more secure future.



CHANGES AHEAD FOR THE DIAMOND FAMILY

Extracts from their latest update:

Thank you for continued prayers for the café. It is in full swing now and reaching its full potential, serving as a training café which is such a blessing. Please continue to uphold it as it brings a massive opportunity to those it trains and the customers it blesses at the BMS Resource Centre. Please do remember the staff in your prayers.



We also wanted to update you all on our future plans. As many of you will know, our time here has not been an easy one. We have had many set backs, uncertainties and huge disappointments. At times the stress we have been put under as individuals, a couple and as a family has been huge and it has affected us all immensely.

Although the café project has enabled us to feel like we have created a little legacy here for the future recipients, over the spring we have made the decision after lots of thought and prayer as a family, to return to the UK this summer. We will leave India this July, and then we will do our end of service, visiting some of our partner churches during a period of time to be confirmed between September to the end of November 2018. We plan to settle in Birmingham and trust that God will guide concerning future service opportunities.

We cling to the fact that nothing over the last five years of our journey to serve here will be wasted by God. We know whole-heartedly that He will use our experiences, and the lessons we have learnt here for His glory, to help and enable others whom God asks us to serve.

A CYCLE CHALLENGE TO IMPROVE LIVES IN HAITI AND SOUTH SUDAN

On Saturday 16th June, Tim Reed embarked once again on the Cycle of Change challenge in support of Hope Health Action, formerly Haiti Hospital Appeal (HHA), a small charity working in Haiti and South Sudan to improve medical health and disability awareness. The ride took the form of a relay over the course of four days from Bromley in Kent, where the charity is based, to Notwill in Switzerland, home of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, a support partner of HHA. A team of five volunteers from the UK and two Swiss para-athletes covered the 1000km route from Kent, down through France, Germany and into Switzerland using hand cycles and a road bike. Sponsorship money raised by the event will help to support the vital work that HHA do, specifically with maternal health care and with those marginalised and rejected because of disability in both Haiti, and more recently, among refugees fleeing from South Sudan.

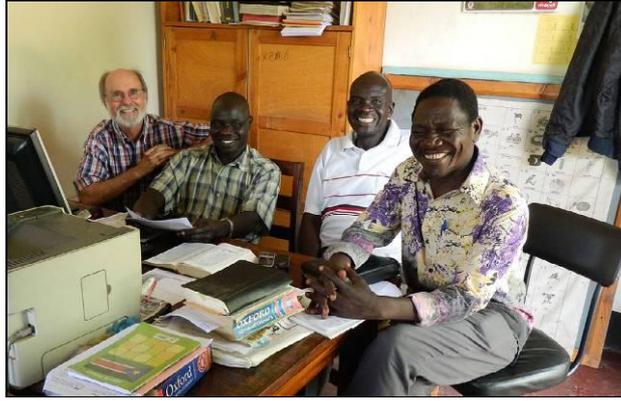
THE 1000TH NEW TESTAMENT!!

In August, the Keliko people of South Sudan will receive God's Word in their language for the first time. This great milestone for them also happens to be a significant milestone for Wycliffe and its related organisations. The Keliko New Testament marks 1,000 New Testament translations completed with involvement from these organisations. But best of all, it means Keliko people can hear and read God's message of love in their own language.

The Keliko story began many years ago when a pastor heard others reading the Scriptures in their own languages but he was sad because there were no Scriptures available in his language to be read. On returning home, he shared his sadness with other Keliko believers and they began to pray and started raising funds for a translation project. They also contacted Wycliffe personnel and linguists were sent to help develop a writing system. Soon, a story, a song and a few Bible verses were published in a pamphlet.

Then war broke out. The linguists had to leave and work on the translation was halted. However, ten years later, in 1998, the grandson of the pastor, then studying in Northern Uganda, heard about other Sudanese projects continuing with the help of Wycliffe personnel based in Uganda. The Keliko work restarted and progressed well. Then, while they were doing their final checks on the New Testament, war erupted again. The translation team fled, most to N. Uganda and they continued the work there.

Despite the traumas of war and migration, the Keliko New Testament translation team is now completed and God's message of hope will soon be available to the people. On August 11th, the copies will be welcomed with great joy in N. Uganda.



(NB. The Keliko team were one of the Northern Ugandan teams I did some checking with sometime in the mid-2000s!)

Mary Breeze

Continue to pray for our other friends involved in mission work overseas:-

Claire Bedford in Chad - Pray for Claire as she gets involved in all sorts of tasks over and above her role in the hospital pharmacy. Watch the video on the BMS website, in which she answers questions about her work at Guinebor II Hospital. In that, she asks for prayer that the government hospitals will soon open again. They are all closed because of strikes and the only functioning hospitals are the few private ones so many people do not have access to the medical care they need.

Claire will be on a short home assignment during the autumn and we look forward to welcoming her to Brighton Road on October 7th.

Cally Magalhaes – The Eagle Project, Brazil – Praise God for the new group of volunteers who will be visiting the boys who have recently been released from prison and pray that God will guide the conversations they will have. Pray for Ben and Joe, especially during the school holidays.

Work with Translation Teams in Ethiopia – Praise God for recent positive communication with the Bench Old Testament Team. The news was that they have reached the book of Revelation in their revision of the New Testament and will send me their revisions of Philippians – Revelation once they have finished, hopefully in a week or so. This means that I can go ahead and plan for a 4 week visit to Addis from mid-September to mid-October. 2 weeks will be with them and 2 weeks will be with the Dizi New Testament team, the team I was supposed to work with in the spring but couldn't because of the insecurity in the country at the time.

Praise God that the new prime minister seems to be doing well so and that things are continuing peacefully .

Mary Breeze

If you have a news item for inclusion in the next edition of Mission Lines, send it to mission@brbc-horsham.org.uk