

Change in Cambodia continued.

Twelve months ago, Saram took a \$125 loan from her savings group to build a chicken coup and to start a chicken rearing business. Within a year, she and her husband have more than tripled their farming income, paying back the loan within a few months! They used their surplus income to build a toilet, a cleverly designed bucket tap for hand washing, and install a lined garbage bin. When the women visited Saram's home it was spick and span, and, most importantly, free from the constant risk of disease that comes from living in unsanitary conditions.

As the women talked with her, Saram cradled her baby boy and spoke about her dreams for the future. She talked of her plans to continue expanding her business, to educate her children, and to share her learnings with her community... so they too can be successful!

Already, groups of people from neighbouring villages have come to learn from Saram and her husband.

"I'll be very happy when I see them become successful," says Saram.

For the women, meeting Saram was one of the highlights of the trip. But Saram's story sits among so many other stories of renewed hope that they heard. Children are being educated, women are finding confidence, livelihoods are being enhanced, and communities are gaining access to new skills, hygienic toilets, and clean water.

Church Staff Contact Details:

Senior Pastor Neil Wykes
neil@maroubrabaptist.net
0412 922 969

Youth Pastor Jaxon Jennings
jaxon@maroubrabaptist.net
0411 842 061

Music Pastor Sam Dearden
s.dearden66@gmail.com

Church Secretary Dawn Weber
dawn@maroubrabaptist.net

Office Assistant Daisy (Lai Yee) Mok
mokx3@yahoo.com.hk




Maroubra Baptist

Communique

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Deb, Darren, Michael and Cecilia

Contact Us...

Church Office: 9344 3355
Address: 139 Garden Street
Maroubra NSW 2035
Service Time: 9.30am - 11.00am
Web Site: www.maroubrabaptist.net


Maroubra Baptist

Welcome

If you are looking for a church, a regular attender or visiting, we would like to extend a huge, warm welcome. We are a church for the community, and we enjoy a range of social activities during the week, starting with tea/coffee on the lawn after church. We would love you to remain after the service to enjoy refreshments with us.

100 Days of Prayer

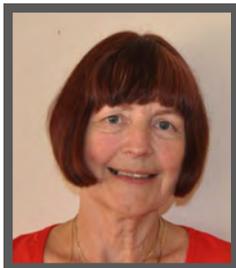
We, collectively, as a church are journeying through 100 days of consecutive prayer and are up to Day 29. We hope you are finding the daily prayers inspiring, helpful and thought provoking.

If you have not been receiving the daily e-mail's, and would like to, please let Neil or Dawn know today so we can add you to the listing.

Likewise, if you have an encouraging story you would like to share, please pass it onto Neil and he can either share your story or mention it anonymously to bless and encourage others.



Please continue to pray for Sandy



We are praying daily for Sandy.

Unfortunately Sandy has developed a brain infection called Ventriculitis and also a chest infection. She is back on a ventilator and is mostly unconscious now and needs strong medication.

God has already done amazing things for Sandy in answer to prayer. Let's be encouraged to continue to pray faithfully for Sandy's healing.

Baptist Leaders Inspired by Change in Cambodia

Women leaders of the Australian Baptist movement report on their recent trip to Cambodia where they witnessed, firsthand, the inspiring transformation taking place among some of the poorest people and communities in the world through the ministry of Baptist World Aid.

Cambodia is a country of rare beauty. The women journeyed from Siem Reap, home of the ancient temples of Angkor, past serene country side and lush, green rainforests, to some of the most isolated villages in the world.

For all its beauty, however, the scars of Cambodia's recent history are apparent at every turn. **It's confronting. The depths of the wounds, they sit with you personally. It's unsettling.**

In the 1970s a civil war, followed by the reign of the genocidal dictator, Pol-Pot, left the promising nation as one of the world's least developed.

Among a myriad of problems, the aftermath has meant the nation's health and education system is severely underdeveloped, while large swaths of road, transport, and trade infrastructure has been destroyed. And, sadly, landmines indiscriminately placed by combatants, still litter many areas of the country side making a lot of good agricultural land too risky to utilise.

In one remote village, the women met Saram. Saram has had three days of schooling in her entire life. Growing up, access to school was difficult, and, as is often the case, Saram's family probably couldn't justify the cost of education for their daughter when there were more immediate needs to be met.

For almost all her life, Saram's village had no toilets. And they lacked awareness of basic hygiene practices, which, in a country like Cambodia, meant a constant battle with poor health and the loss of far too many children to preventable diseases like diarrhoea.

Saram said her life "just felt hopeless". But, recently, Saram has turned over a new leaf.

For just over two years, one of Baptist World Aid's Christian partners in the field has been working in Saram's community. And, when the women met her, she was brimming with the expectation of new possibilities.

Saram has joined a savings group and learnt new skills in chicken rearing, and animal husbandry, and the importance of sanitation and hygiene.

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