



## Prayer Information February 2009

### High expectations lead to big Challenges

The CRAC project team in Phnom Penh faces their most challenging year so far. Expectations have been raised in the last year as CRAC's work has expanded. **We praise God that:**

- **More Cambodians were trained to work with addicts than in 2007**, particularly teams from Christian agencies working with the victims of people trafficking. Assessments completed by students at the end of each day or module indicate that CRAC training is meeting key needs, helping volunteers and workers be more effective for God..
- **Christian Leaders Addiction Network (CLAN) has grown to around 25-30 pastors/leaders at each session.** Pastors' wives are now asking for a similar forum particularly to talk about drug prevention and family pastoral issues.
- More and more calls for help are coming in from churches, NGO's and Missions. The work of CRAC is gradually being recognised as vital to the church and to this nation.
- We have given basic training to a small team of workers from **Teen Challenge**. Just before Christmas, TC opened their rehabilitation centre. We are excited to be involved.
- We trained and worked with **Hosea Ministries** staff in developing a youth detox/rehabilitation centre which opened in June and six young people came through, which encourages us for the future development of a long term rehabilitation programme for youth.



**Left:** these two young Cambodians now have hope in Hosea's rehab.

**Right:** Dara Lev, our new team leader, with his wife and new baby.



### Please pray without ceasing for Cambodia – A Nation still in Trauma

As we move into our third full year Patrick and the team feel that the battle against addictions in Cambodia is only just beginning. We now have four staff full time and utilise the part time services of finance and administration staff from Hosea. A new Team leader, Dara Lev, has been appointed since Rathany Than resigned and moved to Siem Reap - she is a great loss.

## Centre of Excellence for Christian Drug training

Setting up a Centre of Excellence, to provide practical training in working with young drug users, in partnership with **Hosea Ministries** is still a priority. This will involve working with, and training staff helping them develop new skills. This will include staff from the new **Hosea** youth assessment centre, and the **Hosea** detox/rehabilitation programme and from outside agencies and NGO's like Teen Challenge, World Vision partners, Chab Dai partners and WEC.

## World Financial Crisis continues to bite hard

As we reported in the last prayer letter Cambodia is not only suffering high inflation (around 17% before Christmas) but also every ministry that is funded from the UK is doubly hit due to the fall in value of the pound versus the dollar. Currently the fall is around 32% which means we have to find a third more money just to stay as we are. **Yet, as western orders for clothes dry up and the garment factories face severe job losses, the addictions problem worsens** as more people fall back into poverty. The UN Food Programme has restarted feeding nearly three quarters of a million children in rural districts.



### **Gambling is a growing industry in Cambodia,**

on every street corner you will see groups of people (usually men) sitting on the ground playing cards for money. The building in the photo is Sporting Live which offers on-line gambling to middle class Cambodians but, through the internet, attracts customers from all over SE Asia and beyond. Casinos to attract tourists are growing in number BUT it is impoverished Cambodians who are

tempted to risk all on a bet that could make them rich!

## Main Prayer Points

- Pray for Dara as he leads the team, he is doing well but needs a lot of encouragement. Not only does he have a new baby but he and his wife also look after her aged mother.
- Pray for the partnerships CRAC is establishing with churches and church groups to provide regular training for outreach teams and emerging drop-in projects for adults and young people.
- Pray for us to achieve our budget target of \$22,500 (£16,070) this is going to be a big task but God is bigger! If you can help CRAC please make cheques payable to LFTW and mark "for CRAC" on the reverse. **Please ask for a Gift Aid form.**
- Pray for Patrick's next trip starting February 16<sup>th</sup> – He will be mentoring the team and working with David and Gail Fisher of Hosea Ministries to develop the youth assessment and rehabilitation programme.
- Patrick will also be stopping off in Kuala Lumpur meeting with other ISAAC (International Substance Abuse and Addictions Coalition) members to plan an Asia Pacific Rim conference for 2010. Pray that they will have God's wisdom over content and speakers. The group will include Jackie Pullinger so we can expect to be encouraged in God.
- Please also pray for Hope House in Laos where we have provided training and support in the past. Two UK pastors from Newquay and Plymouth have been visiting to help the project. Both have experience in working with vulnerable people and offenders.