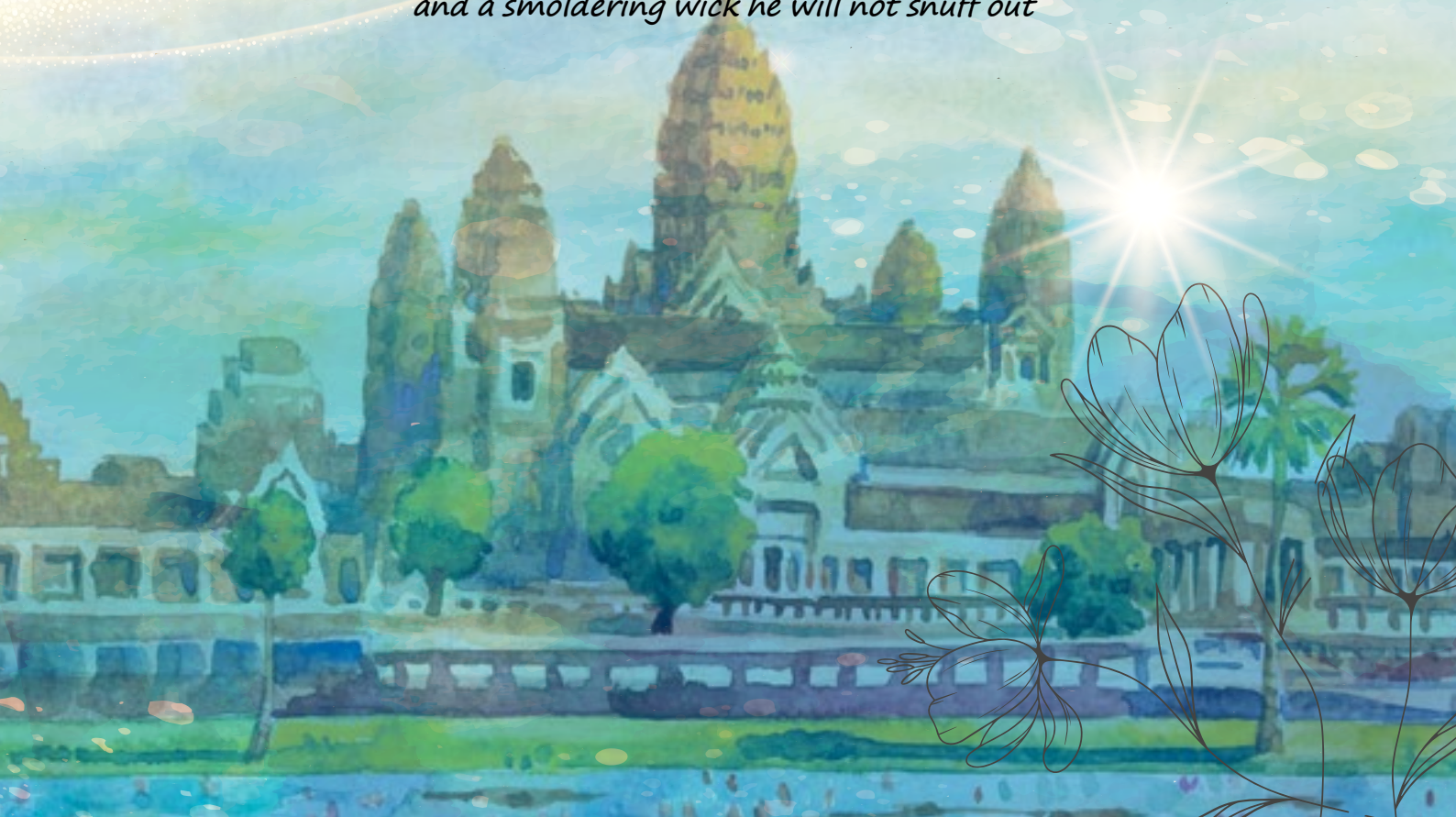




Fullness In Christ Fellowship
基督豐榮團契

Grace Streaming Through

*A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out*



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A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

-Isaiah 42:3-

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- John 10:10 -



The girls and women we serve at
Pleroma Home for Girls and Pleroma Home for Women are bruised reeds,
deeply loved by Christ our Lord.
For a decade,
he has called us onto this path.
And for 10 years, we have walked in a stream of grace.



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The Signs of Grace

Timeline of Pleroma Home for Girls (PHG) and Pleroma Home for Women (PHW)

2007

- October 23, Lily Lee shared at the FiCF Retreat the global situation of human trafficking. Sisters at the retreat were moved to tears and started praying together for this issue.

2008

- November 3, Lily Lee shared at the FiCF Retreat the human trafficking situation in Cambodia and the strategic ministries to combat it.

2011

- January 15, San Sreytouch was hired as our first caregiver. She is now our senior caregiver.
- March 8, The PHG was founded and a dedication ceremony was held.
- May 2, Nget Kimsang was hired as our social worker. She is now the director of the PHG.
- May 5, Successfully obtained a license from the government for Home Operation and signed the MOU with the government.
- May 11, Took in our first three clients.
- August 1, Chhet Sameth was hired as our first driver. He is still faithfully serving the Lord with us now.

2012

- March 15, Hired Chandra Chap, a Cambodian-American, as the director of the PHG.

2016

- September 24, Heather Hui was sent as a missionary to be a part of the PHG ministry.

2009

- March 8, Lily Lee and Debbie Choy arrived in Cambodia for the first time to explore the country.
- November 3, Debbie Choy answered the Lord's calling at the FiCF Retreat.

2018

- April, The PHW was founded, with Chandra Chap as the director, while Nget Kimsang assumed the role of the director of the PHG.
- May 22, Our first group of service targets moved into the PHW.
- July, Purchased a plot of land for the construction of dormitories for Project 20/20, with an expected completion in 2023.
- Late November, Chandra Chap resigned and returned to the US.

2010

- March 8, Debbie Choy commissioned as our first missionary to Cambodia.
- March 20, Sok Poeun was hired as our first local staff. He is now one of the board members of the Pleroma Missions in Cambodia.

2020

- June, The PHW commenced the community-oriented outreach scheme.

2021

- January, Mourng Chanra was appointed as the director of the PHG.

My Twenty Years Journey of Life Rebirth

By Lily Lee

Lily Lee
One of the Founders of Fullness in Christ Fellowship,
Ex-Chairperson of the Board, and present President.
She is also the Founder and Executive Director of
Pleroma Missions in Cambodia, PMC

As we are celebrating the twentieth anniversary of Fullness in Christ Fellowship this year, 2021, I am thanking God for my extra twenty years of my life "rebirth".

My Three Life Breakthroughs From God Before My "Rebirth"

Since I came over from Hong Kong to the US in 1967, I have never stopped serving my God in churches and in ministries. Upon graduation, I have been teaching Mathematics in colleges, a passion that I had not ceased thinking even in my dreams! In the early 90s, while my children were about to go to college, I entered Westminster Theological Seminary while simultaneously continued teaching. In Westminster, I struggled to rethink some traditional theological positions that I had difficulties to agree with. Upon researching afresh on God's words, God brought three breakthroughs to my life:

1. Christian Callings: Not only refers to full-time ministries in so-called "sacred works", it includes also the holistic ministry of Cultural Mandate. My husband Lap-Yen's focus and total commitment in his scientific research is indeed his life calling in God.
2. Kingdom Ministry: Carries a broadened awareness of integrating Gospel and Social Concern. Following Jesus' footsteps, we are to go into the world to transform lives in Jesus of the marginalized and the disadvantaged God loves so much.
3. "Re-research" on Women Issues: Upon seeing the unequal treatments of women serving in churches, I could not but to disagree with the taken-for-granted traditional gender position. Started research afresh from the biblical theme of "Creation-Fall-Redemption" of God's eternal plan for men and women, I began to biblically convicted that male and female are both equally created in God's image, equally enjoying life dignities, and equally entrusted with mandates in life. Hence, men and women should both live out equally the fullness and richness of lives in Christ.

Hence, in 1997, Cecilia Yau, Dora Wang, and I co-wrote and published a book, titled "Passion for Fullness—Examining the Woman's Identity and Roles from Biblical, Historical and Sociological Perspectives", and in 1999, "Gender Reconciliation—Men and Women Become One in Christ", both published by China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong. In God's time, on June 25, 2001, the three of us together with a group of sisters established the organization, "Fullness in Christ Fellowship". During these research and writings, I was exploring women's issues from sociological perspectives. Upon seeing women's image distorted and abused physically, mentally and spiritually all through the ages, I was trembled by this inhumane social injustice, like roaring waves rushing inside me.

The Miracle of Life "Rebirth" - Walking Through the Valley of Shadow of Death

During those days, God reaffirmed His calling on me with a shocking miracle of life "rebirth" – walking through the valley of shadow of death for a major heart surgery with severe complications.

Less than three months later, after Fullness in Christ Fellowship was established, we witnessed the 9.11 terror incident. Watching in front of the television, my heart and chest seemed to be shook-up and torn apart. At the end of October, my oldest brother in Kentucky passed away due to a sudden heart attack. On December 29, some unbearable pain in my chest and stomach rushed me into the emergency room. A cardiologist immediately performed an emergent quadruple bypass surgery on my heart.

The Beginning

Oftentimes, a starting point begins from an ending point.
In other words, an ending point might suggest a starting point.

Indeed, our journey of Pleroma Missions in Cambodia started from an end point.

Once our personal experience enters into God's will, it will be like a small match that can ignite many candles, which in turn, will bring about light and warmth into the world.

Lily Lee is indeed that match that started the Pleroma journey in Cambodia.



Right after the surgery, I was rushed back into the operation room immediately due to some uncontrollable internal bleeding. The doctor opened up the stitches again..... Upon seeing the big confusion inside the operation room, and feeling my almost hardened and purplish limbs, my husband Lap-yen wondered if I was on the verge of losing my life. Though I was unconscious at that time, I still vividly remember till now that I was calm and peaceful, knowing fully that it was God's gentle hands leading me through the shadow of death.

Praying beside my bedside, Lep-Yen was simultaneously calling our families and friends on my urgent medical situation! Upon leaving the operation room, I was remaining in the Intensive Care Unit for over an entire month with a number of aftermath episodes of complications. Though it seemed like I was reborn with a new life when discharged home, I was physically and emotionally all drained. I could not even sit or stand beyond ten minutes, I could not eat or talk, and I could not focus on anything..... I wondered if I might be handicapped from then on.

As Lap-yen had taken off from work for over two months already, he has to go back to his work. Praise God that a sister from the Scholars Fellowship volunteered to drive an hour one way to my home everyday to help me with my daily needs, like cooking meals with food I would like. However, I had totally no appetite and did not want to even try a bite on any food! Every night, my unbearable pain woke me up before even mid-night. All I could do was to whisper to God, "Lord, help me sleep till one o'clock tomorrow!?" "One thirty tomorrow!?" "Two o'clock!?"

That was the only way to struggle through the physical pain and sleep longer and longer. And then, I could not even utter a word. I forced myself to "read" the Bible aloud, but I couldn't even finish a row before I lost all my attention! I couldn't even see the next words. Softly again, I asked God, "Lord, can I read two rows tomorrow?" "Four rows tomorrow?"

Softly beseeching God, I then gradually finished a whole page of my Bible reading. In a similar manner, I tried to fight my memory loss by memorizing Psalms.....one verse, two verses, half a page.....

Struggling in this manner for three to four months, I worried that I might not be able to do anything and be handicapped for the rest of my life!!

In Fall 2002, after taking leave of absence for a semester, I struggled to go back to my college and resumed teaching, just to affirm myself that I was still able to work! So, I struggled to drive daily into Philadelphia again! Gradually, I was feeling somewhat stronger like before! In early November, while I was worshiping in my church in South Philadelphia that I have pastored for over ten years, in a loud voice I prayed to God, "Lord, after these twenty some years of talking about life-dedication, today is the time for action!" My prayer and tears mingled with the excitement of singing and praising by the young people I have served for so many years!

My Life-Journey of Ministries in Actions After Life "Rebirth"

So, at year-end of 2002, I finally put down my teaching profession and entered into full-time ministries. After many years of serving as the Board Chair of Chinese Christian Herald Crusades (CCHC), I joined CCHC as a volunteer co-worker. In amazing ways, God opened doors and made my long-time dreams come true: We were entering China and began to establish Children Village in Fujian to take in and serve orphans who lost both or one of their parents, and children whose parents were in jails. Soon, two years later, we established our second Children Village in Guangxi, and then in Sichuan. Before I knew it, I was founding Garden of Hope in New York (GOH-NY), in caring and rebuilding lives of domestic violence women victims, breaking silence the traditional taboo of wife-abuse among Chinese communities. Abused women victims are being healed and restored of self-respect and self-image in God.....

In the beginning of 2007, while our CCHC Board members and key leading staff were having a prayer and fellowship meeting, I was excitedly sharing the Children Villages Ministry in China, and the GOH-NY ministries as "dreams come true" in God. Almost in unison, they all asked, "Lily, do you still have dreams?" All of a sudden, I was shocked to come to the awareness that, while I was continuing my research on Social Justice after the publishing of "Passion for Fullness", there was indeed a very vivid dream inside me! However, this "dream" is indeed too remote and too huge! Dare I share it with them?

After a few moments of silence, I slowly shared: I hope I can witness with my own eyes within my lifetime, that some Chinese Christians would start a ministry to combat human trafficking, to rescue and restore the women and girls that were exploited into human trafficking. To clothe them with Jesus' love and gospel, and to wrap them with Eden's glorious fullness, just as what Jesus said in the parable of the sheep and the goats, "When I was naked, you clothed me!"

On March 8, 2010, Fullness in Christ Fellowship established the Pleroma Missions in Cambodia (refer to my article "Stories Under the Shadow of the Cross"). This brutal violation of sexual trafficking brought about by the "sins" of human being, as "robbed" of the glory and fullness of girls and women that originally come with the creation in God's image. And the harm and damage in women and girls are indeed hurt among hurts.

Following the footsteps of Jesus, our PMC is indeed the holistic ministry actualizing and manifesting Micah 6:8. In order to liberate those girls and women who have been trampled on, we provide hope and opportunities in healing, counseling, rebuilding, education, and reintegration back to the society. Restored in the glorious image of God, they are to live lives of fullness in Christ.

Before my life rebirth of the quadruple bypass surgery, I was awakened to the concept theologically. After the life rebirth of the quadruple bypass, I launched out my life's new journey in action!



Vision

A Bruised Reed He Will Not Break

By Lily Lee | Dec, 2011

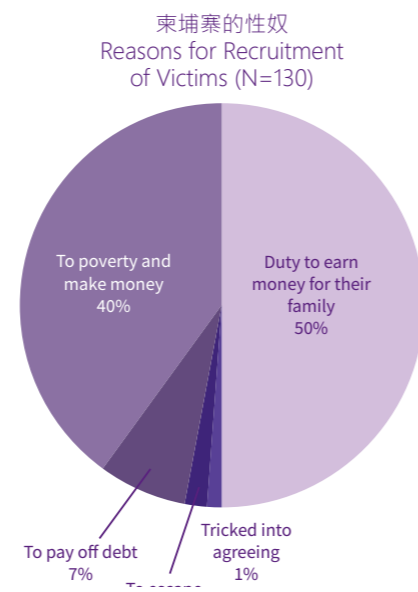
Human Trafficking is the social issue that is catching global attention today. It has been referred to as the "Slavery of the 21st Century". The trafficked victims, though including child-labors, child-soldiers, and cheap-labors, the majority of them are under-aged girls and women, sold and trafficked into prostitution and sexual exploitation. Forced to suffer under inhumane abuses, they are broken physically, mentally and spiritually. As a result, their human dignities are ruined, and self-esteem trampled.

Both men and women are originally created equal in God's image and enjoy equal value and fullness (Gen 1:27). However, since the fall of human beings, human societies, regardless of East and West, are permeated with gender bias culture and discrimination throughout all ages. As a result, women and girls are horribly devastated by physical, mental, and economical abuses. Today, at the turn of the century, Commercial Sexual Exploitation, abbreviated CSE, and sexual trafficking become even worse globally. As a result, this human sin brings about severe damage of the glory of our Creator God. The suffering sustained by women is indeed the worst among all sufferings. Christians can no longer ignore and look the other way.

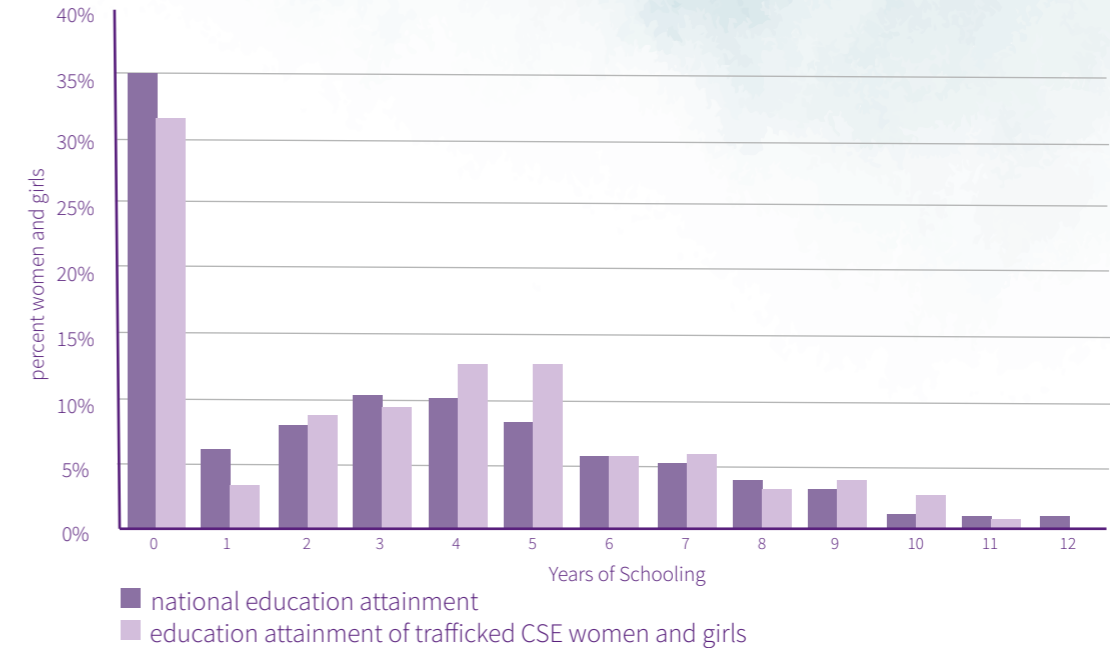
According to the Report of "The Commission on the Status of Women", research conducted by the United Nations released on March 8, 2007, there are globally 500,000 to 2,000,000 persons trafficked each year, and 80% are girls and women, becoming victims of prostitution. In many cultures and societies worldwide, females are denied education and work opportunities. As results, poverty and ignorance made them even more vulnerable to become preys of sexual trafficking. Besides, human trafficking is mostly conducted in the darkness and underground. It not only prevents us from collecting accurate data, it also makes it harder to obtain the real pictures of horribleness these victims are being treated. The information we are having is indeed the very tip of an iceberg only.

Many countries worldwide are indeed devastated by human trafficking. In the same year, 2007, US State Department reported that Cambodia is one the worst countries in committed acts of human trafficking. It is not only a country of origin, it is also a country of transition, and a country of destination as well. Some countries are both, and some are even all three, like Cambodia. The trafficked girls and women are mostly forced into objects of sexual deals and victims of sexual exploitation. The Cambodia Research Network also released similar report at the same year, saying, "Cambodia has about 80,000 to 100,000 workers of sexual exploitation, and among them, 80 % are girls under age of 18."

Besides poverty, Cambodia is also a country with extreme gender discrimination. Their age-long common saying of "Men are gold, and women are but cloth" puts women at the lowest position of the society. Many families of poverty sell their girls into prostitution, who already have no chance of receiving education in the first place. Furthermore, while trying to look for jobs in the cities to help out with their families financially, many girls from the villages are deceived, or even abducted, by pimps into prostitution.



Illiteracy Rate
32% for trafficked CSE Women and Girls



It turned out that Cambodia had experienced decades of civil war and foreign aggression. Under the tyranny of the Khmer Rouge from 1975-79, the Pol Pot regime purged and killed one-third of the country's population. These horrible bloodshed and atrocities numb the conscience of many people. Ignoring the dignity of others, they do not take trampling on lives seriously. Today, Cambodia is gradually waking up from the nightmare of the massacre and rebuilding its homeland. Out of our expectation, what follow after this genocide is the horrific acts of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation! These cruel crimes devastated, abused, and even killed, thousands of innocent women and children.

After being sold, many girls refused to submit in the beginning, and ended up being beaten, caged deprived of food or drink, and followed by violent gang-rape, their self-esteem and dignity were completely destroyed, until they gave up resistance. Some are even "rehabilitated" that they can greet their exploiters with smiles. In recent years, due to the rampant AIDS and venereal diseases, clients of prostitution are asking for younger and younger virgins. Some girls are forced into prostitution at even four or five years old. They work seven days a week, picking up as many as 15 or more clients per day, and each client pays less than the price of a burger at a time. These poor children eventually suffer terribly from low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, self-mutilation, and even suicide, among other post-traumatic disorders (PTSD). Many of them also contract venereal diseases and die very young. This "Slavery of the 21st Century" is really even more horrible and pitiful than the black slavery in the 19th century!

Christians have seen and heard of these tragic situations of "sex slaves" and cannot help but to respond. Indeed, the image of God in them has been severely violated and broken. In addition to the physical pain, the deep wounds in their souls are irreparable even throughout their entire lifetime. Already innocent "victims" of other men's sins, they are, at the same time, looked upon as "filthy sinners" and "scumbags" by the society, their relatives and friends. Who can take and bear this cruelty of "double victimization"? What's more, these girls, who are only in their budding years, have already been broken and re-broken time after time?



Pleroma Missions in Cambodia

Indeed, God saw the tears of these sexually exploited girls, heard their cries, and sent His servants to help these bruised and battered children. After two years of prayer and strategizing, a group of sisters from Fullness in Christ Fellowship started the Cambodian Ministry at the beginning of this year to combat human trafficking and provide healing and restoration of these victims. This is a long and arduous ministry, far beyond what a single person, church, or institution can undertake by oneself. Under the guidance and leadership of God, three organizations - "Fullness in Christ Fellowship", "Garden of Hope Foundation, Taiwan" (later withdrawn in September 2011), and "Chinese Christian Herald Crusade" (later withdrawn in January 2012) co-worked together.

As illustrated by the two statistic charts, the reasons why women and children fall victims to human trafficking are mainly poverty, and the lack of educational opportunities [please refer to Figures 1 and 2]. However, the interaction between the two forms is a vicious cycle. In order to combat against this stronghold, "Fullness in Christ Fellowship" planned and coordinated the following three ministry projects in Cambodia.

"Pleroma Home for Girls"

Started by "Fullness in Christ Fellowship", in cooperation with "Garden of Hope Foundation of Taiwan" and "Chinese Christian Herald Crusade", provides a safe haven and a loving home, so that these traumatized under-aged girls can receive treatment and rebuild their lives. In addition to professional healing and counseling, they are simultaneously enabled to grow and renew their lives through Jesus' saving grace and the words of the Bible. They start to realize that they are indeed precious daughters of God. As a result, their life is restored, their self-esteem regained, and they start relying on the Lord to live lives that are pleasing to God. We will also provide whole-person Christian education, so that the spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical and social growth will be balanced. In addition, we will prepare them for further education opportunities and vocational skills training, and guide and assist them in choosing their life-career, establishing small businesses, or cooperative enterprises, etc., so that they can become self-reliant in society. The ultimate goal is to help them to live out the fullness of Christ.

"Pleroma Women's Center" (later renamed "Pleroma Home for Women")

This will be a center for community outreach, where "Fullness in Christ Fellowship" will work with local churches to bring the Good News of God's kingdom into the community and enrich the quality of life of women. In addition to Bible studies, small groups, and training courses, we also provide workshops on topics such as understanding of self, fullness of women as created by God, raising and nurturing of children, in particular of daughters, family lives, nutrition and hygiene, basic medical and health knowledge, English courses, and computer literacy, etc.

"Pleroma School for Girls"

As one of the long-term projects of the Cambodian Ministry of "Fullness in Christ Fellowship": "Pleroma School for Girls" is set up to raise the general education level of women, which is the most effective preventive measure for girls from becoming preys of sex trafficking. Secondly, encourage and train girls from "Pleroma Home for Girls" and "Pleroma School for Girls" to become future community leaders. Furthermore, Christian business men and women are encouraged to establish factories in Cambodia to provide employment opportunities for women. We believe that God loves these girls so deeply, that they are to be saved, and nurtured to be leaders of the society.

The love of God is deep and wide; his guidance beyond our imagination. Pleroma Missions in Cambodia later commenced its fourth project, the Pleroma Community Centre. It aims to reshape values, transform families, elevate communities, establish loving and harmonious interpersonal relationships and live out the fullness in Christ through the holistic gospel.

Jesus' Example of Caring for the Oppressed

As recorded in the Bible, Luke 8:40-56, Jesus set an example for us to follow. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, indeed a welcomed celebrity of the time, came and fell at Jesus' feet, and pleaded with Jesus to come to his house to heal his twelve-year-old dying daughter. While on his way followed by a large crushing crowd, a woman subject to bleeding for almost twelve years came behind him and touched his cloak. Put aside his urgent life-saving mission, Jesus stopped and helped this woman. According to Leviticus 15, a hemorrhage woman was considered ceremonially "unclean", could not be touched nor participate in any religious and social activities. In a society that already discriminates against women, she has lived a miserable life of 12 years of double exclusion, isolation and rejection!

Jesus stopped and did four special things for this woman: First, Jesus let her touch his clothes, breaking the prejudiced taboo of "women are unclean due to her bleeding". Second, the woman's hemorrhage was stopped! Jesus healed the woman's physical ailment! Third, contrary to the then culture of not permitting women to speak publicly, Jesus encouraged her to come forth and testify in front of the crowd. She was healed mentally! Fourth, Jesus said to her, "Your faith has saved you, go in peace!" Jesus brought salvation into her life. As a result, this woman's body, mind, and spirit were healed, her dignity was restored, and her life was rebuilt! This is the holistic gospel.

Jesus indeed has special favors for those women who are abused, looked-down upon, discriminated against, and trampled on! More than once, Jesus put aside what people thought was a more important and popular ministry to care for these vulnerable groups who were downtrodden and oppressed. Here Jesus explicitly expressed his heart and mission intentionally: "A bruised reed he will not break; a stubborn lamp he will not quench".



Our Missionaries

The Stories of Debbie and Heather

At those junctions
I took on the path You laid Your gaze on
That difficult path

Around those bends
I followed in Your footsteps
On that narrow path
During those late, sleepless nights
I chose silence and suffering
Just as You did
At the river mouth of swirls and undercurrents,
I chose to wade through,
Instead of turning back
Because of You
You, who walked into my life
And swept me away with a loving tenderness
The world has never seen

-*"You Swept Me Away"* Sophia Li-

Debbie Choy

Field Director of Pleroma Missions in Cambodia. Debbie was born in Hong Kong and moved to the US with her family when she was young. She graduated from the University of Hawaii with a degree in Humanities and Social Sciences. She then returned to Hong Kong, completed a theological program at the China Graduate School of Theology, and for over a decade, served as a director for Religious Studies at a Christian secondary school. She also has a master's degree in Education from the University of Hong Kong.

She later fell sick and returned to the US for recovery. During her time in the US, she completed a chaplaincy counseling program. In March 2010, she answered God's calling to become a missionary and moved to Cambodia to help women who are subject to oppression.



Heather Hui

Assistant Field Director of Pleroma Missions in Cambodia. She was once a secondary school teacher, dedicated to education as she witnessed growth in her students. God called her in 2012 to let go of her 17-year-long teaching career. She completed a master's program at Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong and joined the Pleroma Missions in Cambodia in 2016.



Our 3 missionaries in Cambodia: Esther Mok, Debbie Choy, Heather Hui

Walk in God's Calling

The March 8 Pleroma Journey

By Lily Lee | March 05, 2020

Written on the 10th anniversary of Debbie Choy's being a missionary in Cambodia

How did this profound "Pleroma Missions in Cambodia" begin? How can this life-changing vision of "Fullness in Christ" be fulfilled and actualized? How did Debbie put down everything and head to Cambodia all by herself on behalf of the sisters of Fullness in Christ Fellowship?

Calling Came Vividly from Above

While participating in the writing of the book "Passion for Fullness" in 1993, I explored women's reality in ancient and modern China and abroad from a sociological perspective. Indeed, women were doubly discriminated against, abused, and even slaughtered. These horrific realities shocked me. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, I shared this issue of global human trafficking at the FiCF Retreat 2007. The sisters all wept and cried for these women and girls living in hell on earth. Together we prayed and wondered, "What can we do?" knowing that Christ also died for them on the cross!

"We must focus on a location for ministry!" Throughout the entire year of 2008, for some reason, the idea of Cambodia never left me. At the retreat at the end of that year, I shared the results of my yearlong research on Cambodia: the countrywide rebuilt after the collapse of the Khmer Rouge followed by the surge of sex trafficking to even becoming one of the most rampant countries in the world. I also shared some workable ministry strategies.

There were more than 30 people sitting in a circle that day, and the one next to me was Debbie Choy, the only one who had been to Cambodia at that time. I didn't know at the time. Debbie and I didn't even know each other yet. After my sharing, she turned her head and said to me, "I was a missionary in Cambodia for more than a year! I came back to the United States to get medical treatment four years ago." I was literally shocked and uttered: "Take me to Cambodia?" This was the first conversation we had between Debbie and me.

On March 8 of the following year (2009), we flew to Cambodia together. This was my first time setting foot on a country that was so strange to me but yet deeply impressed in my heart. Debbie, however, revisited her old place and was happy to reunite with her old friends. On the day I was leaving, I asked Debbie, "Consider coming back to Cambodia to serve?" Debbie said in indifference, "Pray? All right!" She was a little scared that God really called her.

However, Debbie's prayers became more and more serious during the year. In the retreat at the end of that year, she prayed more intently with urgency. Seeking confirmation, she walked alone along the "The Station of the Cross" with the twelve crucifixion scenes of Jesus. Meditating one after one, she saw Jesus carrying the cross, Simon carrying it for him, and some women wiping the sweat from his face... Debbie suddenly seemed to be seeing the faces of those exploited girls living in pain and misery. Don't they need somebody to carry their burdens? Wipe their sweat off their faces?

By the time she reached the tenth station, she saw Jesus' clothes being torn off by the soldiers and became totally naked. Then they put nails to his hands and feet. Debbie seemed to see vividly the weak faces of the girls who had been forced into shame, humiliation and sexual violation!

At last, at the twelfth station, Jesus was nailed completely to the cross. The helplessness on his face made her think of the Cambodian girls! Weren't they completely helpless in the face of trafficking and sexual assault? They don't even know how to say no! All these thoughts are just like a dagger cutting into her heart. At that very moment, with his own hands, God put his love for these Cambodian girls deeply into Debbie's heart! God's call came quietly and vividly.

Thus, the "stories under the shadow of the cross" began!

On March 8, 2010, Debbie resolutely set foot on the land of Cambodia again, and became our first missionary in Cambodia! She is now the Field Director of the PMC, entrusted by God to develop our Pleroma Missions in Cambodia.

By March 8, 2011, our first project "Pleroma Home for Girls" was officially launched in Phnom Penh, and a dedication ceremony was held!

Since 2009, for three consecutive years, March 8 carries profound meaning for us! They are not accidental at all. Historically, the March 8th of International Women's Day was established in 1909, with original purpose of commemoration and celebration of women's contributions and achievements in the political, economic and social fields, and their further call for equality between men and women. However, God entrusted a much deeper purpose on this Women's Day: an invitation to the world to actualize his call "to act justly and to love mercy"! This is the day when God reminds us that he loves women and children!

All through the ages, and all over the world, women have been discriminated against and oppressed in horrific ways. However, they are the half of humankind that are most resolute and possess the greatest vitality in sustaining human beings all through the ages. They are indeed cherished in special ways by God!

The story "under the shadow of the cross" continues to unfold in the leading of the Holy Spirit. "The Wounded Healer" in our co-worker team is one of such stories (see page 42). These stories are often repeated in our girls' lives: the girls who were rescued and entered our Home demonstrated serious psychological problems of extreme anger, worry, anxiety, etc. However, through the love of Christ from our co-workers, and countless short-term mission team friends, together with the sincere prayers of our supporters and intercessors, these girls regained their self-confidence. Many of them have accepted Jesus. They enjoy God's words, and love to pray. They even phone their families and invite them to accept Jesus!

Under the shadow of the cross, girls can truly be healed, restore their fullness of image in Christ, and live an abundant life!

Indeed, sexism has buried a huge amount of grief for thousands of years in human history! Women and girls have been downtrodden and destroyed, especially victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation!



Our first Co-workers in Cambodia



Clear Calling, Resolute Response

While meditating along the "Station of the Cross", deep in her heart Debbie heard the cries of these abused women and children. She responded resolutely to God's clear calling! Thus, our Pleroma Missions walked into these broken communities to combat this despicable injustice in God's gracious mercy and hope!

For me, when I am praying for Debbie, the indelible "question" inside me has been: amidst this sweltering and impoverished country like Cambodia, how does she bear seeing, day after day, these unspeakable oppression and exploitation suffered by women and girls caused by human sin?

However, she is blessed with a special insight from God. On the plane and on the streets, she sees two opposing forces: one is the destructive power that tramples on women and children, and the other is the rescuing power of mission that overflows with divine mercy and grace! This is the eternal warfare struggling between justice and evil all through the ages!

Building Network and Pioneering Mission Works

Recalling that in early 2009, when we first set foot in Cambodia, planning and launching the Pleroma Missions entrusted by God, Debbie brought our team to visit many organizations with similar missions, among them are the three major European and American Christian organizations (Chab Dai, AIM, and IJM). Interacting and sharing with their founders and lawyers, who are full of visionary courage, and in-depth understanding of the human trafficking situations, we quickly got the clues and started the arduous "Pleroma Missions in Cambodia", becoming the first Christian organization founded by Chinese to combating human trafficking.

Debbie even revisited the Cambodian college students whom she had served in Cambodia for the first time as a missionary. Many of them had already become leaders and volunteers of anti-trafficking organizations. Through their connections, Debbie was able to lead the team deep into the "tiger's den" and get a glimpse of the truest and darkest side of human trafficking. Furthermore, although local government agencies are notorious for corruption, Debbie, with the assistance of former local students, successfully completed many of the complicated registration procedures for our group! These seemingly unrelated arrangements years ago had unexpectedly become our key connections.

Establishing a cooperative network in a pioneering field is indeed Debbie's strength, which is obviously seen by all.

However, for Debbie and her fellow missionaries combating on the front line, who of us can see their loneliness, hard and tough selfless sacrifices they are putting forth, together with the reward behind all these sacrifices? Aren't they representing you and me in answering God's call before God?

United in Cross-cultural Ministries

In this way, Debbie, who is optimistic, cheerful and full of confidence, goes deep into the community every day, identifies herself with the local Cambodians, expounds and develops our Pleroma Missions together, and spreads God's unconditional love! Being able to go beyond cultures, Debbie was not only able to work with local people, but also to foresee the future needs, and deliberately cultivate and develop local co-workers, hoping that they can become future ministry successors! For Pleroma Missions, cross-cultural ministries come so naturally! Debbie's deep understanding of cross-cultural missions in her own words: "Mission is to be like Jesus, to live among them truly; to criticize less; to be more considerate; and to influence lives by examples in your own life!"

The Pleroma Missions received from God came in a clear vision with obvious goals. In the past ten years, targeting at the damages done to the gender culture of generations, and striving towards the direction in line with God's will, we developed the ministries projects step by step. There are four phases in combating human trafficking: "rescuing, assessment, life rebuilding, and prevention". Today, in addition to the "Pleroma Home for Girls" in rebuilding the broken lives of the girl-victims, we soon founded the "Pleroma School for Girls", an indispensable preventive project, sending an important message to families in the community: girls need to be educated! Most important of all, a healthy society needs female leaders, working side by side with men!

Furthermore, in order to raise society's awareness to treasure our daughters and to transform family values, we set up the "Pleroma Community Center", and go into the communities and share with them the holistic gospel.

With the rapid changes in the world and the pressure from the international communities, the situation of human trafficking in Cambodia has been improving on the surface in recent years. However, the reality is far from satisfactory. Trafficking is an evil criminal act that the more they are suppressed, the deeper and deeper they go underground! Soothing the pain and despair of these victims physically, mentally and spiritually, and bringing into their midst God's hope and great salvation are not as easy as we imagine! Evolved under suppression, the disguised labor trafficked victims, and the China's transnational "buying-and-selling of brides", all turned into sex trafficked victims. Some eventually ended up in institutions like our "Pleroma Home for Women", where we provide them with counseling and vocational training to become self-reliant. The fact that we become aware of and adjust to the changing trends of Cambodia social evolution, we owe it to the wide cooperative network Debbie builds with the local NGOs like Chab Dai!

Humble and Practical, Widely Supported

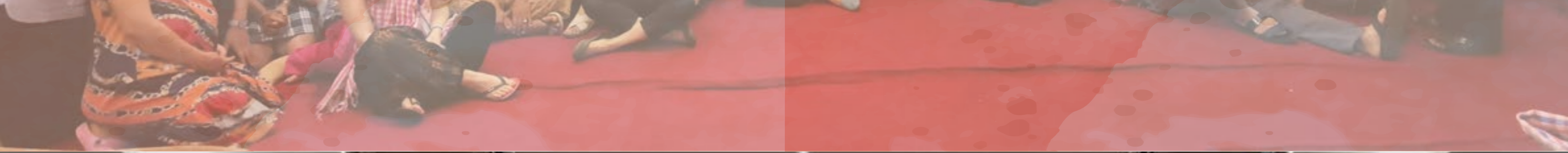
Humble yet energetic with team spirit, Debbie can cooperate with our FICF branches in the United States, Hong Kong and Taiwan, as well as the various supporting committees. On the average, we have 40 Short Term Ministry teams visiting our PMC every year from different places. In addition to sending lots of clothing, supplies, sewing machines and other materials, they also provide professional trainings in Social Work, Counseling, and therapies such as sand, dancing, music, and art, as well as workshops on medical and health education, etc.

Today, when the Pleroma Secondary School for Girls is being built, we are blessed with many experienced professionals from all over the world, especially Hong Kong, to help out with many areas: Educators, construction engineering teams, curriculum research teams, together with IT professionals and computer technology assistance from the United States. In addition to holding special prayer meetings for Pleroma Missions every month, Taiwan supporters have committed quite a bit to our school construction! God is truly showing his great love to our Cambodian women and children!

Through the "Pleroma Missions in Cambodia", God not only opens our eyes and minds to see the injustice in the world, but also leads us to concretely take action to participate in changing the status quo of injustice! Facing God's call to "do justice and love mercy", Fullness in Christ Fellowship not only says "Amen" with our mouth, but also responds with "Amen" in actions and lives!

Through the March 8th Pleroma Journey, our missionaries, who left their hometowns, sacrificially offer their hearts, minds, talents, time and youth. These are indeed blessings that we do not deserve! Indeed, the International Women's Day on March 8th was established by God to demonstrate to us God's deep love for these girls who have been trampled on by sin of human beings, and forgotten and ignored by the world!

"A bruised reed he will not break, and a stubborn lamp he will not quench" (Matt. 12:20).
God's word stands forever!



Board of directors & Co-workers in US, Hong Kong & Cambodia • (in 2019)

It's All About Grace A 10-Year Review By Debbie Choy



Everything Was Difficult at the Beginning

Having received the vision of beginning Pleroma, I went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on March 8, 2010, to find a place to live. I needed to get to know the local culture, begin to study the local language, and explore and prepare for establishing an organization. Unclear how to begin, I decided to visit some local Christian organizations with relevant experience first and to start looking for co-workers and office space.

The Lord Had Already Prepared

Human trafficking in Cambodia has been a global concern since 2005 when several overseas organizations began doing work there. Upon arriving in Phnom Penh, God sent CHAB DAI Coalition to walk alongside me. Their leader at that time was a brother I had met on a short-term mission in Cambodia. He connected me to several local organizations. Due to the sensitivity of this type of work, to contact and connect as a "stranger" was not easy. Through the help of this brother, I was able to contact other organizations quickly, and they were quite willing to share their experience.

We decided to form a "local non-profit organization" and began relevant preparatory work. Thank the Lord for His guidance! Very soon several young Christians who shared the philosophy of our organization joined the team. After that, we found our first co-worker,

Sok Poeun. He had a master's degree in Law and was also an executive committee member of the Phnom Penh church. He is fluent in English and Khmer, and he is also familiar with the local government structure and operation. Now he has become one of the Directors of our PMC Board.

We needed a place to start a home for girls, and "coincidentally" met a property owner who was genuinely concerned about Cambodian women. When he learned that we would provide a service for girls, he agreed to rent a house in a safe community for us. He custom designed all the renovation needed so that the house was equipped with counseling rooms, classrooms, children's rooms, etc. We are still renting this house till this day.

God Accelerated the License Application

After completing all the hardware preparations, we needed to continue to apply for the necessary license from the government: "Memorandum of Understanding." This permit gives evidence that the government knows about our work and allows the home to become a shelter for the victims.

On March 8, 2011, the Pleroma Home for Girls was formally established, and it became the first local Asian organization to focus on and serve the victims of human trafficking.

From exploring to establishing, to complying with all government required procedures, all was accomplished within 1 year and 3 months. Had it not been for God's hand and grace, it might have taken several years.

God Gives Us the Chance to Serve the Survivors

We initially took in three girls at Pleroma, and later, the government referred more cases to us. Although not every girl's experience is the same, I see God's grace in all of them. Here, they receive love, respect, and spiritual comfort. God's Love is abounding here.

The Greater the Challenge, the More Abundant the Grace

Our home was in need of professional counselors. It was difficult at first, because local universities did not provide training courses for social workers or professional counselors, which was why the PHG invested a lot of resources and time in on-the-job training in the initial stage. One of our social workers that undertook a master's degree while working with us is now the director of the PHG. Even though we saw personnel changes, we are thankful to God for bringing to us professional and loving colleagues and caregivers, some of whom have been with us from the start till now.

Through the preparation, establishment and development of the PHG, God has shown me how He is watching over us. At present, Pleroma Missions in Cambodia has four ministries and is capable of bringing blessings to many Cambodian girls and families. We thank God for calling suitable staff members, volunteers and missionaries to join our mission in serving the oppressed.

Looking back on the decade, all of the ministries were new to me, and posed challenges that left me feeling powerless. I thank God for choosing the FicF and for choosing me to fight alongside Him and to experience His grace.



Debbie & our teachers in PSG

Fragrance On the Road of Love

By Sophia Li | Jan 15, 2021

Sophia Li
Chief Editor of Grace Streaming
Through and Life Coach in
Bible School, was Literature &
Communication Director in FiCF.

Behind major decisions are often important stories for the parties involved, especially the choices that go against the tide of the world. Giving up a stable and comfortable life and buying a plane ticket to become a missionary in a foreign land is just such a major decision. What is the story behind it?

In the fall of 2019, at the annual FiCF retreat, I was fortunate enough to have a conversation with Heather Hui, Assistant Field Director of the Pleroma Missions in Cambodia Ministry. Under the evergreen cedar trees by the Autumn Pond where the swans swam, with the sun flickered between her eyebrows, the breeze and I heard a moving narration in time.

Heather, who is the hero in your mind? And why?

My hero is Mother Teresa. More than 20 years ago, her life inspired me and showed me that people do not live only for themselves. In 2005, my first visit to Cambodia was to serve in her organization "Sisters of Charity" for some 20 days. She gave up everything, abandoned the good living environment in Europe and went to the poorest and dirtiest places in India to serve the poor. After she became famous, she could have enjoyed a very different lifestyle, but she still chose to live in poverty. She still insisted on doing what she felt was the right thing.

How did you come to believe in the Lord?

When I was a teacher in a Christian School in Hong Kong, a colleague preached the gospel to me, but I was not very interested. In 2001, when I was visiting with a friend, she put her wallet in my backpack. Somehow her wallet was lost and could not be found. I felt so bad because the bus pass in the wallet had a special meaning to her. So, I prayed to God, "If you can help her find her wallet, I will be willing to get to know you more." That day was a Friday.

The following Monday, the police told her that the wallet had been found with the bus pass intact. I said to God in my heart, "All right then, I'll get to know you more." Just then, a colleague invited me to an evangelistic meeting. I was not going to go, but I had already just made a commitment to God to get to know him. I could not break my promise right away, so I went anyway. When the call to accept Christ was given at the evangelistic meeting, I was very touched and decided to believe in the Lord and became a Christian.

From believing in the Lord to becoming a missionary is quite a distance. How did you cross over?

There is indeed a distance from believing in God to becoming a missionary. At first, I was only a Sunday Christian, but for a while I stopped attending because of the church's worship style. But I returned to the church in 2009. In 2010, I broke up with a relationship and was incredibly sad for 15 months, although I was the one who initiated the breakup. It was during this time that I realized that God loves me more than I love myself.

For example, in Hong Kong, people usually use WhatsApp to text messages rather than calling. But when I was feeling extremely low, God led the church body to reach out to me. He also gave me a vision. At my first retreat, I sat on a high platform to have some quiet time. I saw in front of me a big sea with crops growing over the whole land. Then, Jesus appeared at my side, and we set together under the shade. I saw several women and children harvesting the crop. At that time, I did not know that God was calling me.

As a teacher in Hong Kong, the income is quite good. It's a stable job with secure retirement. I was going to teach until I retire, after which I would travel on a cruise ship. But when school started in September, I had a notion in my head to study theology, using my spare time to equip myself. This notion grew stronger and stronger, while at the same time, God moved my father to support my idea.

When I believed in God, my father was actually very much against it. He pointed at me and warned me not to lead my brother to believe in God. Because of the superstition in my home, my believing in God was a curse to the family. Later when my brother also went to church, my father also threatened to disown him. My mother worshiped the Buddha. My family was proud of me as a teacher - my mother told others that I was a vice principal (which was actually not true). That is why, having to tell my parents that I was quitting my job to study theology was very difficult. The church pastor specifically told me to tell them first before I resigned my job, not the other way around.

On December 21, 2012, while driving my parents to dinner, with them in the back seat, I told them of my intention to study theology. (I figured they would not hit me while I was driving.) My mother immediately raised strong objection, but Father did not say a word. A month later while I was on a walk with my father, he was trying to decide whether or not to retire. The retirement income is sufficient for them, but the money is kept by Mother. So, I said to him "Go ahead and retire. I have promised to give you pocket money, even if I do not work as a teacher, I will still keep my promise." My father said, "You always give careful consideration to your decisions. I support you." His attitude was totally opposite to his previous warnings. I knew that God had opened his heart. So, I broke down and cried. God did this for me; how could I not serve Him?

I was the Dean of Students at that time, and my workload was heavy. At the end of the day, I could fall asleep on the sofa. So how could I manage the additional load of studying theology? I thought perhaps I would work half-time or work in the Dept. of Education where the workload would be lighter, and I would have energy left to study. But God reminded me that "a person cannot serve two masters." Because I had job security, I always spent money casually and did not have many savings. So, I did some introspection. I should change my spending habits and use five years to save money for my theology studies. But God had said, "Do not store your treasures on earth." That very night I decided to respond to God's calling. The first 40 years I had lived for myself (I was 40 then.). The second 40 years shall be God's. When I am 80, I can return to my home in heaven.

I made my decision that night. The next day I woke up feeling scared and alarmed. As I was brushing my teeth, I said to Satan, "You don't need to disrupt me. I will go to the school right away to let them know." So, I went to knock on the principal's door at 8 a.m. I did that because firstly, I did not want to give myself a chance to back out, and, secondly, the school was about to promote me. I wanted to give them early notice so they could make other plans.

After my decision God gave me two confirmations.



Firstly, He inspired a good friend who has three young children to tell me, "I want to support you for the rest of your life." The couple had an agreement: When their investments reached a certain amount, half of the income would be donated to God. That day when she arrived home, before she could open her mouth, her husband said to her, "Our promise to God will be fulfilled today." Because that day their investments have reached the set amount. The timing was so coincidental that they were clear that God wanted them to support me. Therefore, my tuition and boarding fees for the three years of further studies in theology were provided.

At that time, I was going to study fulltime, with no income, yet the mortgage payments on the house I had only lived in for two years needed to be paid. How would it be possible? Looking around at my home, I felt that it was such a pity. If only someone were willing to rent my house and leave my bric-a-brac intact. How is that going to be possible? But God fulfilled my wish. A girl I met by chance, a student in graduate school, liked my place very much. The rental income and what I withdrew from my pension was quite sufficient to cover my living expenses for the three years. The Lord took good care of me in every aspect, thus proving His love and His calling.

There are many different ways of serving, why mission? Why with Fullness in Christ Fellowship?

Toward the end of 2012, the co-worker who led me to Christ asked me how I was going to serve God in the future. Actually, I didn't know what choices were out there. He said I could choose mission or serve at a church. I chose mission. He asked me where I would go for that, and Cambodia came into my mind. Perhaps this was because I had gone there in 2005. That night, I again booked tickets to Cambodia for the New Year. When the plane landed, I prayed "Dear Lord, if Cambodia is the country where you want me to serve, please let my heart stay." On my second visit, I cried a lot. God truly let my heart stay.

In fact, before I knew that I was called to take on mission, I had watched a documentary about the women in Cambodia, and I wanted to help them. This documentary was a production by a charity. Beginning as an intern at a church, I talked about my calling with a preacher and was told about a Christian group whose mission was combating human trafficking, the group was Fullness in Christ Fellowship. This was how God led me to Pleroma. He also opened a door for me. For example, missions were not mentioned much at my church, yet, they were very supportive of me. That is why I joined the Pleroma team as soon as I graduated from the seminary.

What is the biggest challenge and greatest joy in mission?

The biggest challenge in mission is not about me. I am a believer in Christ and no matter what, I can come to God for answers and help. My challenge is mainly with my parents who are not yet believers. I hope that my belief and my dedication to my work will not hinder their belief in God. A preacher friend of mine met with this kind of situation. When her father had cancer, she shared the Gospel with him, and her father said, "You know, I really hate Jesus for not only robbing you of your money and my money, but also robbing me of you."

In addition, not being able to go home is a big challenge. Most people think that missionaries should be completely dedicated, not always thinking of home. And many people who have never been a missionary would tell missionaries they should do this or do that. They place unreasonable expectations and demands on missionaries. For instance, in the matter of visiting parents, in reality, if I use my own time to visit my parents, it does not affect my ministry. It even alleviates my worries and allows me to serve better.

Despite the many challenges, I have great joy, because of God's love, comfort, and guidance are all very apparent. He helped me get rid of unnecessary baggage, but not my loved ones. I know God loves me very much, but not because I am a missionary. Whether I am preaching, traveling, resting, He loves me.

Have you ever felt lonely?

There are times when I am lonely, but I remind myself to love myself because Jesus loves me. So, I would spend time taking care of myself. For instance, on my days off I would go to the café for some quiet time and have a cup of coffee. And I would utilize modern technology to communicate long distance with my family and friends.

How do you see yourself? How do you see God?

I am God's daughter. I'm optimistic, kind-hearted, like to connect with people and have quality interactions. And I often talk to God. I can talk to him any time. For example, at dinner, I might ask him, "What do you think of my cooking? Is it good?" When I'm bathing, I might say, "Heavenly Father, it feels good to be able to shower."

God to me is a quiet father, always there, He does not particularly lecture me. He is with me when I am happy or sad, and he always cares for me in a loving way. For example, there was a time when I asked him, "Heavenly Father, can I have a soothing bath every day from now on?" He fulfilled my wish. He moved the landlady to install a water heater for me so I could have a hot shower. So even on cold days I can have a comfortable shower. This is how God has looked after me in very small ways.

What do you have to say to the readers?

Life as a missionary is a process of growth. God will empower those who belong to him. If you will not use an established framework to define a missionary, pay attention to them, become a partner with them, and not put unnecessary pressure on them, they will be even more motivated to serve.



When missing home, Heather would cook a home-style dish



From the Heart of Heather Walking in Grace

By Heather Hui | Oct 05 2021



When we were hesitant, a timely donation, a sudden idea, a companion with a common goal, an experience of getting out of danger in a crisis, a terminated lease in exchange for the activities space which the Home for Women needed just in time, a kind hearted landlord agreeing to our seemingly "unequal" request, a small improvement seen in our client, a confident smile, the fellowship and concern of our companions, the prayer of an elderly person in the United States, and even a salute from the police during the lockdown period, the recognition and clearing the way, the personal dedication of government doctors to our institution when the children went to get vaccinated - all let us see "God's presence."

"God's presence" lets us know that the path we walk is in accordance with his will. He will complement our insignificant and even failed work by bringing it to fruition. He will lead us to the end. The promise of his presence with us has allowed us to persevere until today, even in the face of difficulties.

September 24, 2021, marks the 5th anniversary of my serving as a missionary in Cambodia. To summarize these five years, I will describe it as "Walking in Grace." Other than my personal experience, the grace is more about God's grace to Pleroma Home for Girls and Pleroma Home for Women.

In retrospect, God's grace bestowed on these two homes is abundant. He has blessed us with His presence and brought us a group of committed local co-workers.

God's Presence

Facing our clients' experiences of having been sexually assaulted or trafficked, our hearts are often burdened with pain beyond words. Their dramatic encounters would sometimes make us ask, "God, do you see it?" When we come across a high-ranking and powerful evil force, we would ask, "Oh God, where is your hand of righteousness?" When we see the girls and women we serve sometimes fall back into the mire, time after time, our hearts wrench in pain, and the disappointment certainly makes us feel that our work is in vain!

The job of working with "people" is a bottomless pit, and the work is never finished. I always feel that I have not done enough, and I could do better. So, what is it that has kept me going until today?

It is because of God's presence. "God's presence!" Two simple words, which are our greatest strength. Whenever we are exhausted, whenever we doubt ourselves, whenever we do not know which way to turn, God would tell us, "I am here!"

Committed Local Co-workers

I do not deny that the work for Pleroma Home for Girls and Pleroma Home for Women is difficult, but 10 years have gone by without our knowing it. Many people know that I have made this decision: If the Lord permits, I am willing to continue to participate in Pleroma Cambodia Ministry for the next 17 years. What makes me so steadfast? It is the love of the local co-workers!

Before I made up my mind, whenever I looked at my lovely co-workers, I would sometimes think, "Will I leave them one day?" Then I would feel sad, and even teary eyed. I knew I could not leave them.

There are a total of 27 local co-workers in the Pleroma Home for Girls and Pleroma Home for Women. Their commitment, selfless dedication, and love have always moved me. They not only accept the same mission as our organization - serving the children and women, but also love each other. Even their lives undergo changes and renewal because of this loving community. (For part of the story, go to the co-worker's chapter.) The lives of our co-workers being shaped by God is what we missionaries rejoice over the most. I often remind myself that local co-workers are also our service targets; they are our front-line ministers. Only when they experience being loved, and experience the renewal of their lives, can our service reveal the beautiful glory of God.


Recently, I had a conversation with a dorm-mom. She said that after coming to our Home for Girls, she learned a lot, and her life has greatly changed. Her husband was also amazed by her change. Last year, she sent her 4-year-old daughter to our Community Center (PCC) preschool, in hopes that her child would receive Christian education from an early age.

A "Thank You" for those of you who have taken part in any form in the work of Pleroma Home for Girls and Pleroma Home for Women. Even though you may find some of your work insignificant, it has become our blessings. God allows us to see his presence through you.

I hope the Pleroma Home for Girls and Pleroma Home for Women will continue to be a loving group. Through the manifestation of love, it will not only bring hope to our clients, but also our local co-workers and their families. May the Homes even be places where hope is fostered in Cambodia.




Our Local Staff
in Cambodia



When I look back
I see that I have
Crossed the deepest waters
The beauty of the vineyard ahead, calling to me
A light of holiness
Guides me
As it cleanses me

- "A Glimpse of Holiness" Sophia Li -



A decade ago,
Pleroma Home for Girls (PHG) and Pleroma Home for Women (PHW)
had only a few local staff members. But today, we are a team of 27.
We started from not knowing how to proceed, feeling our way around,
to now having a clear division of labor and professional services.

Our entire team shares the same vision.

At first, we were unrelated individuals,
but now we love each other and build each other up.

It is because we loved each other first,
that we continue to show love. We are a community of love.

The stories below give a glimpse of the loving kindness
and beauty of our team.

The cases we served:

PHG: 119 cases (Since 2011)
PHW: 138 cases (Since 2018)

The Wounded Healer

By Cecilia Yau | Dec, 2011

Cecilia Yau
FiCF co-founder, former president
(volunteer) and board chairperson

When I first went for an interview at the "Pleroma Home for Girls," I instantly fell in love with the children. Some of them were so young and cute and reminded me of Andrew. I knew I could pour out my love on these children. It was such a good feeling - I could love many, many more Andrews.

If Andrew were still with us, he would be eight years old now. Four years ago, during the holiday season, Pastor and his wife were busy rehearsing for the church Christmas program, and they left their two sons, Andrew and his younger brother, Philip, in my care. I took them home with me, and as soon as I stepped in the door, Andrew started yelling for something to eat. He was hungry, so I hurried to get him something to eat. But when I turned around, he was gone. I raced out the door, just as a motorcycle swooped past me. By the time I could see clearly, Andrew was lying on the ground, bleeding from his head and ears.

Pastor arrived shortly after receiving the news. Unfortunately, the clinic in the village was not in sufficient condition, so we had to send Andrew to the hospital in Phnom Penh. The doctors tried their best, but, in the end, they were not able to save this little life. I was heartbroken and beat myself on the chest! God, why did Andrew die like this? I would rather have died than him. It was my mistake! What about his parents? Oh God, what should I do?

Adding to my sense of shame, was my aunt. I lived with her, helped her with the housework, and made a little extra money to pay for my tuition. She was a Buddhist and didn't like that I went to church. She almost kicked me out when I told her I believed in Jesus. After she learned about the accident, she did not comfort me, but scolded, "You killed someone's child! Tell me how you are going to pay the parents back?"

For three years, I was guilt ridden, unable to eat or sleep well. But during this time Pastor and wife were amazingly comforting to me, telling me that it was not my fault, and they fully understood—and God understood too. But once, when we went to visit Andrew's grave together, they couldn't hold back their wailing, calling their son's name, "Andrew, my child, I miss you so much, come back! Come back!" My heart was torn to shreds. I seemed to have fallen into a dark pit from which I could not climb out.

Pastor and his wife truly loved me, even telling me that God took Andrew and gave them me! Pastor gave me a job in the administration department of his organization where I had the opportunity to meet different people. I got to visit the co-workers in the organization's workplace and learn new things. Through this couple's unconditional love and acceptance, God began to mend my broken heart.

Once, I dreamed that I was walking alone in the dark when suddenly, I saw thousands of bright lights shining in front of me. The road was covered with diamonds. I heard a kind voice saying: "Don't be afraid, I will lead you with the light of life." Then, I walked into a beautiful garden where a lovely fragrance filled the air. Many people were there, people who loved me. They were brothers and sisters in the church.

Then, I woke up. Later I found out that this was not just a dream. It was real life. God had prepared many brothers and sisters for me who understood me. I began to receive counseling, and gradually the dark shadow disappeared. I was free! Moreover, there is a deep love in my heart. I have a special sympathy for those who are hurt by unfortunate circumstances. I want to hug them and encourage them not to be afraid and not to give up. I want to tell them, "The eternal love of Jesus can heal you and lead you to a place of light."

When I heard that "Pleroma Home for Girls" needed a social worker, I knew this was where I belonged - God wanted me to love these children.

Once, as part of my responsibilities, I was out in the countryside going through the formalities for accepting girls into our Home. As I walked along the muddy village road, noticing the sparse village houses with no walls and doors, I felt as if I was back in my own home. Ten years earlier, I was like one of these children playing on a bamboo mat. But I had been more fortunate than many rural girls. I had the opportunity to go to school. Of the three girls in my family, I was the only one who could go to school. My older sister wanted to go to school, but since our family was poor, she insisted that I should have the opportunity, because she said I could read better. My younger sister liked boys' work, so she became a cowgirl, watching cattle in the fields every day.

Memories from the past flooded my mind. One day, on my way home from school, a female classmate ran up to me out of breath, very upset, and said, "Go home quickly; your sister is dead!" I was startled and ran home without asking what happened. Before I got to the door, I heard the sound of crying. My heart was pounding when I saw my younger sister lying on the ground. Her hair was burned, her legs were broken, and she seemed to have stopped breathing.

Seeing me, my father, pulled me aside to tell me that my younger sister had been struck by lightning and died in the field. I was stunned! How could this be possible? My sister was a hard worker and everyone loved her - she shouldn't have died! Still today, every time I think of her, my eyes fill with tears as I relive the feelings of loss and confusion.

"Here we are," my co-worker tugged at my sleeve. "What have you been thinking?" We had arrived at the house of the family we were going to visit. The eight-year-old girl of that home was raped by her stepfather's younger brother. Her mother agreed that it would be safer for her to come to our "Home for Girls." I looked at the girl, her face filled with bewilderment and loss. Oh, after ten years, I was very familiar with that look. I had lost my sister, and this small child had lost her virginity. At that age, her dignity was still very fragile. And her self-confidence had not yet been established. I never fail to ask, "How can it be that she could be so ravaged?" I held her hand and told her softly, "I'm sure you will like 'Home for Girls.'"

Editor's Note: Thank God for His guidance. Kimsang is currently the director of Pleroma Home for Girls. Although it is never easy to change someone's life, she would say, "My greatest strength comes from prayer and depending on God." Her hope is that one day girls and women in Cambodia will be free from being bound and exploited by sexual crimes, and girls will have the opportunity to be educated, to understand they are valuable, to have hope for the future, to have the ability to choose their own lives, and more importantly, to know God.



I Will Love You Continuously

By Heather Hui | Oct 14, 2021

In January 2021, Srey Touch completed her 10th year of service at the Pleroma Home for Girls (PHG). As one of our first local staff, she witnessed the development of PHG. In these 10 years, Srey participated in the ministry of building new lives at PHG. At the same time, her own life was built through serving and co-laboring with God.

When Srey started working at PHG, she was extremely nervous. It was her first job in Phnom Penh. As a woman from the village, she had no idea how to be a good caregiver. She also had no idea about her beliefs.

Srey believed in Christ in 2007 but did not take her faith seriously. She was not interested in attending church. Prior to working at PHG, she had lived in Phnom Penh for only one month. She was hoping to start a small business, but the attempt failed. Feeling frustrated, she decided to go to church. That day, the pastor encouraged the congregation not to rely on their strengths but to rely on God faithfully. Srey was deeply moved by the sermon. Shortly after that day, Srey heard from her sister that PHG was looking for a caretaker. She applied for the job. The first night at work when she stayed in the big empty house alone, she felt very uneasy. Eventually, the girls came one by one. In the evenings when Srey was supposed to lead Bible Study for the girls she would say she had a bad headache because she had no idea how to study the Bible.

Caregiving is a very tiring and tedious job. It is even more challenging to care for the girls from abusive backgrounds. Most of these girls have emotional issues. They express their frustration and anger by stomping their feet, slamming the door, screaming, punching the walls, and even scolding each other. Srey, thus, needed to show them love and patience. During the first few years, Srey often wanted to give up. Yet every time when she thought of giving up, she prayed. After praying, her thought of wanting to leave disappeared.

Although Srey felt that she did not know how to be a caregiver, she cared for the girls as her own. The girls, however, did not treat Srey as their mother. Once a frustrated girl asked another girl to confront Srey by saying that she was not her mother. Upon hearing this, Srey responded, "In any event, I will continue to love you." Finally, the girl who denied Srey ran up to her, embraced her, and cried.

There was another girl who refused to sleep on the bed when she first came to PHG. She just crawled under the bed instead. Srey did not reprove or force her to go back to the bed. She just spoke quietly to the girl, "It is very dirty under the bed. There are mosquitos and fleas. Are you not afraid of being bitten? What kind of animals sleep under the bed?" The girl answered, "Dogs." Eventually, the girl crawled out and slept on the bed.

A decade passed by quickly. As Srey showed her love through caretaking, the girls' lives grew. Srey's own life also grew.

At the end of 2020, Srey experienced a financial loss. She wanted to confront the woman who was involved, but the woman kept avoiding her. One day, Srey went to the woman's home. Upon seeing Srey, the woman was shocked and stunned. When Srey saw the woman's reaction, she had mercy in her heart. She no longer wanted to confront the woman about the financial loss. Instead, Srey hugged her, calmed her down, and encouraged her. When Srey left, the woman's two daughters came and thanked Srey continuously for encouraging and comforting their mother. They indicated that Srey's kind actions caused their mother to have a smile on her face again. They further mentioned that their mother could not sleep or eat and had been very upset lately.

After the above incident, Srey indicated that it was the love and truth of Jesus that guided her and helped her to let go of the financial matter that dwelled in her heart. Instead, she learned how to show love to the woman.

In early February 2021, the government inspected at the PHG facility. One of the requirements is that all of the windows in the living room should have curtains installed. Srey decided to sew the curtains by herself. After she finished sewing the curtains, she did not know how to install them. She wanted to ask for help but she wanted to try to do it herself. Finally, she did it! The girls applauded and thanked her for her love, wisdom, and loving service. The colleagues secretly took a picture of her which depicts a beautiful woman who is diligent, self-confident, and fearless of difficulties.

In March, the caregiver team of the Pleroma Home for Women (PHW) had some difficulties. We thought of inviting Srey to come to PHW to lead and build the team of caregivers. It was difficult for Srey to leave PHG. However, for the sake of the ministry and the needs of the women at PHW, Srey accepted the invitation without hesitation.

In the farewell party, the girls came one by one hugging Srey and crying. All the colleagues did the same. Especially the chef who hugged Srey and cried for almost four minutes. Srey thoughtfully rearranged the chef's hair and wiped her tears. This action touched everyone at the party. It also reminded me of the incident from two years ago. It was at the beginning of 2019.

It was an uneventful morning. The chef who was an unbeliever at the time came and attended the routine Morning Prayer Meeting. The sight of the chef at the meeting touched my heart. When everybody sang, I became more emotional. It was not just because we had the opportunity to share the gospel with the chef. It was also because of someone's sacrifice that provided the opportunity for the chef to come to the prayer meeting. The chef usually worked in the kitchen at the time of the prayer meeting. That day, a caregiver was doing the chores for the chef. The lunch preparation for the girls and colleagues was uninterrupted although the chef came to the prayer meeting. It was Srey who assumed the chef's duties to enable the chef to attend the Morning Prayer Meeting. After the meeting, I walked out of the room and saw Srey sitting on the stool performing the kitchen chores. It was like seeing Jesus washing the feet of the disciples.

Srey was the caregiver who in the past did not know how to lead Bible study. Yet in the subsequent 10 years, she used her life to illustrate the teaching of Jesus. She used her life to strengthen the people who interacted with her. I believe that through her actions, she will continue to touch others and let them know what it means by "I will love you continuously."



A Caregiver's Joys and Sorrows

An Interview with Home for Girls Caregiver Bi Sai

By Cecilia Yau

Reporter's sharing: When I was in school, I started working as a caregiver in Los Angeles Children's Home, living with and taking care of six little girls who were adopted due to their broken families. After a month, I could no longer deal with many of their emotions, so I resigned!

How long have you served as a caregiver at the Home for Girls? How many girls do you have to take care of?

It has been four years, and another nurse and I are in charge of taking care of 22 girls.

(Thinking, she has to take care of so many girls and has been working for four years. Makes me feel ashamed!) Do you live in the same room with them?

No, the girls live in four different rooms, and as caregivers we sleep in the living room outside. This way, if the girls have a need, we can respond immediately. Sometimes they yell from their room. Sometimes they come to the living room to find me. Just like any home, there are times when children are naughty or weak, whether during the day or at midnight, and mothers have to respond.

Do you have children? Is there a difference between raising your own kids and raising these girls?

I have a 21-year-old son and a 16-year-old daughter. Because I gave birth to them, and they have followed me since they were young, they are very clear about my expectations and requirements. It is naturally easier to teach your own children. But to these girls, we were originally strangers, we knew each other very superficially, and their emotional hurt was deep. I have to be very careful in speaking and acting so as not to increase their pain.

It seems that you also love them very much. Why did you come to the Home for Girls as a caregiver in the first place?

I sympathize with these girls' experiences, and I want to lead them to know God's love and build them up with God's words. When I learned that the Home for Girls needed a nanny, I was happy to participate in this ministry.

You live here and cannot take care of your husband and children at home. Do they understand?

My husband serves in the church as an assistant pastor. He is very supportive of my work here. He often drives me to work and picks me up from work. I work here two days with the other caregivers, and we have two rest days when two other nannies take over, so we still have time to spend with our family every week. My children are grown now, old enough to do housework, so I have no worries.

Great! God has given you a happy family so that you can help children who grow up in broken homes. But these children miss their parents too! How do you as a caregiver ease their sadness of missing parents or relatives?

Sometimes they may suddenly get emotional, ignore people, won't eat, or want to hide by themselves. I will let them calm their emotions first before I try to comfort them. I encourage them to express their inner feelings. Sometimes they will cry, thinking of how their parents have treated them, even beating them, and they get angry again.

They both love and hate their parents. Will they transfer their emotions to you as a caregiver?

Sometimes it happens. But I learned not to let their problems become my own and not to bring these emotions home with me. Of course, I also have to learn not to bring the problems from my home to the Home for Girls. All this requires special help from God. Some of the girls' serious problems are beyond my reach, so I ask social workers to help them. For the older girls, I give them a choice: Do you want me to help? Or do you want me to ask a social worker for help?

These girls are very blessed to have both the nannies and the social workers partnering as a powerful team. If there is a discrepancy or difference between you and other caregivers in the daily routine and behavior of the girl, how do you deal with it?

Usually, something will happen that causes tension. When my emotions are high, I forbid myself to say anything. I deal with other things first until I feel calmer. Then I will confront the issue and discuss it. We seek a solution together.

Very wise, no wonder you have stayed here for so long. How do you help these children know God and His Word?

We have devotional time after dinner every day. We sing, read the Bible, and pray together, sharing our experience or testimony. Most of them did not believe in the Lord before coming to the Home for Girls, but almost everyone has prayed and accepted the Lord by the time they leave. For example, one girl didn't want to read the Bible at first. Later, not only did she want to read it, but she went to church with us and asked many questions about Jesus. After she was willing to open up to God, her life changed, and her emotions stabilized.

Can I pray for you?

Father, we thank you for Bi Sai. You have given her the vision and mission, as well as a lot of love, to serve these injured children. She takes care of them in life, teaches them how to behave, and leads them to know You. Through her ministry, many children are being healed. Thank You Lord for using her. Please keep her strong, give her spiritual and emotional wisdom, bless her husband and children who make sacrifices to cooperate with her ministry. Please remember and provide for all their needs. In the name of the Lord, Amen.



A Dorm-Mom Finding Love

By Heather Hui | May 07, 2021

On April 18, 2021, I was attracted by a picture on Facebook. In the picture, a husband was celebrating his wife's birthday with a cake. They were not very intimate in the picture. In fact, they looked a bit uneasy. The wife's smile was a bit awkward. However, I was very touched by the picture. The wife in the picture is Ravy. Two years ago in a staff retreat, Ravy confronted God, "Lord, why does nobody love me? Friends do not love me. Family members do not love me. Even my husband doesn't love me." God answered her, "Why don't you look at your colleagues? Don't they love you?" At that time, Ravy had been with us for only two months.

At the end of 2018, Ravy was laid off by her former employer. She thus had to find another job. In the process of job searching, she had a dream about God reaching out his hands and invited her to believe in him. Ravy refused to believe but requested that God lead her only to a Christian agency. During the subsequent three months, she experienced disappointment, frustration, and endless waiting.

One morning, she lost her patience. She said to God, "Since you don't open doors for me and you don't love me, I am not going to wait anymore." Then she decided to go and work for her brother's company. However, that afternoon she received a job offer from our agency. That was the first time she experienced God's grace.

When Ravy first joined our agency, she was inarticulate and never smiled. When I interviewed her much later, she indicated that she felt like a worthless person at that time. She never dared to think about her own needs. She was unable to express her feelings in front of others. She was extremely quiet when she was in a crowd. It was the same situation in her home. During mealtime at home, nobody talked to each other. All the family members just ate together silently. The home situation made her even quieter.

How did Ravy change eventually? She said, "It is the love from the colleagues." Although Ravy did not have any friends, she was able to experience love in the Pleroma Home for Girls (PHG). Through the colleagues, Ravy was able to experience love, learn to love, and understand what love is. She started to feel respected and recognized. It was a new experience for her. She said, "In the past, I told myself that even if other people ignore me, God will still see me. At PHG, not only did God see my hard work, but others also saw my hard work."

After developing her sense of self-worth, Ravy started to express her feelings and ideas. Nine months after working at PHG, Ravy made the decision to believe in Christ. She said, "The love of God and the love my colleagues pour on me overflow to the people around me."

In April 2021, Cambodia began to implement the lockdown because of Covid-19. One morning, Ravy found that the roads to PHG were blocked. She was concerned about the girls at PHG. She broke her silence and prayed to God, "Dear Lord, I must go to work. I want to serve you. Please open the roads for me." As she was riding on her motorcycle, she continued to pray to God. Whenever she reached a checkpoint, she negotiated with the police officer and the police officer would allow her to pass. She said that she was extremely tired during those few days, but she felt strengthened. She knew that her strength and wisdom came from God.

Ravy had never worked as a chef prior to the job at PHG. Using limited resources to produce well-balanced meals to feed more than 20 people is a great challenge. Ravy says that she prays to God for wisdom. She treats her job as a way to serve God. Sometimes after preparing the food, she feels that the portions are not enough. Then she prays and lets God handle it. God comforts her and reminds her of the miracle of the "five loaves and two fish." In fact, after Ravy started working at PHG, the food budget has not increased. However, the quality and quantity of the food have improved. The teachers also notice that the girls from PHG are even healthier than other girls in the school.

Ravy did not only shower the girls at the PHG with love. She also brought love back to her family. Her father seldom asked her to return home before. But slowly, he invited her to return home more frequently and even showed his care for her.

After Ravy started believing in God, her husband threatened to divorce her. He even came to the PHG to give her trouble. However, one day half a year later, her husband told Ravy that he would respect her wishes and would no longer interfere with her faith. They would chat and joke at mealtime. On Ravy's birthday, for the first time, her husband celebrated with her. That was the first time that a birthday cake was seen in their home. He said he loved Ravy and wanted to surprise her.

I asked Ravy if she knew why there were such changes.

She said, "Because the love of God changes me. He showed me my worth. I start to think about myself, to express myself, to express love to those around me. God also granted me wisdom, so that I know how to communicate and interact with my friends and family members."

At last, I asked if she had any wishes. She said, "I hope that I will always rely in God all my life for all things. I hope that, one day, my whole family will believe in God and we can worship together the God that changes me with love, that blesses me and my family!"

The change in a mother is a blessing not only to herself but those she serves, her friends and family members.

When she spoke of her wishes, I am sure God has already granted them. I promised Ravy that I would invite our readers to pray for her wishes.

Dear readers, I'm sure you are willing to pray for her, right?



When Disability Meets an Angel

By Heather Hui | Mar 26, 2018

Living with a disability is not easy, regardless of when and where you live. However, it is more acceptable in the societies of developed countries. The degree of discrimination in these countries is considerably lighter because of more advanced social and hospital systems.

In developing countries like Cambodia, disability is interpreted differently. It is perceived as a result of the person or their parents' doing bad things in a previous life. In short, disability occurs from people's actions. As the matter of life is ignored in those countries, the life of a disabled person is even worse. Therefore, citizens don't expect their government to provide benefits for disabled persons.

Imagine a disabled girl born in a small village in Cambodia. Cambodian culture theorizes that, "Men are Gold, Women are Cloth." As a result, girls have to work hard to survive and be independent in society, without anyone acknowledging their contributions to society. Lu Fu is such a girl who lives in this reality.

Lu Fu was born in a family in poverty. She has a disability in the areas of her hand and leg. However, her life was transformed after she met some followers of Jesus. As a result, her identity is no longer bound to her disability.

Lu Fu was no different from other disabled girls in Cambodia. Discrimination was around her because of her disability. Her friends didn't like her, and her childhood was not a happy one. The light in her life was her two older sisters who loved her a lot. Nevertheless, her family was in poverty, meaning that they could not support their children's education. Still, both of her sisters insisted on pushing Lu Fu to school because they understood the impossibility of their younger, disabled sister working on the farm. By the hard work of her sisters, Lu Fu was able to go to school. It allowed her to learn, but her school experience was also painful. She was discriminated against in many ways, and nobody wanted to be friends with her.

In high school, Lu Fu met a Christian classmate who never discriminated against her and treated her as a normal girl. It brought the love of Jesus Christ to her. Her classmate told her, "I look at your inside, not your appearance. It's just like the way Jesus Christ looks at me." These words planted the seed of the Gospel in her heart.

After her high school graduation, Lu Fu left her county, moved to Phnom Penh, and began studying at a university. She lived in a dorm that ministers built, sharing it with a group of Christians and studying the Bible together. After two years, she chose to believe in Jesus Christ and became a Christian.

After her graduation, Lu Fu started looking for jobs. She knew she would experience criticism from the real world because of her disability. Sending out lots of job application letters, she got interviews. And at every interview she needed to expose her disabled hand. When employers saw her fingers of abnormal lengths, they weren't interested in her computer processing ability or that her typing skill was the fastest in the university. And when employers saw her walking with her disabled leg, they didn't want to know about anything else, even though she could perform tasks fast, worked hard, and was always on time.

Discouraged, and with additional economic pressure, she was close to giving up her work in Phnom Penh and returning to her village. However, God used His hand and brought her to Chandra, the director of our ministry center. Chandra saw Lu Fu's work ethic and attitude and hired her! She has been working for us now for over 18 months.

We asked her what she is looking forward to in the future. She said she would like to learn to ride a motorcycle. Although she is afraid of the complex and busy traffic in Phnom Penh, she needs to learn to ride a bike in order to serve our organization in the future - because Pleroma Home for Girls and Pleroma Women's Center will be relocated further away.

Her second wish is to learn English. Unfortunately, she won't be able to start on that goal because of the high cost of living in Phnom Penh and her financial support role in the family.

Listening to her story, we realized how deeply tough it is for a disabled female to live in Phnom Penh, even if she works harder than everybody else. However, because of the love from her family and the love from God, Lu Fu will make it. As Christians, they have a different perspective, seeing Lu Fu for who she is and not her physical appearance.

With God's love, Lu Fu has undergone a huge transformation from being an unfairly treated girl in her home village to becoming a Christian, living in Phnom Penh, and serving God.

God is teaching us that anything we do even unintentionally could change someone's life forever. Pray that God will transform us into Angels for more people.



Flowing Loves that Pain My Heart

By Heather Hui | Apr 29, 2021

Since April 2021, Cambodia has been restricting traffic due to the pandemic. The government started by setting curfews and restricting traffic between states. Phnom Penh was locked down, and traffic between districts was prohibited. Only personnel with permits could go out during curfew. On the 24th, local markets were also shut down.

Before the lockdown, the government said NGOs were exempted from the restrictions. However, more and more new restrictions were established, and the government did not mention if NGOs were exempted from them anymore. At the same time, the government increased the penalties and ordered police forces to whip the locals who went out after curfew.

Under these government policies, we tried to arrange for all our workers to work from home. However, nannies and cooks had to work at the "Home for Girls" and "Women Center" sites. With all the restrictions, it has been a great challenge for us to continue serving during the pandemic. As the person responsible for both sites, I find every day a new challenge. Over the past ten days, even though I have become exhausted, I have been touched again and again because I had witnessed so many beautiful scenes, which include-

The mother who rode to work far away

One day, one of the oldest nannies rode her bike to the site after the curfew was over at 5 AM. The daughter took a picture of her mother's back and prayed for her mother, who had to ride an hour to work. Due to traffic restrictions, she could not take a Tuk-Tuk (an auto rickshaw).

Can I buy some food for my household too?

After receiving the news that the local market was going to shut down, the cook and I drove out to get food immediately. In the car, she asked shyly, "Can I buy some food for my household too?" "Of course!" I answered. In the end, we stuffed the shopping cart full of food and checked out at the register. During the checkout, I realized the cook only bought herself a bag of salt. So, I asked her, "I thought you were going to get some food for your household too?" "I forgot." She replied.

I Begged Them!


My colleagues had been warning me that we should not drive the NGO's vehicle with foreigner's privileges: "You should not go out! NGO is no longer exempted from the curfew. The government will fine those who are violating the rules..." However, the nannies kept working at the sites where they had to pass all the roadblocks. I asked them, "How did you get here?" "I had to beg them!" They responded firmly, even though it was not for their children. Though it was only for work, they were still willing to beg others with pure and selfless hearts.

During the pandemic, in a city that was quiet and cold, I saw love flowing, a love that both touches me and pains my heart.





Seeing Light in Their Eyes Again
the Girls in PHG



• All of the girls were under the age of 16 when they came to our care,
the youngest one being only six years old...

But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!".

- Luke 8:54 -





Cutie Pie DSP

By Cecilia Yau

Whenever a short-term mission team comes to the Pleroma Home for Girls (PHG), the girls welcome the team joyfully. In their excitement, they return to the innocence of children. This time was no exception. The team members sang, danced, made handcrafts with the girls, and shared lots of laughter. Among the girls was an eight-year-old cutie pie named DSP. Dressed in red with flushed cheeks and flowing waist-long hair, she began jumping around the guests and hugging them affectionately.

Who would have thought that DSP had a secret, causing her to huddle in dark corners, sobbing from the fear and sorrow in her heart? The secret was hidden even from her mother.

A few years ago, she frequented her neighbor's house which had a mango tree in the yard. Her neighbor was ten years older and enjoyed sharing the fragrant and sweet mangoes from the tree with her. One day, while eating mangoes with the neighbor at his house, the neighbor started hugging and touching her. She did not like it, so she rushed out of the door.

She did not go to his house again. But, unfortunately, on New Year's Day, the neighbor came to her house to play cards with her family. He touched her again while her family wasn't looking. She did not know what to do.

I asked her, "Did your mother know?" She replied, "No, she didn't."

"Why didn't you tell her?" I asked.

"My mother was very busy at work and rarely at home. She was also divorced from my father, so I didn't want her to worry about it."

At that time, DPS only revealed part of the secret to me. She loved her mother very much and often missed her. However, she was not happy with her past. She spent the happiest time of her life at the PHG. Sometimes she tried to forget what her neighbor had done to her, but she was sad whenever she thought of it. Then, a few months ago, a lady from one of the US short-term mission teams shared a Bible story with her. The story touched her heart, and she accepted Jesus as her Savior. She especially loved one of the hymns the lady taught her: "Lift my eyes upon the hill. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth." As she sang the song over and over, she received courage from the Lord. She felt Jesus holding her hand and leading her through the deepest darkness, where she was afraid to go before.

Recently, she finally revealed her secret to a counselor at the PHG, that her neighbor had not only touched her, but also raped her.


The counselor asked her, "Really? Why didn't you tell us earlier?" The counselor could not imagine how DPS had kept this secret for four years. It is a heavy burden for a child to carry!

"Because I'm afraid." Her big round eyes gazed at the counselor, looking for assurance that her secret was safe with the counselor.

"Does your mother know what happened to you?" the counselor asked. She lowered her head, cuddling and stroking the teddy bear in her hand.

"No, I am afraid to let her know."

The untold secret of DPS has now been revealed. And I am convinced that the Lord Jesus will continue holding her hand and walking with her into a bright future.



Hope Rekindled - the Story of KTD

By Cecilia Yau

It was dawn. KTD rushed out of her grandmother's house. She cried as she ran, "He must not see me. I must run. I need to go home and tell Mom. It was not a nightmare. It happened!" Her mind was bombarded with regrets, "Why didn't I listen to Mom? This wouldn't have happened if I hadn't slept over at Grandma's. What should I do?"

KTD was instantly relieved as she stepped foot in her home. "Mom, where are you?" KTD asked. The mother peeked from her room, saw her stunned and teary-eyed daughter. She asked, "What happened?" KTD fell into her mother's arms and sobbed in agony. The nervous mother pulled KTD to the bedside and inquired about what had happened.

KTD wiped her tears with a towel. With hesitation, she told her mother what had happened last night. "Mom, I regret not listening to you. Grandma asked me to sleep over since it was late. As I fell asleep, I suddenly noticed my cousin was in my bed. At first, I thought he got into the wrong bed by accident since his wife was sleeping next to me in another bed. He didn't leave and wouldn't let me speak. He then took off my pants. I tried to scream, but he covered my mouth," KTD sobbed.

KTD's mother immediately took KTD to see her grandmother. Grandmother was speechless once she learned what had taken place the night before. She asked someone to search for the cousin. The cousin initially stared at KTD fiercely and denied the accusation. After a further inquiry by KTD's mother, she claimed she could not recall what happened because she was very sleepy.

After KTD's mother took her to the clinic for an examination, the report confirmed that KTD had been sexually assaulted. At this point, they went to the police. The cousin realized the situation was bad and tried to run away. But the police caught him. He plead guilty, and was sentenced to jail.

The news eventually spread to KTD's family members and friends. Some of her classmates sympathized with her, while others distanced themselves from her with doubt. KTD was ashamed and dropped out of school. She was later referred to Pleroma Home for Girls. As KTD received treatment and learned about God's love, her dignity was restored. She knew that no one could take away her salvation in Jesus. She felt love from her counselor and nanny and learned to live happily with her peers.

"I am a valuable person. Jesus loves me," KTD said as she stroked the giant stuffed dog in her arms. Her dark eyes sparkled under her thick eyelashes.



Walking Out of Hell - the Story of SSN

By Cecilia Yau

When SSN first came to Pleroma Home for Girls, she did not look like any normal teenager. She acted tough and deliberately showed her ugly side to people. Once, she screamed at another girl and punched a hole in the wall with her fist. She refused to take showers, trying to make herself look ugly and dirty in order to keep males away.

Can you blame her? She grew up in a broken and abusive home. She has had no positive male figure in her life. Her father loiters in bars and does not want to work. Her mother is always in a bad mood because she is a victim of domestic violence. SSN is the youngest child in the home with two older brothers and three older sisters. She has been abused and has not received the care she deserves.

Since SSN was six, she had to go the woods to gather firewood for the house. Once one of her brothers ordered her to lie down, and he raped her. This began to happen often, and she had no one to tell. She was just like an innocent rabbit in the woods who could not fight back but only cry softly. Every time she went to the woods, she was terrified.

Her home was not a safe and peaceful place either. Her brothers and sisters' families lived in the same house. When no one was home, her brother-in-law sexually assaulted her. She tried to tell her sisters, but they slapped her in the face for accusing her brother-in-law. SSN felt despair because even though her mother realized the situation, she had no way to get herself out of the situation.

One day SSN felt dizzy, and her family thought she had gotten an STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease). Instead of treating SSN as a victim, they treated her as a bad girl. Her brothers and brothers-in-law even consider killing her.

When she was 15 years old, she passed by a temple on the way to school. A monk walked towards her. As she was about to say hello, the monk grabbed her suddenly and wanted to kiss her. Luckily, she fought and escaped from the monk.

SSN was only 16 years old and was already deeply wounded. The wounds had come from her own family, the people she was supposed to depend on. Her anger toward her family was trapped inside her like a volcano, and she was ready to explode. Instead, God brought her to Home for Girls, where she met and learned about God.

Growing up in a broken family, it is very hard for SSN to trust anyone. When she came to Pleroma Home for Girls, she tried to protect herself behind her appearance. After a while, she began to lower her guard when she realized something was different. At the Home, her caretaker shows care for her and teaches her to do housework. At last, she feels the motherly love she has been looking for. With her teachers and counselor's gentle guidance and patience, the despair and anger buried deep inside her soul is washed away. She has since made several friends who have had a similar experience. They open up to each other and comfort each other. All of this makes her feel she was rescued to Heaven from Hell.

The Girl Who Gazed at the White Clouds

By Cecilia Yau

A car stopped in front of Pleroma Home for Girls, and PSK got out of the car. There were many unknowns in her mind, and she was not sure if it's safe here. She wished her grandfather were here, holding her hands, making her feel less insecure.

"Welcome, PSK," invited a woman who looked like a mom, but was not her mom. As the woman standing in front of her reached to hold her hand, PSK moved away and cried "Don't touch me!"

As a 6-year-old, PSK felt insecure when she first walked into Pleroma Home for Girls. But Pleroma Home for Girls is surely a safe place for her, with a group of people waiting to love her and give her protection. However, she has a very dark and sad memory in her mind, which causes her always to feel insecure. That night, as her nanny prepared a clean and pretty dress for her to dress up in, she was frightened and pushed her nanny away. She cried until she fell asleep, soaking her old dress with her tears.

In her mind, PSK saw herself playing happily with her neighbors, little K, and little F, in their home. Their grandfather was inside as well. The grandfather was very friendly and had given delicious candy to her. When their grandfather asked PSK for help, she agreed. Once she followed him into a room, he closed the door and laid on the bed. Saying he had some back pain, he asked PSK to massage him. Like other kids, she did not know how to massage, so she used her little hand to push on his skin, like what she remembered his grandkids did with her one time before. Grandfather of little K suddenly grabbed her hand, put her on the bed, and took off her clothes. She was frightened as he pushed her body on the bed and did not let her move. Then she felt like her body was being engulfed by a giant monster. She shouted out and afterwards sat on the bed full of horror. Her body was soaked, but she could not determine whether it was from her sweat or tears.

After a few weeks at the Home, PSK was quiet and didn't ask about going home anymore. Counselor Nora started to bring her out from the gloomy sadness, guilt, fear, and anger through play therapy. PSK remembered she had been given \$500 by the grandfather who told her not to mention what had happened to anyone else. Since it seemed so shameful, she did not plan to speak up, not even to her parents.

Her parents paid rare attention to her sisters, younger brother, and her. She was taken care of by her elder 13-year-old sister. Her sister cooked and did the chores in their small house. She does not know if her father had a job, only that he left early and came back home late. His job surely paid poorly for they ate very poorly. Her mother was addicted to alcohol, often did not come home, but stayed in some clubs.

PSK's grandfather is the only one who gave her the warmth of family. They had a very good relationship and talked about everything. PSK felt shame and did not plan to speak up. But she told her grandfather everything. She was very frightened the night it happened because her lower body was bleeding a lot.

Her grandfather was very angry, picked up PSK's parents, and talked to the grandfather of little K. Both families had many connections, and he didn't understand why the grandfather of little K did such a horrible thing to PSK. The grandfather of little K saw his doing wrong. He tried to reduce their anger by offering PSK's family a lot of money. However, the opposite occurred. PSK's family brought her to the police station and filed a report.

There is a law in Cambodia to protect girls younger than 15 from sexual abuse. Offenders will be sentenced to 5 to 15 years. In this case, little K's grandfather pleaded guilty and got 9 years in prison and penalty fees.

Although the case has been closed, it will not compensate for the damage caused to PSK. In the meantime, PSK's grandfather had Tuberculosis, which a private hospital had not revealed to them. Therefore, his sickness didn't get cured, and they were in debt for a large amount of money. Because they did not have money to pay, they had to sell their house and property. Situations like this are so sad for old and disabled persons.

After PSK arrived at Pleroma Home for Girls, she began to heal. She eventually realized she could release the shame from her incident. It was the fault of someone else, and she was the victim. She realized that she didn't need to carry that guilt. After such an incident, although she was very young, she understood the real world's wisdom. We at the Home were able to help give back PSK's childish expression and smile.

Once a short-term mission team from San Diego came and spread the joy from Jesus to PSK. She understood that love and knew that God's honor and love would never be stolen from her. PSK loved the Christian songs taught by the short-term mission team. Every song brought her meaning of life, and she wanted to keep the songs in her mind. She has gone through much darkness, but the brightness is hers now.

The other day, bad news came that her beloved grandfather was close to passing away. She rushed and visited her grandfather one last time. He said, "Please work hard on your study and become a good teacher. Don't think too much right now. You can make your own decision when you are 18. For now, spend your time on study, and you will have a brighter future." When her grandfather passed away, PSK was gazing at the white clouds in the sky, which looked like angels with her grandfather. She mumbled, "My grandfather will be in heaven, and I will see him one day."



Xiumei Wants to be a Social Worker

By Cecilia Yau

"Everyone knows each other in this small village. So, if she stays home, the victim is very likely to encounter misfortune again...."

Xiumei (anonym) is a child from her mother's second marriage. Her parents divorced when she was 6 years old, and her mother took her into the next marriage. Two years after her mother remarried, one day when her parents were out for work, Xiumei was alone at home. Her stepfather's brother sneaked into the house and raped her. And she, a little girl who always worked hard to protect herself from the outside world, never thought that her uncle would be the one harming her.

Xiumei knew that her life could be in danger if she spoke out about the incident. Several days later, the rapist even came to beat her when she was at school. In the end, her mother finally knew what had happened, but the rapist's brother helped him escape. The threat still exists. Because of this, Xiumei's mother had to find her daughter a different place to live, somewhere that could protect her daughter physically and mentally. Because "Everyone knows each other in this small village. So, if she stays home, the victim is very likely to encounter misfortune again...."

Three months after the incident, Xiumei moved to Pleroma Home for Girls. When she first arrived, she was always in tears, panicked, and ate very little. We often saw fear and sadness on her face. But, of course, she also missed home. The trauma from her past tragedy followed her, making her terrified. At that time, this 8-year-old girl lost weight down to 22kg. Sometimes she screamed uncontrollably because of the negative emotions she felt.

After living in Pleroma Home for Girls for three months, Xiumei has had significant improvements. She is willing to open her heart and start making friends. She is a considerate girl who knows how to be thankful. She would even help other older girls with some simple housework. She misses her mom a lot and always wishes to see her mother during holidays, but she also likes living at Pleroma Home for Girls. Xiumei's appetite has improved, and she is slowly gaining weight. We would visit the palace together, play in the sports field, and watch 3D movies under the sponsorship of other NGOs. We have Catch-Up Program at the center in the morning, and there is fellowship in the afternoon. At the same time, we also organize different activities, such as art/play therapy, life education, and story time.

Xiumei's Prayer

Social Worker (SW): What do you want to praise God about?

Xiumei (XM): Thank God for creating me.

SW: Is there anything you would like to pray to God?

XM: I am worried about my friend (She escorted me home safely when the rapist tried to harm me). I am also worried about my mother, as she is sick. I pray to God and pray that he will protect my friend and my mom.

SW: Morning, Xiumei!

XM: Morning, how are you?

SW: What do you want to do in the future?

XM: I want to be a social worker. I want to help others.

Learn to live

After the sexual assault incident, Xiumei stopped school for one semester, but she did not give up. Instead, she continued to catch up with learning progress through the Catch-Up Program at Pleroma Home for Girls. As a result, she has just passed the entrance exam for a local private primary school, and the grade 2 curriculum should start after the holidays.

We sincerely want Pleroma Home for Girls to be a place dedicated to God's work - a place where precious daughters can regain their honor and live prosperous lives in him. Amen!



No Longer Afraid – Story of TMO

By Cecilia Yau

Sitting on the chair, TMO looked at us shyly when she saw us walk in. She lowered her head and began to play with the tissue in her hands.

Social Worker Qiong Shan told me that TMO, who was only thirteen years old, was sent to the Pleroma Home for Girls three years ago. For five months after she arrived, she did not talk to anyone and hid behind the curtains in the room all day long. Then, she refused to come out.

Finally, she was willing to tell her story to a stranger three years later! I also found a circle of shredded paper on the floor of her seat after she finished her story.

TMO came from a large low-income family, with the eldest brother, two younger sisters, and four younger brothers. His father works in a sugar factory and construction site. He often abuses and bullies his wife and children at home. For an unknown reason, he hates TMO more than others. Her mother usually sent her to her grandmother's house when her father wanted to beat her. When she was four years old, her grandmother died, and she lost her only refuge. Unexpectedly, her father would rape her even when she was so young. At the age of seven, her father insulted her again. She cried to her mother twice, but her mother ignored her. When she was thirteen years old, her uncle also raped her.

After the incident, she suffered vaginal bleeding, and her mother did not believe her rhetoric and ignored it. When a friend came to see her, she confessed to her friend in front of her mother. Her mother could not ignore her again and took her to the doctor. The doctor just dispensed the medicine for her after her first visit.

The doctor advised her to stay for better treatment at her second visit, but she insisted on going home. The medicine was needed for the third time. The mother said she couldn't afford the treatment. She had to accept the doctor's advice and live in his house to help with housework in exchange for her treatment and medicine. His wife needed TMO to do a lot of work. Sometimes she needed to work until midnight. She spent three months working at the doctor's house. During these three months, it has been very difficult for her because even the doctor has sexually assaulted her three times and warned her not to speak out.

After three months, her mother came and wanted to take her home. The doctor's wife falsely accused TMO of stealing money and wanted TMO to leave. TMO told the doctor's wife what the doctor had done to her before leaving. The doctor's wife immediately called the doctor to verify it.

Would he admit he has done something wrong? Instead, he insisted that TMO had mental problems, and the couple finally paid her a salary and sent her away.

Her siblings also discovered what bad experience TMO had at the doctor's house after she came home. She used the salary to buy a mobile phone. Her brother heard an advertisement on the radio. It was a hotline for abused children provided by the "Chab Dai" organization (Note 1). So, he connected to them with the mobile phone and asked TMO to share her experience. That organization heard about her experience and promised to help her.

A neighbor friend wanted to take her to Thailand to get a job. On the day she was ready to leave her house, her mother told her someone with "Chab Dai" had reached out to her. They had an opportunity for her to go to school. She dreams about going to school for a long time, so she decides not to go to Thailand.

Chab Dai brought her to Pleroma Home for Girls. God's arrangement was so wonderful. If she went to Thailand as originally planned, her life would be completely different in the future.

In the Pleroma Home for Girls, TMO had the opportunity to study, but more importantly, she experienced the love of God and people, which she could not imagine before. She felt safe and at ease in Pleroma Home for Girls. "Chab Dai" also helped her report to the police about those sexual assault cases. The doctor who assaulted her testified for her uncle's case because he had collected the evidence after her initial physical examination. The uncle could not escape from his crime. As a result, her uncle went to jail.

The doctor who assaulted TMO was also charged. The doctor and his family used various methods to intimidate TMO, scolded her for being ungrateful to the doctor because he helped her as a witness in her uncle's case. Also, the doctor has paid the police not to charge him, and the case ultimately dissolved after one year.

The charge for her father's case was even more complicated because the mother defended her husband and refused to testify. The case was also dismissed due to "insufficient evidence." In addition, her mother did not support her and protect her, making her feel abandoned and alone. For a while, TMO was full of panic. The shadows of her father and the doctor often entangled her. They would bring her unexplainable panic when she saw men or women wearing glasses (Note 2).

Gradually, TMO got to know God more, and through the love of the Pleroma Home for Girls' nannies and the social workers, she felt relaxed. However, she still had lingering fears. She said, "Although the world is unfair, I believe in God's Justice. Although my father hurt me and my mother abandoned me, God's love would not leave me and would protect me." She has no confidence in her father and does not plan to go home to live with her mother. She hopes to become a tailor one day and be self-reliant. She will work hard and believe that God will help her.

God has already started a wonderful work in her life before she came to Home for Girls. He prevented TMO from going to Thailand, and he instructed social worker Qiongshan in her dream to help TMO's family. Qiongshan saw TMO's mother bringing her children to the church in her dream. She asked God what that meant and later understood that God wanted to save the TMO's family. So Qiongshan began to care about her mother. Shan found out the man had raped her before she got married. She reluctantly married him to protect her reputation. She was often beaten after they married, knowing that her children were in danger and could not protect them.

TMO shared her experience and encouraged her mother to seek a new life. She also witnessed her daughter's transformation, from despair to hope, from fear and trembling to becoming strong and brave. She is no longer a thin and pale girl, but she looks good and healthy.

TMO's brave confession in court also surprised a lot of people. The doctor and his family were shocked. She seemed to have become another person who was previously cowardly and helpless. I believe this also affected her mother to some extent. With Qiongshan's help, her mother was willing to face her past bravely. She determined not to tolerate the man who only knew how to use her. He did not cherish her and did all bad things to her. After planning and deployment, she quietly took her children out of the jail-like home and moved into the "Women's Crisis Center." Later, she found a job and became self-reliant. She no longer lived in fear and helplessness.

TMO herself has changed a lot. She said, "I used to feel that I was ruined and a useless person. But after I came to the Pleroma Home for Girls, I felt valued and loved. I started to have confidence. I used to live in fear, and I dare not speak out. Now I am not afraid to express myself."

Yes, TMO, you are already on the road to recovery. May God continue to lead you.

Note 1: Chab Dai Coalition is a Christian organization in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Note 2: The doctor who hurt her wore glasses.



Faye Shows Her Smile Again


By Lily Lee

When Faye was little, her father left her and her family and moved to Thailand, never to appear again. When Faye was 13 years old, her stepfather's relative raped her and kidnapped her to Vietnam. She was forced to work at different casinos and was abused by him every day. Finally, through countless phone calls, her mother was able to get her back and sent her to World Hope International (WHI). In 2012, she was transferred to Pleroma Home for Girls.

When Faye first arrived at Home for Girls, she suffered from anorexia and depression. She did not talk or smile much. She kept saying, "I am not happy." Now, she has started to smile more at others. She also loves to listen to Bible stories and have others pray for her.

Furthermore, she has learned to protect other girls in her "Home". Previously, she attempted to apply to public schools but did not succeed. She is currently attending a beauty school and will graduate soon. She often practices her skills at her "Home".

Faye's dream is to open a beauty salon with her sister-in-law and make her own living after leaving her "Home".



"Small" and "Big"

By Heather Hui | Feb 14, 2020

"Small" and "big" are two very simple words and two concepts that are easy to understand. But these two concepts placed in the kingdom of God could have dramatic impacts and implications. Like a little thought and action, even as small as a mustard seed that could become a blessing to many people.

In early September 2018, a social worker and I went to another province to pick up a girl sexually assaulted by a teacher who was also her relative. The children in our "Home for Girls" center are all in similar situations. New girls often show fear and shame on their face, but this girl is very different. What I see is her being shy and quiet. Later, I learned that her family background is very different from other girls. Indeed, she came from a good family, and her parents love each other.

I almost forgot what I told her that day. But then, I remembered that I told her: You can continue studying in Phnom Penh. If you can go to university, we will support you to the end.

Then she started to study in middle school. In the beginning, she told me that she got a lot of stress, especially in English, and she couldn't understand much (the schools' curriculum in the countryside is easier than the schools in Phnom Penh). But, even so, she still told me firmly, "I want to show you that I could get the highest score on the exam in the class!" At that time, I was afraid that she would be under pressure. So, I told her, "I want you to do your best; the score is not that important!"

In about the middle of last year, I had an idea.

Why not find an English teacher for her? So, I asked a familiar American missionary to be her English tutor, and she gladly accepted my invitation.

When I told the social worker who was in charge of this child's case, she was surprised and said, "How did you know we had this plan?" It turned out that the girl told the social worker a few days earlier that she wanted to read English well. The social worker wanted to find someone to help her. Since the girl was busy in exam week, the social worker said they would talk again. I did not know they had this idea, but God led me to take action and arrange for an American missionary to tutor her.

After I shared this with my co-workers, they were very surprised. God is so caring, especially for these injured children. He had already worked on it, touched people's hearts, and deployed everything even before we asked for it.

At the end of last year, I found out this girl needed a lamp. A few of my former students were going to Cambodia for short-term missions. I have known my students well enough, so I asked them to give her a lamp. The lamp helps her prepare a lot to study for her exams at night.

As a result, she got the highest score in that exam. But, of course, it is not easy for anybody who has never gone to school to get the highest score in the class. This touched my heart deeply. Not only has her hard work been rewarded, but the miracle work has been done by God to make that happen. The social worker, the American missionary, my students, myself, and other participants each made a small contribution within the scope of their ability. Still, God turned this small contribution into the most beautiful blessings. Even though we are of little faith, our faith is made abundant by being a part of and witness of God's work.

After the test, the child told me that her next goal is to study at a Phnom Penh university and be a social worker. Then, I told her that our organization has always hoped that our children can come back to the organization one day to serve children who have the same experience.

Her eyes lit up as she heard those words.

A 17-year-old Mother

By Heather Hui | May 02, 2018

Women's names are sometimes not mentioned in the Bible. Even Jonathan's mother, Queen of Israel during King Saul's reign, is unnamed. Even so, I want to tell you a story about the mother of another Jonathan.

This Jonathan is a newborn baby in Cambodia. His mother is only 17 years old. At 16, she became pregnant with Jonathan when her stepfather sexually assaulted her. She did not choose to have an abortion but bravely gave birth to the child. This was a very difficult decision for her. In Cambodia, being a victim of sexual assault does not earn sympathy but rather humiliation. Moreover, an unmarried pregnancy brings shame.

After Jonathan was born, the mother had to choose whether to raise him or give him up. Giving Jonathan up seemed to be the easier solution. She could move somewhere else and begin a new life, hiding the hurt and shame of her past. But if she chose to raise him, she would face immense difficulties as young single mothers in Cambodia struggle to raise their children. She could not receive financial aid from the government, which meant she was trapped financially. Her traumatic past and social discrimination would make this illiterate teenage mother's life miserable. However, she decided to keep Jonathan and raise him herself.

I asked her: "Do you know that this decision will make your future path more difficult?"

She faintly replied, "I know!"

I could not see hope in her eyes, nor could I see confidence for her future. Instead, I saw helplessness and sorrow. But she still did not change her mind. I broke into tears after I heard her decision.

"Did you pick Jonathan's name?" I asked.

"Yes! I hope after he grows up, he will not fear and will choose to follow God!" she replied.

"Why did you give him this name?" I asked her.

"When Jonathan knew that God chose David in the Bible, he was not afraid of difficulties. He turned away from his relationship with his father and denied his throne to follow his God with all his heart. When my son grows up, I hope that he will not be afraid of difficulties and choose to follow God!" She replied with a small twinkle in her eyes.

Although this young mother believed in the Lord just one year ago, she understands the Scripture's calling to a deep surrender. I am convinced that the Lord has accepted her prayers.

As we talked about her faith, she told me she believed in God one month after coming to the women's center. She did not feel well when she first moved to the center due to pregnancy. So, she started to pray, and after praying, she felt better. And when she slipped twice in the bathroom and did not hurt herself, she knew God's hands were protecting her.

She also told me excitedly about the time she saw Jesus in a dream. She saw her sister, niece, and herself together in a small boat during a fierce storm. When she called for help, Jesus appeared on the sea. Jesus stretched out his hand to her, and she clasped his hand tightly. Next, they held Jesus' hand and walked from the sea to the shore. Having this dream has helped her determine to follow Jesus throughout her life.

Even though her life will be difficult, she knows she is walking with Jesus. She hopes Jonathan will also be fearless amidst difficulties and choose to follow the Lord.

You are Noble!

By Heather Hui | Apr 19, 2018

In Hong Kong and the United States, most people never think about telling someone, "You are noble!" Most people usually know that they are noble and valuable, and they do not need to hear it from someone else. So, if someone says "You are noble!" in Hong Kong, it would feel embarrassing and unnatural for the listener.

However, when this "embarrassing and unnatural" experience happens in Cambodia, it is not only not embarrassing, it actually becomes a blessing for the speaker and the listener.

At an Easter event, the short-term mission team invited me to say a word or two at the Home For Girls and then crown them. So, I did.

"XX, you are noble, you are special, in Jesus, you can have a new life. Do you believe it?" I said to each girl in Khmer, and then I put a crown on her.

I never thought that such a simple sentence and a simple crown made of balloons would allow the girls in our Home for Girls to experience an unforgettable moment.

They stood among the crowd with excitement and tension. Some of them stood up voluntarily. Others stood up when I was walking towards them and extending my hand. When we looked at each other, I saw that their hearts were stirred. Hope, shyness, surprise, inner-touch, and smile all appeared on their faces in an instant. And the moment the balloon crown was placed on their heads, they all wore noble - from their eyes, from their faces, I saw noble.

For me, the most unforgettable moment was the last girl who shed tears. What did her tears represent? Perhaps, "you are noble" and "you are important" were exactly what she had been longing to hear but never dared to think about. When we looked at each other, she was very excited, and when I finished speaking, she shed tears. I had seen her crying before but only during arguments while she screamed. This was the first time I saw her cry in such a "calm" manner. Those words seemed like the softest but strongest hand, soothing the deepest pain in her heart.

Perhaps "You are noble!" is the most loving and hopeful sentence they have ever heard.

"You are noble, you are special, in Jesus, you can have a new life! Amen!"





The Forest Girl

By Heather Hui | Oct 19, 2021

森林女孩

It was December, 2014, while I was studying at the seminary that I visited Pleroma Home for Girls (PHG) during the school holiday. That's when I met Cham for the first time. It was shortly after 4pm. A girl waved at me outside the office, so I walked up to her. She looked a bit shy and was slightly moving her body back and forth and murmuring, "I I love you!" She then left contentedly.

Despite her size among the girls at PHG, Cham was still learning how to talk. I remember how hard she tried to copy the caregivers' ways of speaking. I also remember one day when Cham was sitting on the stairs, looking rather dazed. She was totally oblivious of her surroundings, even when others shouted out her name, or when it was time for dinner.

Later, I was told that Cham had been found in a forest and might have been sexually assaulted. She came to the PHG because her family could not be reached.

Ever since my first visit to PHG, this forest girl has remained in my heart. After I graduated from the seminary in 2016, I started to serve at the PHG, and I met Cham again. It is always our hope that the girls could go home and not stay in the Home for too long, but I was very happy to meet Cham again.

Two years had passed but Cham would still sit with a blank expression on her face or refuse to eat at meals. Nevertheless, she smiled more frequently and was more capable of expressing herself.

Another two years passed. One day, a girl who was sweeping the floor caught my attention. It was the forest girl! I asked, "Your turn to clean today?" With a broom in her hands, she looked at me and replied with a shy and contented smile, "ចាស" (i.e., "Yes!" a standard reply from a Cambodian lady.). Besides sweeping the floor, she also helped with dish washing. On another day, she even sang me a few hymns in Cambodian. I forget what she sang yet the songs were beautiful and warm.

One day I wanted to prepare prayer cards for the girls, so I asked them for their prayer needs. Some girls looked confused and some simply copied others' prayer items. Cham, however, gave serious thought to my request, ignoring what others were doing. She then told me her prayer items one by one. I was surprised by her performance and became very emotional. Four years earlier, she had been a girl with a blank face, still learning how to talk, but now she was totally transformed. She may not be able to speak fluently, yet she has her own thoughts, her own opinions, and is able to express herself clearly. Her prayer items are simple and genuine. I praised her on the spot, and she replied with a shy, contented smile, "ចាស".

Later, we found her family and she was able to go home to live with them. The last time I met her was at her home. She held my hands happily, murmuring in my ears confidently and satisfactorily, "I am so happy because I know how to cook and do the housework for my family!"

It may look trivial in our eyes, but I could tell from how satisfied she looked that it is a major achievement. Those are the last words Cham said to me. Several months later, my colleague told me that she had died from epilepsy. Although she has passed away, her last words and her contented smile remain in my heart. Most importantly, she now has been saved and released from that forest and returned to our Heavenly Father!

Mommy, Do You Love Me?

By Heather Hui | Nov 08, 2021

"Mommy, do you love me?" This seems to be a simple question to answer. However, if not addressed properly, it can become a source of life-long regret for many people. But it can also become life-changing.

Three years ago, Sumsum almost fell into the trap of human trafficking. Sumsum needed to leave her mom to move to Home for Girls because her mom did not want to change her lifestyle.

Sumsum was a very intelligent, lovely, and adorable girl. She was seven years old when she first came to Pleroma Home for Girls (PHG). Her mother was working as a vendor at the riverside. Life was not easy and stable for her, and her family always did not have enough food for the family. Sumsum was significantly smaller and skinnier than other girls her age. Although PHG has provided a comfy and worriless living environment, Sumsum wanted to live with her mom.

The first few months Sumsum came to Home for girls, Sumsum was very closed off and distrustful of everyone. Because of her daughter's experience, Sumsum's mom was also skeptical about the staff initially. She frequently changed her phone and also acted impatient with us. However, over time, with the patience and love of the staff, they both have slowly let their guards down. Because of the multiple sexual assaults that happened when Sumsum visited her mom in the village, our staff intervened in making them fully comfortable with us so that a trusting relationship was built.

The transformation of her mother was significant. She began to respond positively to our teaching and counseling and started sharing her life and difficulties with us. Our staff has even joked that she will tell us about anything, even as tiny as a toothache.

At PHG, Sumsum has slowly and steadily established a life here. She started going to school, learning different life skills, taking care of herself, and interacting and living with others. She has even earned her place at the top of her class when attending Pleroma School for Girls (PSG). Moreover, she gets to taste a fuller version of motherly love from the nannies. She is learning to receive, accept, and reciprocate love to and from people around her.

In the deepest part of Sumsum's heart, she has always wondered, "Does my mom love me?" while her older brother gets to live with mom and sleep on the bed which she cannot. She is not with the family and sleeps on the floor. It's long been something she doubts in her heart. One day, she brought it up to the social worker and was encouraged to ask her mother the question herself when opportunity came. Later, in one of the meetings/visits, she picked up her courage and asked, "Mommy, do you love me?" Her mom froze, no words were spoken, but tears started to run down her chin. The meeting ended in tears for both of them.

After the event, our social worker called her mom to follow up. Under the encouragement and arrangement of the staff, Sumsum and her mom were able to meet again in person. This time her mom was finally able to tell her how much she loved her.

Sometimes, actions speak louder than words, especially with love. Not long after the second meeting, her mom told us about her wanting to bring Sumsum home to live with her. With the guidance and challenges from our staff, her mom started to truly think about Sumsum's future and how to provide a safe and stable home for her.

The transformation of Sumsum's mom was beyond our imagination. First, she broke up with the man who disagreed with sharing financial responsibility with her. Second, she visited her home village multiple times to discuss solutions and arrangements about life after Sumsum returned home with her.

On November 2nd, 2021, I got to send Sumsum and her mom back to their village. My heart melted during the car ride as I saw from the rearview mirror Sumsum resting her head on her mother's chest. Before parting from them, I asked Sumsum's mom what had caused her to change. She said it was Sumsum's question at the meeting. At that very moment, she suddenly realized how miserable Sumsum had been and truly wanted to provide a warm and stable home for her. The social worker had been telling her over the year that Pleroma could only walk alongside Sumsum for a short period of time. At the end of the day, she was her mother, and she was responsible for Sumsum.

Before parting, I encouraged Sumsum to study earnestly, and I told Sumsum's mother that no matter what comes their way, let Sumsum continue her education at all costs. And I promised them on behalf of Pleroma that, as long as Sumsum is willing and capable, we will certainly help out financially for her education.

And I believe with my whole heart that this will be done. He will surely do it.



Tribulations, Be Still

By Heather Hui | Dec 08, 2021



Be Still

I asked Sukpai what caused her to change. She could not pinpoint a single event or turning point but said that the PHG widened her horizon. She was able to calm down and to really think about life. She started to realize the way she solved problems and expressed her emotions brought nothing but trouble to herself and caused others to dislike her. She started observing other people and found many good role models at PHG, such as our teachers, social workers, caregivers, and even other girls.

In 2016, three years after she first came to the PHG, Sukpai went home. There were no dramatic changes at home: her father was still an alcoholic that beat and abused her mother and siblings, still verbally abused her, and even brought up the trauma of sexual assault, just to hurt her. Every time Sukpai faced hardship, she would go to the lake, close her eyes and let the breeze take her troubles away. She said her teacher at the PHG taught her that. The teacher told her, "When we are tired, we can return to nature and be still in God's creation. This is how we will gain strength again"

When I asked Sukpai to introduce herself, what impressed me the most in her short introduction was when she said, "I lived in the PHG."

To have lived in the PHG is definitely not something to be ashamed of. But to state that as part of her self-introduction is especially meaningful to me.

If the 17-year-old Sukpai had to pinpoint a watershed moment in her life, it would be when she first set foot in the PHG, when she was nine years old. More precisely, it was not only a watershed moment for her, but for her family as well.

Tribulations

Almost all of our service targets come from lives of poverty and are deprived of love. These were not great tribulations for Sukpai. The tribulation in her life was violence - verbal and physical, and even sexual violence. Since her birth, violence had been a part of her life.

Sukpai's father was an alcoholic. He was drunk almost every day, yelling at or abusing his family. Sukpai thought of her father as a giant, a giant that threatened her life. In face of this irrational giant, Sukpai often chose to seek refuge in her relative's house.

If her father was a giant, then the one who sexually assaulted her was a devil. For five times, the devil sexually assaulted her, and threatened her not to tell anyone. Fear might be the only thing that 9-year-old Sukpai truly had.

On February 21, 2013, Sukpai came to the PHG. Even though it was a Cambodian tradition for girls to have long hair, she had short hair, was malnourished, and suffered from a skin disease. Since childhood, Sukpai had been one of a kind: naughty and stubborn, always tricking others and picking fights. But now, in 2021, the 17-year-old Sukpai is a mature girl who is always smiling. She engages in conversations of substance, and when she smiles, her eyes smile as well.

In stillness, she strengthened herself by telling herself, "I did nothing wrong; they were the ones that wronged me." In stillness, she understood that her alcoholic father was weak - not a giant! In stillness, she saw her father's weakness and knew his days were numbered. So, she chose to forgive him. In stillness, she changed from wanting to become a powerful police officer, to wanting to become a teacher to help change others' lives.

Life is full of burdens, and Sukpai's path remains rough every day. But with clear goals and hope, she is moving forward one step after the other. Gradually, both the atmosphere and financial situation at her home improved. Even though she is the fourth child, she has become the source of strength in her family and the favorite big sister to neighborhood kids. She has even started participating in village office businesses.

Before I left, I said goodbye to Sukpai's family. Her father was all smiles and made small talk with us. The center-in-charge told me that, because the father felt insecure, every time our staff visited them, he would ask a bunch of friends to keep him company. But on that day, he did not invite any of his friends.

Looking at this man - smiling, shy, and respectful to us, I could not imagine he was once an extremely violent alcoholic. Sukpai told me that once her father got drunk and was about to do something violent again, but then she heard him counting: 10, 9, 8...1.

Counting down from 10 was a stillness technique that our social worker taught him in a family therapy session. This filled my heart with compassion for this father. Perhaps, he also was a victim of domestic violence, perhaps no one had ever taught him. What I saw was a father who was helpless but struggling and giving his best to be a better person.

It was hope that I saw.

I praise God that Sukpai "lived in the PHG," and I praise God for the watershed moment in Sukpai's life, and her family's life.

DREAMS • OUR DREAMS

By Heather Hui

A Heart-Breaking Dream

In November of this year (2021) my co-worker from Pleroma Home for Girls (PHG) visited Mary – a girl who had been in our Home. Before leaving, I asked Mary what her dream was, she answered softly: "My heart hurts, every time I see the worried look on my mother's face during a storm when the winds howled and the rains poured; that is why I wish to have a house with four walls where we can be safe and sheltered from the wind and rain." (What she meant by wall was actually made of woven grass and leaves from plants.) This was the dream of a 16-year-old girl!

At that moment, I wanted so much to tell her: That is not a dream! Dreams should be things about a bright future, a good job, a nice house, even to travel around the world, and not about the basic necessities of life. Of course, I could not be so cruel as to tell her that, because to her, that is a dream! Facing such a dream, I could only encourage Mary to pray, and yet, deep in my heart, I cried out: "No matter what, we must help you fulfill that dream, we want you to see grace, to see the faithfulness of God!"

Mary's story

In 2013, 8-year-old Mary was sexually assaulted multiple times by a neighbor, but the perpetrator threatened her, so she dared not tell her mother. When this was discovered by her younger brother, he told their mother. The perpetrator promised to compensate them with \$250 USD, but of course, he never paid. He even denied ever committing the offense; thinking they were poor, and nobody would speak out for them. In the beginning, Mary was sent to other agencies, but for 3 months, she kept crying terribly, the agency could not find a way to intervene, so she was referred to us.

When she first arrived, Mary did not trust us either. She kept crying and wanting to return to her mother; she wanted to help her mother. However, our co-workers' love and care gradually dried her tears, and she slowly opened up her heart. Particularly, when her case was in the process of legal proceedings, the sexual offender kept threatening her family. We helped her manage the case and justice was finally served; her honor was restored. She was beginning to understand, in order to help her mother, she must first take good care of herself, study hard, and prepare herself for the long road ahead.

She started to integrate into living and learning at the PHG, and even went on to continue her studies in a school. At the Home, Mary began a life that a child ought to have, she even came to know God, living life as a Christian, meeting Christian friends. She said she learned a lot at the PHG, she loved the short-term mission teams. Her scope was broadened, she even learned to play the piano from the volunteers. This November (2021), she told me she really wanted to learn to play the piano.

In 2016, because her mother nearly died from being gravely ill, the hospital discharged her. Eleven-year-old Mary decided to return to her mother. Even today, Director Kimsang could never forget the condition of the mother at the hospital. She said that the mother was so thin and fragile as if her bones would break from the slightest touch. At the time, the only thing that the co-workers could do was to pray for her at the hospital. In fact, Mary had always relied on prayers. In the PHG, she often turned her tears to prayers.

After returning home, at only 11 years old, she was too young to help, especially financially. Five years have gone by, yet nothing much has changed at her home. Before our organization was offering Covid-19 special assistance, her family was only getting sporadic meals, the path of her studies was full of challenges. When we met again this time, I saw that her house had not collapsed, her mother was still alive, she even gained a few pounds, and the two younger brothers were beginning to understand things. Much to my comfort was, even under these difficult circumstances, Mary's mother still allowed her to continue to go to school.

So, despite the pandemic, Director Kimsang gave Mary's mother a big hug as soon as she saw her.

God will take care of her to the end

When talking to Mary about how she was doing, she was still tearful, especially about the father who had left them for ten years, who had promised to come back to see her but broke his promise time after time. The sweet and gentle Mary raised a series of questions: "He said that I am his only daughter, and loves me the most, but why didn't he come back to see me?"

"He told me to study hard, that he would support me, but why does he never give me any support?"

"He said..."

I listened and listened but did not know quite how to respond. Why does a 16-year-old have to go through so much suffering and hardship?

I could not help but ask her what she thought of her experience?


She said some of her friends own a lot of things, they have their own motorcycles to ride to school, yet they want to give up studying, with no expectations for the future. That is why Mary knew that it is not what she owns, or what she had been through, but her attitude towards life...that counts.

I was comforted by Mary's sensibility, but at the same time, felt an indescribable weight in my heart for the burden she was carrying for being sensible.

The night before our visit to Mary, I remembered the house mother told me that Mary was a child who likes to pray and relies on God. Suddenly I thought of a cross necklace that I have at home which I can bring as a gift to Mary. When I first saw her, I noticed that she was wearing a pair of earrings with a cross. Before we said goodbye, I gifted her with the necklace. When she opened the box, tears rolled down her face, as she said with a quivering voice: "I am surprised that I can have a cross necklace!"

I was also touched by God's guidance and said, "I did not buy this. A long, long time ago, God asked a sister in Christ to prepare this necklace. It has been in my home all this time. Last night, God reminded me to bring it to you today. God prepared this for you, a few years ago. Through this necklace, he is telling you he is with you." That cross necklace not only brought comfort to Mary but also brought comfort to me. Although her life is difficult, I know that God will bring her to the Promised Land (Home), God will take care of her to the very end.

In my five years at the PHG, Mary was the first child to talk about wanting to own a house. It so happened that in August of 2021, while in the United States, I met some supporters who are building housing for the extremely poor, and they are willing to build houses for the poor in Cambodia as well. I knew right then that Mary was the family that God wanted us to take care of. To me, this building plan was an assurance of God's heart. Therefore, this was not just Mary's dream, but my dream and the dream of the agency as well. When I talked about this with our president Lily, who initiated the Pleroma ministry, she told me that building houses that have a separate room for girls had been in her heart for ten years.



From Mud to Lotus
the Women in PHW



The night washes over me...

Wretched are myself and the world I live in
Who can take my sorrow away

Your grace finds its way to me
through pairs of weathered hands

Your compassion passed onto me
through hearts of pain and suffering

I could do nothing but bow down in gratitude
Your love truly is better than life
Without it

We have no reason to cherish
Life: a piece of clothing, ragged and torn

- "When Clouds Block out the Sky" Sophia Li -

The service targets of the Pleroma Home for Women have usually
experienced deep and complex trauma.

As they have their own way of thinking,
it is difficult for us to intervene; at times,
we feel like our work is done in vain.

But we understand that this is the reason we need to love even harder,
so they will see the love of Christ in us.

We hope that this love will become their greatest source of
strength and anchor in the future.

And God himself has shown us that his love is not in vain.

The Way Home

By Sokkun (Social Work of PHW) | Jan 15, 2021



Countless Cambodian women were once victims of domestic violence. The scars in their lives result in dependency, leading the women into cycles of destructive behaviors, unhealthy decision-making, with tendencies toward no self-worth, unstable mental status, and self-blame. Traumas exist in their life in many forms, and the results are passed down from generation after generation and become an unending cycle.

It was not uncommon for women of Cambodia to find it hard to express themselves, protect themselves, or escape from the violent circumstances/situations they are in. They are left with their emotions and challenges, accompanied by toxic relationships. They feel hopeless and are ashamed. They often fear being widowed, with the expectation of needing to support their family on their own and make ends meet by themselves. They also face the fear of being tracked down by their husbands. Any one of these alarming concerns would make them hard.

Min's story shouts the same message. After she came of age, Min ended up in several marriages, all of which resulted in violence, not love. After her last marriage, she finally felt a huge need to protect her children as the husband would get physical with all of them, including the baby inside her womb. So, finally, she made the huge decision for herself and her children. One night she left with her children, and behind everything, including what she once thought was home.

Min used to live in the rural area surrounded by woods. The night she left, after walking for hours from midnight to dawn, she arrived at a village. The villagers helped her and let her stay with them. Cut off from all contact with her family, she let go of her past, and worked in a new job which provided an unstable income.

Then in early 2019, Min began staying with us at Pleroma Home for Women. She was physically and mentally traumatized, having a small bag of old fabric for farming as her only possession. She was six months pregnant, with two girls, ages 9 and 15. The older daughter was brought to PHG for better care. At the Home, Min delivered her baby safely.

But, more importantly, she was able to meet Christ here, experience the love of God, get a stable job, and become able to provide for herself. She said, "I was working on the farm days and nights before. It was incredibly exhausting to a point that sometimes I couldn't go home to rest but needed to sleep in the field. Yet, I still couldn't provide enough food for my children. And now, I can provide for my family. I have also gained respect from others. My co-workers love and care about me, and they help and support me even outside of work." Her daughters are now studying at PSG. She stated, "If I hadn't come to Pleroma Home for Women, there is no way I could have let my girls go to school. They think PSG is great, and they love going to school."

Min has been away from her hometown for quite some time. Escaping from her husband left her nowhere to go. Eventually, she was able to rent a room near her workplace. Although it is just a room, she gets to enjoy her little personal space every day after work—a place that feels like home to her. One time she smiled and said, "I was very helpless back then, not knowing what to do when I was pregnant and could not afford food. I needed to take care of my daughters. Pleroma Home for Women has helped me find my true worth and to be rescued from the cruel reality of my life. Even though I don't have a husband, I can be a courageous mom for my children."

We truly hope that Min will remain faithful in God and that Pleroma Home for Women can reach out to more women that need help and life reformation. We desire to help them restore and create a path to home. We desire to be the bridge in their lives, leading them out of their present gloomy life into the bright future, and helping them seek a better version of them.

A Wonderful Blessing for Those Who Weep

By Ly Sokkhun (Social Worker of PHW) | Dec 14, 2020

Pleroma Home for Women (PHW) is the safe haven for those we serve. Unfortunately, most of the women suffer from emotional illness. Because they don't feel safe in the world, they have trouble dealing with people. Most have a broken relationship with their family and are extremely poor.

The circumstances of their lives got worse in 2020 because of COVID-19. People everywhere faced crises such as loss of relatives, financial difficulties, and emotional distress. The women we serve faced similar difficulties.

We have been blessed to have donors who have supported us financially during this difficult period. They have expressed their love and been a blessing to the underserved group of women we served.

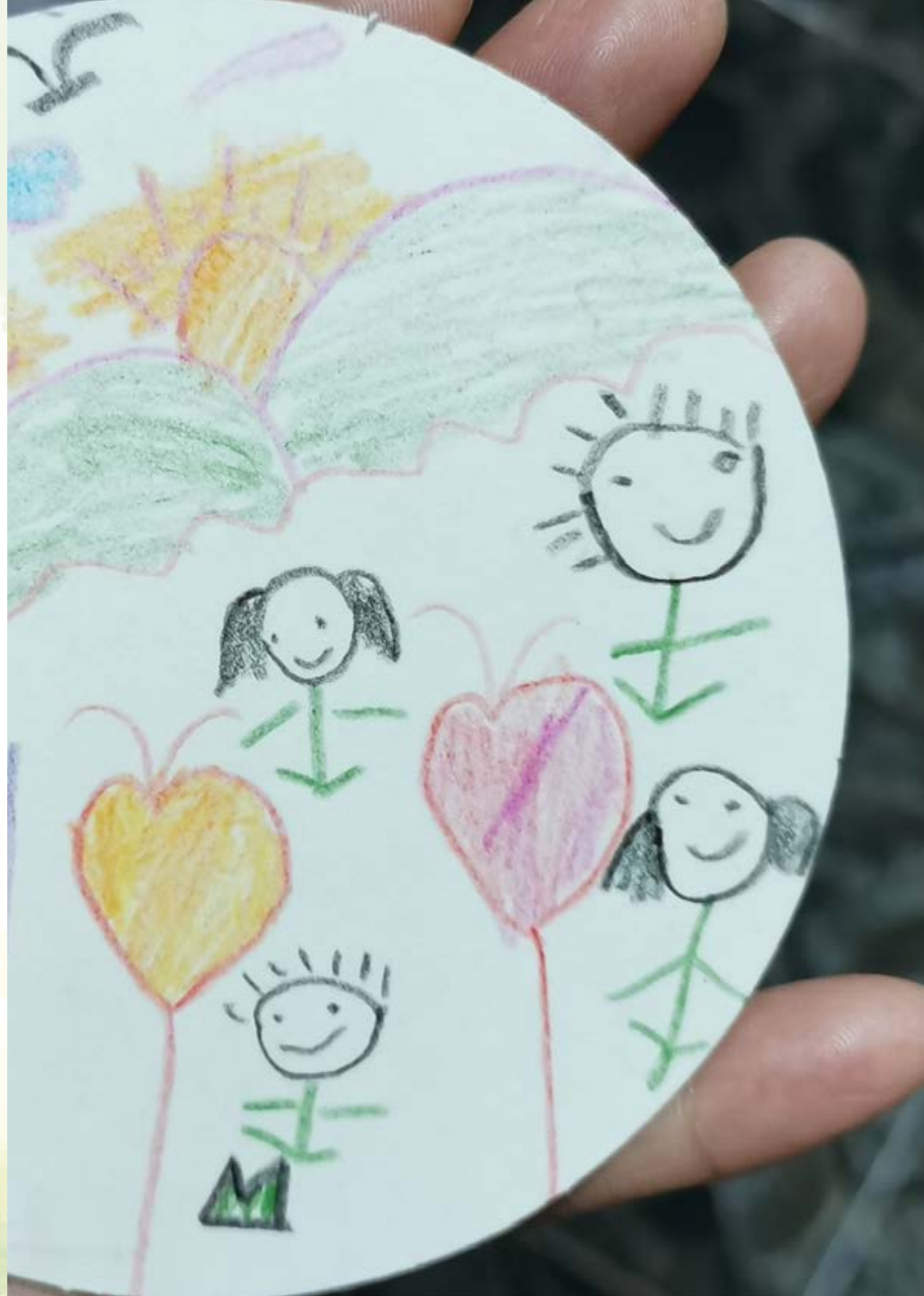
One of them is Sunshine. She lives with bitterness, despair, and darkness in her life. She seems to have no hope of seeing the light again.

After Sunshine returned to the community and started a new life with her family, her brother passed away due to illness. At the same time, Sunshine's mother, the family's only financial support, lost her job. Holding a funeral for her brother left the family in debt. Though it was difficult to take care of Sunshine because of her disability, her mother did not give her up because Sunshine was her emotional support.

Despite all the challenges, they decided to borrow money to go to Phnom Penh to look for work. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, it was not easy to find a job. In addition, Sunshine and her mother had no food and could not afford to pay the bills even though they received assistance from her neighbor.

Her mother said, "During that time, my head felt empty, and I was lost. I didn't even shed tears because everything was beyond what I could handle. When one of the social workers at Home for Women told me about the financial assistance for COVID-19, that brought a trace of comfort and light to my sad heart. I am grateful to be able to receive help. This is such a blessing for my family to continue fighting for survival. This money allows me to raise Sunshine. Without this fund, I would not even be able to feed her, to fulfill my duty as a mother."

Life is getting better now for Sunshine's mother. Praise the Lord God for giving her a hand when she was desperate. She has already found a job. Although she hasn't made a lot of money, she is happy to be able to buy food and provide good care for Sunshine.



From Mud to Blossoming Lotus

By Mourng Chanra (Ministry Officer of PHW) | Sep 14, 2020



Cambodia is in the middle of Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, and the south of the country faces the Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia. Many women, including underage girls, are being trafficked to nearby countries due to family financial difficulties, forced to work in fishing boats, construction sites, or farmland, and some even become victims of sexual exploitation.

To support her family, 32-year-old MJ had to borrow a high-interest loan and provide massages and sex services to different men every day to repay her debts. As a result, she lost her freedom and lived in the dark. Finally, in August 2019, the police rescued her from the massage parlor and sent her to Pleroma Home for Women. MJ said: "I can finally leave that dark place, and I feel like having a new life." While living in the Pleroma Home for Women, she received counseling and treatment. She also learned writing, arithmetic, work, and life skills.

A month later, her condition improved. She returned to where she came from. Because of her, Pleroma Home for Women has launched a new funding project. We funded MJ and her husband to start a small business selling animal food.

Their daily income is about 50,000 to 60,000 riels in Cambodia, more than ten U.S. dollars. The couple can take care of their children together at home and send them to school. MJ said: "Life in the Pleroma Home for Women is very peaceful and warm. The place has changed my life from mud into blossoming lotus."

Finally, she wants to thank God for helping her find the meaning of life through the Pleroma Home for Women and turning her life from bitter to sweet.

Lukwut could not recall when her step-dad started to tie her up to stop her from leaving her home. Her step-dad sexually assaulted her and her older sister. Her mother was aware, but there was nothing she could do. Later, her siblings rescued her from her step-dad and she came to the PHG. After she came of age and was more stable, she was transferred to the PHW and started working in the community.

She was illiterate when she first came to the PHG. She then started to learn to write by copying a page of the Bible each day. When she left the care of our organization, she could almost read the whole of the Bible on her own. When she first came to us, she avoided eye contact. But later, she did a cover shoot for a magazine; she was confident and beautiful.

Her faith in God both saddens me and touches my heart. I remember, when she first started working, she shared with us, "Sometimes when I get up in the morning I feel helpless, then I would pray to Jesus: 'My Lord, I am tired, please grant me strength!' After cleaning up, I would ask Jesus: 'My Lord, did I do a good job cleaning?' When I thought my clothing was not decent enough, I would ask Jesus: 'Do I look nice?' When I do not find myself lovely, I would ask Jesus: 'Am I lovely?'"

Even though she is scared of interacting with strangers, she prayed to God for the strength to go to church alone. She was terrified that day, so she asked Jesus, "Will You go with me?" After that, she was sure that Jesus would go to church with her. Everyone was accompanied by friends in church, except her. But she said to Jesus, "I know You are here by my side, on my left, on my right, all around me..."

She had such faith in the Lord. I had so many high hopes for her future. But soon after that, she almost let me down totally, turning my expectations to disappointment...

My colleague told me that Lukwut was living with a man she met in the market and pregnant with his baby. Her husband was around her age, in his twenties, and divorced.

Not long after that, I asked to meet with them. I waited for them by the road near the market, because I had to pay for their tuktuk fare. When Lukwut got off from the tuktuk, I was shocked by how scrawny she was. She said she was starving. So I took them to a cafe. After we were seated, I looked at her – so bony and emancipated – and her husband with his hair dyed golden. I swelled with anger: a man that could not feed his pregnant wife or pay for his own ride could afford to dye his hair? He was not qualified to be her husband or a father. At the same time, I was mad at Lukwut for not cherishing the bright future that she could have had.

In spite of my anger, I could not help holding Lukwut's scrawny hands time and again. After our farewell, I prayed to God, "Lord, if this man is going to abandon Lukwut and her child, please don't give her a daughter." I was worried sick that Lukwut would have a similar fate as the women the PHW is helping, perpetually trapped in a cycle of marriage and divorce. I was even more worried that, if Lukwut had a girl, her daughter would follow in her footsteps.

A few months later, my colleague told me that Lukwut was having a girl. My heart sank.

We went to visit Lukwut in her new home. Even though their home was rather stripped-down, it was a home nonetheless. Lukwut told me her husband built it himself. When we said our goodbyes, I looked at her husband: he dyed his golden hair back to a natural black. I felt my disgust for him lessen. I encouraged him to work hard, take good care of his wife and the baby in her and be a responsible husband and father. He nodded amicably. During our meeting, Lukwut told us she wanted a Bible.

After the child was born, we went to visit her bearing gifts: a Bible and a necklace with a cross pendant. Lukwut and her husband welcomed us warmly. It was our third meeting and I suddenly felt a warm feeling towards her husband. But I did not let him off the hook and asked him if he made good on his promise. Shyly, he said, "I did!" All of a sudden, I found this young man pleasant and delightful.

I interviewed Lukwut and this is our conversation:

Do you agree that it is not easy to live in Cambodia as a woman?

I agree. Women face a lot of inconveniences and shoulder the responsibility to take care of our children and parents. After we get married and have kids, we are not allowed to dress up, let alone see our friends, or have some fun. On the contrary, men enjoy a lot of freedom, have no obligation to attend to household affairs and can go anywhere they want, do whatever they want. Even if our family is in dire need of money, we cannot get a job, because we have to stay home to take care of our children. So we can only rely on our husband. When the husband returns from work, he is not happy with this, or that, or gets drunk and beats his wife up. But even so, we have to suck it up, because we are even more scared of being abandoned. If abandoned, my children and I will lose all support and hope.

Is your husband your first boyfriend? Were you afraid of being with him?

Yes, he is my first boyfriend. I was afraid in the early stage of the marriage; I was afraid that he would have a temper, get drunk and treat me violently. But thankfully, my husband is good to me. He even helps with household chores and is empathetic to my feelings.

What sets your husband apart from other men in Cambodia?

At first I was afraid of him too. But I know that if I believe in God, I do not have to fear. So whenever we face difficulties, I actively address the issue. For example, when my husband said things that were inappropriate, or treated me with verbal violence, I would gather the courage to talk to him and refuse to let him resort to violence. Thank God that my husband listens to me and does not treat me with violence. Later, we even learnt to apologize to each other when we made mistakes.

Where did you learn to be so wise and brave?

In PHG. During my few years in the PHG, I had learnt a lot of problem-solving techniques and teachings, including those of the Bible. Although sometimes I do not know how to pray, or what to do, I have peace and courage to face our issues when I remind myself that God is with me. I would encourage my husband, "The Lord will be with us!" My husband then started to believe in God. The teachings of the Bible did not only teach me how to respond to my husband, but how to interact with my neighbors as well. My neighbors understand me, believe in me and love me.

Why do you want a Bible?

I hope that, in times of despair and loneliness, I can read the Bible and be encouraged by God.

Do you see the presence of God in your life?

God has helped me a lot. He listens to my prayers all the time and leads me to the PHG. I was in want of a lot of things in the past, but God helped me through the PHG. He gave me a loving family, my husband, my child, and took my past pain away from me.

There are still a lot of hardships in life. Do you think you will continue to have faith in God?

I trust in God with all my heart, and I will follow Him until the end. Sometimes, when I get emotional or even say something inappropriate, I would think of God and the Bible. And then I will know how to face my problems. When I was with the PHG, I read the Bible every day. When I am pregnant, my urge to read the Bible is even stronger, because I want the baby in me to listen to the Bible, so that the child will grow to love the Bible after she is born.

Do you like yourself?

I like myself a lot, because I am very beautiful. I see that I've changed a lot and I now have my own child.

How do you envision your future? Do you have any planning?

I want a job and a big house to call my own, so that people will not look down on us.

Although your current house is not big and you do not have a lot of stuff, I like it very much, because it's clean and tidy.

Yes, I do not enjoy having a lot of stuff and I dislike clutter and mess. I want to be a good role model to my child, because she will do as I do. But I also want to make our home comfortable for my husband, so that he will be comfy when he comes home. He can take a shower and we can have dinner in comfort.

As we spoke, I remembered I went to visit her at a childcare institute that she worked at last year. Before we left, the social worker asked her if she knew why God led her to this job. She said, "God wants me to get to know Him more. He wants me to find the direction in my life. He will prepare me for my future and when I have a family of my own, I will know how to take care of my family and my children..."

She has come a long way, from weak and fearful to brave and wise. The Lord is her banner.



Timely Grace

By Metta (Social Work of PHW) | Mar 03, 2021



As the coronavirus spreads globally, economies around the world (including Cambodia) are in a major recession. Low-income families, such as those who have many members per household, have experienced an even greater decrease in their income. As a result, they struggle to pay their daily expenses. 22-year-old Hal, who received service at Pleroma Women's Center, is returning to her community through our outreach program. Due to the high living cost in Phnom Penh, Hal was forced to work in places she never desired to be in. In mid-2020, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Veterans and Youth Reform referred her to our Pleroma Home for Women. Nevertheless, she was unable to attend, as she had to return to her hometown to tend to her grandmother and several young nephews.

This is Hal's story.


Hal's father brought domestic violence onto her family, forcing her to move out with her mother when she was a child. When it was time for her to start middle school, she moved to a new place and could not receive education. Then, she followed her mother to Phnom Penh and found a job in a small garment factory when she was 15 years old. Although she earned \$5 a day, her job was very unstable. After a year, her mother decided to return to live on Koh Rong Island, leaving Hal alone in Phnom Penh. Hal was left in rural lands far from the city, with a rough path from the main road to her house. Her house had no doors and no walls. She received some donations from a company, and her grandmother and boyfriend provided a little money for her after trying to sell the farmland. However, she did not have enough money because the land had not yet been sold. During that time, Hal had no income. She only had little money from her grandmother's job and couldn't even afford groceries.

Hal is very grateful for Covid-19 Special Assistance Fund to help her overcome the challenges. She said: "The Covid-19 Special Assistance Fund from Fullness in Christ Fellowship (FiCF) helped me a lot when I had no income. I used the money to buy food, and medicine. It also helped my grandmother and nephews when they were sick." The Special Assistance Fund is helping Hal through difficult times, allowing her to plan for the future.

Although she couldn't start her business, she decided to find a new job to support her family. With the help of counselors and social workers, she is currently working as a store manager and salesperson in a Christian organization in Phnom Penh. As a service provider, Pleroma Home for Women is very grateful for all the financial support during the pandemic. The support helps us plan for women's future lives, and to not be constrained by their daily needs. Without this support, they might have to go back to their lives in poverty. In addition, our Covid-19 Special Assistance Fund helped Hal find a job and made her life easier. This brings us great comfort. Thank the Lord for his love in the hearts of our supporters that transforms into timely grace for those in need.



Our Companions



Doing what You asked of me
Even though my tasks seem dull, ordinary
My days are meaningful

Encompassed by Your love of incomprehensible depth and width
Let me, once again
Fall deeply in love with You

- "The Meaning of My Days" Sophia Li-

Our companions help us redefine the role of
missionaries as resource redistributors.
Without you working with us, we could do nothing!

We are not just being humble,
but this is what we have seen and experienced.

We know the importance of mission trip team members and sponsors,
as well as individual volunteers, trainers of different expertise,
long-term companions, and those remembering us in daily prayers.

You are our greatest support.

Oftentimes, gestures as small as underlining a certain prayer item bring
encouragement and strength to us missionaries.

Because of you, we know that we are not alone,
and we are walking in his ways.

Thank you!

Love • Create • Hope

By Heather Hui | Oct 05, 2021

To be around the young lady, Eileen, is to have your heart lightened and your hope rekindled. Eileen and her mother, Emily, are the founders of Creative Hope International (CHI), an organization consisting of teams of musicians and artists who travel around the world to minister to the needy. During my trip to America in August 2021, I was determined to meet with Eileen and Emily because they have been crucial partners with Pleroma Home for Girls (in Cambodia) for over seven years.

Eileen was twenty-four years old when she founded CHI. She motivated musicians and artists from different parts of the world to join her in her ministry journey. What was her inspiration? What sustains her to persevere?

When Eileen was a young child, her parents took her along with them as they served the Lord in missions. Even though she was still an elementary school student, she took on the responsibility of leading other children in singing and dancing. From then on, the love for those who are weak and marginalized took root in Eileen's heart.

At age twenty-one, Eileen experienced something that broke her heart. On a bus, Eileen met a boy whose eyes were gouged out. The boy was begging for money by singing to attract people to him. Eileen knew that this boy might be exploited by organizations that abuse and control children whom they traffic. Feeling the boy's pain, she asked, "Oh Lord, I am only a musician. How can You use what You've given me to minister to these wounded children?"

Later, through an event, Eileen met Lily Lee, president of our organization, Pleroma Home for Girls. Lily affirmed Eileen that music is an effective way to open up people's souls. It helps wounded people to endure and restores the image of God in them. Because of love and a desire for God's image to be restored, Eileen and Emily founded CHI. They hope that through art and music, the bondage in the hearts of those they minister to would be broken, and their physical limitation would be unlocked. They believe that within each person there is a deep, hidden creativity that can enable them to create "hope" which belongs to them.

Through her organization, Eileen began to share the ministry burden of Pleroma Home for Girls. Since 2014 Eileen and Emily as well as the artists and musicians from different parts of the world have come to our Home, and through their music, our children "hear" their own voice; through different musical instruments, our children understand themselves and know God; through painting, they discover the significance that is hidden inside them; through dancing, they sense and touch their own bodies, feeling the joy that they can control their own body with power deep within them; through singing, they are able to release their own emotions; and through art, they express themselves with beauty, experience healing, and ignite hope.

God blesses the ministry of CHI as well as the lives of their short-term mission team members. A father on one of their teams realized the importance of male figures in the ministry. He decided that when he returned to his own country, he would start a boys' ministry. Other members decided to follow the calling God had given them and continue to serve Him.

Eileen brings short-term mission teams to come serve among us almost every year. I asked her what drove her to continue doing this. She told me that in 2014 when she and a team came to serve, each team member chose a girl to pray for. After she prayed for her girl, the girl turned around and prayed for her. She prayed that God would allow Eileen to see God's love and would give her a good life. At that time, Eileen felt the Holy Spirit was among them. Because of this girl's prayer, Eileen sensed God's love from the depth of her heart. It reminded her that God could use any one of us to become a life-changing power and blessing in other people's lives.

For seven years this moment has remained in Eileen's heart and gives her the strength and hope to move forward. Her love through creativity has brought unmeasurable hope to us and our children at Pleroma Home for Girls.



Financial Planning for God's Household

By Heather Hui | Oct 06, 2021

In July 2021, while on a business trip, I had the opportunity to visit the United States. I didn't plan to meet a lot of brothers and sisters because I was in quarantine and waiting to finish the COVID vaccination. But I did want to visit an elder sister, Jackie, whom I had wanted to meet for a long time. My story with Jackie began two years earlier when the vice president of my organization told me that an elder sister would like to talk to me when I visited the United States.

Jackie was that sister, and she wanted to talk with me about one of my needs. I was curious how she knew what my need was. She showed me a printed copy of a prayer request of mine, circled in red. That moment touched me deeply and has continued to impact my heart and my life. It means so much to me when a sister who lives abroad uses her prayers to support me. I feel the love and strength of her support.

I wanted to show Jackie my appreciation, however, before I was able to do so, she told me about another of her actions. She prays for both our organization and ministers every Thursday and also supports us financially. I was greatly impressed by her financial support plan. It is not because of the amount she gives; I don't even know how much she gives. I was touched by how she started planning her financial support to ministry early, even before retirement.

Unlike other people, she doesn't have property as a cushion for retirement. However, she manages to plan an offering for ministry and God's kingdom work. This is so touching to me. It would be natural to think that when you don't have an income, you don't give any more. At least, that is what I have understood in the past. Many people are afraid of getting old and getting old in poverty, thus they need to start planning for their retirement very early.

How many of us, like Jackie, will include the financial needs of God's household in our retirement plan? Or perhaps it has never been an important part of our retirement plan. Jackie's foresight is a useful example for us to follow!

Back in Phnom Penh as I am writing, it is very dark outside. Due to the pandemic, our ministry operation has been very limited. Yet, when I remind myself of this "time-traveling" experience, with Jackie's prayers and God's protection, I see clear skies, which fill my heart with positive energy.



From Those Who Walk Alongside

Love Can Heal Brokenness

In 2014, God let me return to serve at Pleroma Home for Girls, and I had more opportunities to develop a deeper connection with the girls. Every morning we worshiped with singing and dancing. In worship, I saw God taking away their sorrows and replacing them with healing and praise. The short-term mission team also told stories about the strong women in the Bible. We were surprised that the girls were yearning for the words of the Bible. They even learned to pray in Khmer.

The Word of God was the key medicine to healing the girls. One girl who came to the Home had been abandoned and sexually abused and exploited several years before. After moving in, she completely shut herself off. Full of compassion for her, every day we prayed that God's love would open her heart. We also took turns expressing our concern for her with simple sentences such as "I love you." At first, she did not respond, but on the third and fourth days, her eyes started to look at us. A miracle happened on the fifth day, and she began to say "I love you" to each team member. God's deed is so wonderful; His love can heal brokenness! God's love and words are so powerful that they brought her new life and hope. Praise the Lord!

In the next few days, she greeted us with "I love you." We continued to teach her "God loves you," and she reaffirmed us. Curiously, she started dancing around and doing crafts with the group, with a smile. On the last day at the celebration party, she picked up a little green mango from the yard and walked to me, hoping that I would play with her. We had a great time playing together for almost 30 minutes. Hallelujah! God is great, he is great and almighty.

Margie Fong

a member of the short-term mission team at the time of writing, now the director of the Women in Ministry Department of Fullness in Christ Fellowship

Seeing God's Protection and Leadership

I thought I knew very well how to help people, but God made me realize this service at the Girls' Home required God: Only he could melt the frozen heart of the broken, and only he could heal their blood deep wounds.

Not only was I serving, but I was also gaining a lot from Debbie, the director in charge of the Home for Girls. I saw the beauty of joyful service, and I saw the example of giving yourself to God without reservation. From Sister Lily I saw love and deep compassion in the act of giving. From teacher Yeh, I saw the joy of serving. She was a caring and attentive teacher, giving us a lot of space while silently guiding, encouraging, and giving us many opportunities to grow.

Praise the Lord, I always remember that God is the one who called me to be a missionary. When I thought it was impossible and could not see the way, God personally opened the way. He allowed me to learn a great deal on this short mission trip and become more determined in my missionary aspirations.

Fangling (Short-term mission member)

The Gospel Shows its Power When Our Hands and Feet are Tied

In order to serve the children who have been sexually assaulted, we had to sign two sets of codes before the trip, stating that we must not have physical contact with the children. However, our entrusted task was to hold a camp to let our co-workers and children meet with God. Many of the protection rules led the team spirit into an unforeseen low. If we were not allowed to embrace the girls, how were we to help heal and set them free, since we lacked the ability to speak to them in their own language?

The next afternoon after arriving in Cambodia, the first autumn rain began in Phnom Penh, announcing the coming spiritual rain of blessing. During the adult session at the Meet with God camp that day, the theme of the message was unclear due to the translation, so the co-workers could not feel the anointing. But, as we began our prayer service, the driver, nanny, and cook of the Girls' Home all cried out. We hugged them tightly and prayed for them. In the next few days, during the children's ministry, I observed children through art therapy, prayer healing, masquerade party, and other activities. From little response to slowly opening up, the journey of self-image reconstruction for this group of co-workers and children had begun.

The nine-member team had to serve a group of injured children and a group of adults who had experienced suffering. It was indeed a huge challenge, especially since the two brothers and female team members had to keep a distance from the girls. They could only sit on the side and pray, but it was here in the silent service that these girls saw the image of a healthy father and brother. They ran over to hug the two brothers on the day of the farewell meeting. The behavior that was originally taboo has been transformed into healing body language. The power of the gospel was revealed even when our hands and feet were tied.

Shuwa (Short-term mission member)





Sharing God's Love is Our Greatest Blessing

In November 2017, a medical mission team of 22 people went to Cambodia to provide medical services to the Pleroma Home for Girls and the Pleroma School for Girls and their communities. They provided medical examinations for the girls and medical consultations and services to the staff at the Home. In addition to teaching daily oral hygiene, the dental staff also provided fluoride treatments for every member of the Home to prevent tooth decay. Our nurses also provided vision examinations and lectured on health issues like the food pyramid, skincare, menstrual hygiene knowledge, etc. In addition, they washed the girls' hair with medicated shampoo to eliminate head lice. My heartfelt thanks to the local co-workers who collaborated with us, and all the brothers and sisters who prayed and gave support to our medical team! It was our greatest blessing to be able to share God's love with friends in Cambodia!

Vicky Hong

Medical mission team member at the time of writing, now the chairperson of our Board of Directors in Hong Kong



Only by the Spirit of God Can We Accomplish

When serving adults (nannies and drivers), due to translation problems, I felt that my sharing was limited and my spiritual influence jeopardized. Yet, God alone works miracles. As soon as we laid our hands on their heads, our tears began to pour. Every nanny was touched by the Holy Spirit, some confessed their sins, some prayed, some saw a picture, some poured out their hearts to God, and we were all served by the Holy Spirit.

"Not by power, nor by talent, but only by the Spirit of God can we accomplish." I finally realized that the Word of God (LOGOS) is powerful. God's every word stands firm in the heavens; it will not return to him in vain.

Xiuzhuan (Short-term mission member)

From the Heart of a Father

Helping children who were victims of human trafficking requires the cooperation of agencies. The first line of rescue is the work of rescuing. The Pleroma Home for Girls does the third-line treatment and reconstruction. Because the experiences of these children are not what ordinary people can imagine, the organization has strict protocol and double requirements on the personnel entering and exiting, especially for men! Even walking around was considered a threat. The painful experiences and memories the girls have cause them to have a deep fear of men. I still remember that a male team member accidentally met a girl in the corridor because he was going to get something, and he unexpectedly frightened her! One can imagine how deeply these girls have suffered.

According to the person in charge of the agency, another brother and I were the first men to visit the Home, so we needed to establish a correct male image in their minds. But what is the correct image? In prayer, God made me understand that I must follow the example of the Lord and look at the girls with the heart of a father and treat each of them as my own child. During greetings and while playing games, I needed my eye contact to convey the heart of a father and the eyes of the Heavenly Father to his children. Thank you, Lord! You love them all! The Almighty Creator himself healed them. The captives were released; the oppressed were set free.

On the day of our departure, the children said goodbye to us. They gave us cards and hugs. Thank God for what a breakthrough this has been - and may all the glory be to him.

Shizhe (Short-term mission member)





God's love is changing them

Thank God for giving me the opportunity to go to Cambodia for a short mission. When preparing lesson plans, I asked many times how I could help the children. Before the last preparatory meeting, God moved me to share my testimony with the children, but immediately I hesitated. It was like exposing my past to the short-term mission team members. Do I really want to do this?

When I arrived in Cambodia, God touched me again when I saw the children. Praise the Lord! I did not extinguish the emotion. During the class that shared the topic of "Love on the Cross," I naturally talked about my past. At that time, I only saw this group of children and not others. After the sharing, the senior schoolmate led them to art therapy. The work of God's comfort touched some of the children. They began to cry, and the pain in their hearts poured out with their tears. The love of Jesus touched them, and in our embrace, they could express their sadness with no reservations.

Although it had only been a week, the expressions on the children's faces were changing day by day. In particular, several of the beautiful young girls who at first were watching with cold eyes, slowly began to join in. Their smiles gradually unfolded like blossoming flowers, because God's love was transforming them.

At the last session, the children responded enthusiastically: "We will never forget the teacher's teaching!" I was overwhelmed with joy! Yes, the work that God began, He will accomplish. Hallelujah!

Qing Yu (Short-term mission member)

The Holy Spirit is with Them

This was my first time leading a short-term mission team. I felt quite stressed because I had no experience, was traveling abroad, and my language was not fluent. As a brother, I have many restrictions to serve the children of the Pleroma Home for Girls. I felt very uncomfortable as if my hands and feet were tied. For instance: You cannot walk around in the Girls' Home alone, you must have sisters by your side, and you must not be too close to the girls.

Thank God, when people are limited, God is infinite. During the few days of service, God's presence and deeds were very obvious. Whether we were serving girls or adult co-workers, as soon as we prayed for them, the Holy Spirit would come into play, God's love would touch them, and they would be moved to release their inner emotions. May all glory be given to God.

Mingda (Short-term mission leader)

The Beginning of a New Direction, a New Breakthrough

When I knew that I was going to Cambodia with my outstanding senior schoolmates, my heart was full of fear, but also with expectations. I said to myself, "How lucky I am to be able to serve in Cambodia! I am determined to meet God in every serving opportunity!" Because the mission team was small, I had no excuses to hide behind, but learned to rely on God to face the oncoming challenges. For example, I obeyed the teacher's inspiration to teach the children how to apply makeup. I used the fastest time to divide the work to apply makeup on the 14 children. This activated the potential in everyone. Besides utilizing the professional wedding makeup techniques, we also put to good use the professional photography techniques, the social worker's art therapy, and the tailor's professional alterations skills. Just like it says in Ephesians 4:16, "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work".

This made me even more aware that everything that I have learned and experienced in the past, God will transform in glorious moments in the right place - that is, the people whom God loves will express an unforgettable smile when they have been restored to the image and likeness of God. This was also the happiest moment in my service.

The Cambodia short term mission was the beginning of a new direction and breakthrough in my life. It not only expanded my horizons, but also broadened my view of the kingdom.

Ruiying (Short-term mission member)



Drawing Deeper Together

By Heather Hui | Dec 01, 2021

A Missionary's Prayer

A primary objective of the Home for Girls and the Home for Women is to provide top-quality counseling services, in addition to temporary living shelters for the needy. However, in the Cambodian public health (social work) infrastructure, which has just begun within the past ten years, there are still tremendous needs for social work training and support. Many brothers and sisters from different churches have been providing professional and formal lessons to our social workers - which is a blessing. Yet, we need to develop long-term partners in order to provide strategic training.

When I encountered Isabel and members from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in San Francisco in 2019, I realized God had answered my prayers. Moreover, God had started preparing since 2012.

God Paves Our Path

Isabel has been a counselor for 38 years in the US. In 2012 when she heard about the human trafficking problem, she studiously began to research the topic. In 2013, she became a mentor for the director of the Home for Girls, Ms. Chandra Chap. And in 2014, she came to Cambodia to host a 3-day seminar about DBT. When we invited her, she was excited, even though she knew it would not be an easy task. She understood the development and needs of Home for Girls and Home for Women.

Isabel started to pray for God's assurance and provisions for 6 counselors and 2-3 Khmer language translators. God answered her prayers by providing 6 Christian counselors and 5 local translators (2+3). Isabel and the counselors hoped that the training will not only equip local staff with knowledge but also develop a deeper spiritual relationship with God and serve others with joy.

The training classes met once a month from March of 2020 to November 2021 for 19 times. The participants included individuals from our organization, 33 non-profit organizations (NGOs), 61 unique computer sign-ons (some computers have more than one participant), with 93 people registered. Apart from the five cities of Cambodia, people from Thailand and South Korea joined as well. It was a beautiful picture, having people with different expertise gathered to fight against human trafficking.

Perseverance

The initial success of the training is the result of perseverance and dedication. Isabel is determined to participate in Cambodia's anti-trafficking ministry because she realizes that Cambodia has very poor resources in this area. The trauma suffered by the survivors of abuse is multifaceted. Apart from non-profit organizations, especially non-profit Christian organizations, the government provides almost zero support or related supporting services, and there is no contact between government agencies. Even if there were so-called professional services available, their level of expertise is far from professional. Thus, local co-workers must work hard and often feel exhausted.

Once, needing to file a case in another province, we had to visit several police departments with a sexually assaulted victim. After the police accepted the case, we needed to bring the victim to the hospital for examination. In the hospital, we were repeatedly neglected and had to wait until the next afternoon to be examined by the doctor. The most unforgettable moment was when the sexual assailant who worked in that hospital passed by the window where we were waiting. To this day, I still remember the child who was sexually assaulted, tightly holding my hand, trembling with fear.

Isabel's heart aches because the burden is heavily weighed on the community service workers and the Cambodian sexual assault survivors. In Cambodian culture, girls lack value and are not respected. Therefore, when the family faces difficulties, the girls must sacrifice themselves for the family and be sold as goods. It is also a shame to fight for one's rights, such as for educational opportunities, before the family's interests.

Critical Hope

Indeed, the struggle against sex trafficking is critical. But we still have hope because society is changing. The government has become more invested in fighting against human trafficking and sexual assault. This is evident by witnessing many sexual offenders now being charged, found guilty, and placed behind bars.

Although the Cambodian social workers' professional training has been insufficient, Isabel believes that they are the most caring, compassionate, and enthusiastic social workers she has ever met. In addition, Isabel highly affirmed the efforts of the co-workers from the Home for Girls and the Home for Women. As a result, the co-workers received more training and provided more comprehensive services.

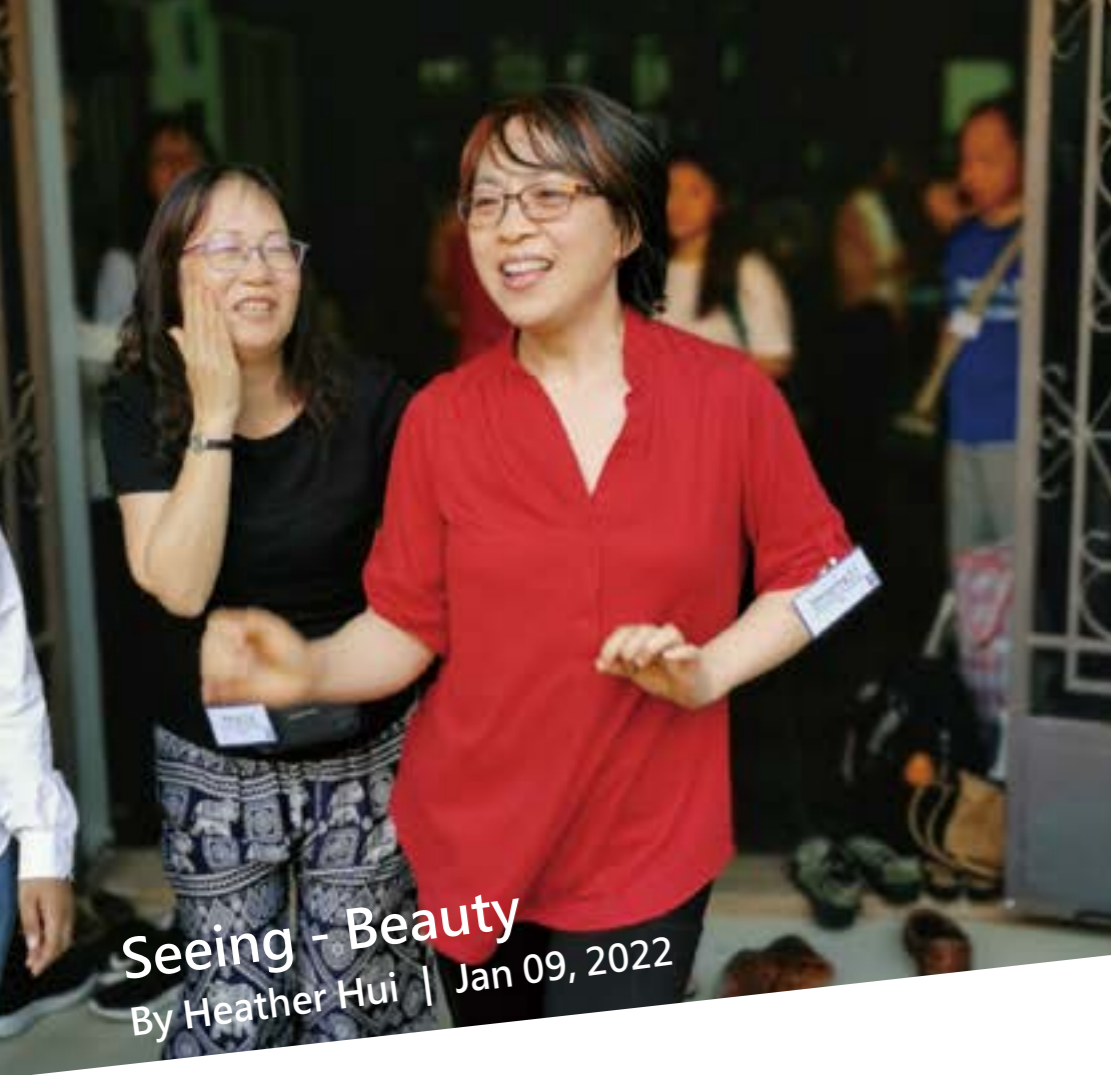
Home for girls and Home for women not only provide psychological and emotional counseling, but also contribute financial assistance, education, vocational training, family education, counseling, and even help searching relatives for their clients. This holistic approach to care is truly the manifestation of Christ's love.

Towards the deeper end, together

The wounds of those we serve are complex. Rebuilding lives is not easy to begin with. And we are not only to help them deal with being sexually assaulted and trafficked, but also to fight together with them against cultural harm, family and economic issues. Therefore, our local co-workers need more support and encouragement from everyone. In the past two years, I have adjusted my role, taking local social workers as my primary target of serving. I firmly believe that they must be physically and mentally healthy to provide more value and in-depth services to the needy.

Isabel believes that Cambodia still has tremendous needs. She hopes to have more professionals join their team and become the greatest support and strength for the frontline local social workers to serve more geographically and with a greater impact.





Seeing - Beauty
By Heather Hui | Jan 09, 2022

When I heard that the agency was thinking about publishing a special edition, to present God's grace and his work, to our fellow companions, an idea popped into my head. An interview with the gatekeeper of our agency's literature ministry – Li Wenping.

Wenping and I had only met several times, but I was always attracted by her literati temperament. I liked her unique perspective of things, her vitality, and gentleness between the lines of her writing. So, I wanted to see from her point of view about the two homes of the Pleroma Cambodian Ministry.

Wenping feels that sexual assault, sexual exploitation were not simple sexual violations, they often include cultural bullying and cultural rape. Survivors of the sexually assaulted have to deal with not only the physical and mental trauma inflicted by the assault but also contend with the cultural harm. Therefore, some of them lock themselves up in a desert island of the mind. Some of them would deny their self-worthiness, and let the culture continue to hurt them. Wenping is a mother, she is particularly concerned about females, for these women and children who had been sexually assaulted and sexually exploited, she has a deep caring and protective heart. Therefore the "Pleroma" vision triggered a strong resonance in her.

At the beginning of 2011, when Wenping had the opportunity to utilize her literary gifts to engage in website building technology to participate in Fullness in Christ Fellowship, she gladly accepted. Over the ten years, Wenping witnessed how female ministers in Fullness in Christ Fellowship stepped outside of the church walls for righteousness, to devote their heart and soul to come all the way from the United States to Cambodia, to serve directly or indirectly those females who had been hurt.

It is always hard to start anything new, after the first step into Cambodia, the next step is completely unpredictable, particularly in an unfamiliar country and a different culture. I asked Wenping if she ever doubted whether or not our Pleroma Missions in Cambodia can continue? She resolutely said, "Never doubted, just felt that this is a great and beautiful thing, so just simply do it!".

Although Wenping could not be in the front lines in Cambodia, but through the writings from the field, she saw beauty, she saw kindness, this beauty and kindness may not in and of itself be very beautiful, but a beauty that touches the heart at its deepest. One of the articles which moved her to tears was "You are Honorable." During that event, the missionaries used balloons to create crowns for the children to wear, telling them "You are honorable". The phrase, "You are honorable" built up the children's sense of self-worthiness, releasing them from their desert island of the mind. Only when self-worthiness is established and affirmed, can a person be able to face future challenges. She saw our Heavenly Father's compassion and good intentions, she saw how that intention was circulating in Cambodia, she saw beauty!

In 2019, Wenping first visited Cambodia, the few days we were together let me discover yet another beautiful side of Wenping. That day, she was playing with the children in our Home for Girls. Suddenly, she led the children in a round of somersaults and danced. She said that the rhythmic dance was a trekking step. She randomly choreographed daily life activities into a dance, for example, body stretching, getting dressed, brushing teeth, washing face, combing hair, etc. With a gentle smile Wenping freely twisted, the satisfaction revealed confidence and freedom, impacted the children around her, they quickly caught on, and danced with great joy. The children were getting increasingly excited, just like that, she danced freely and gracefully with the children.

That scene, not only deeply impressed me, likewise, was a scene which touched Wenping. When she saw the girls so bravely turning over and flipping their hands and so freely twisting and turning their bodies, she knew the children were well taken care of by us because the rhythm and beauty would be something difficult for a suppressed person to have and to display. The fact that the girls could feel their body and their limbs and stretch and move freely were signs of liberation. To Wenping, it was a very beautiful picture. This release of beauty even led Wenping to see farther and broader beyond, she saw hope – convinced that the new generation of Cambodian women, will walk out of our place because "Pleroma" is like a fruit-bearing tree, a beautiful tree, not weak but strong, a glowing new tree.



Looking Ahead

Women and Men Sharing Equal Honor and Glory in Christ

By Lily Lee | Dec 15, 2021

Looking back to the past ten years' journey of Pleroma Missions in Cambodia, FiCF responded firmly with one heart to the vision and mission God entrusted to us! God's presence and blessings accompanied us together with all the girls we are serving. He led us towards the path of recovery, physically, mentally, and spiritually! We were touched and moved with tears by the countless stories of broken young lives healed and transformed when they began to realize that they are indeed precious daughters of God. We are amazed at the power of the gospel.

However, like all the other organizations with similar missions, while we are continuously rescuing at the lower stream of the river the sexually exploited and violated women and girls, as well as the incest victims, there are even more such unfortunate ones flowing down from the upstream! While a small portion was rescued, a much larger number of them flowed by us, and were then disappeared and lost! How should we understand the upstream of this so call social culture "river"? Amidst these ten years of gratitude, our hearts are simultaneously broken with deep compassion and sadness!

In my 2011 article, (P.16) "A Bruised Reed He Will Not Break", the three main root-causes for human trafficking in Cambodia, together with our tireless effort in combating it are expounded as follow:

Root-cause 1: Low educational level

In 2015, we founded Pleroma School for Girls. With a deep conviction that raising the educational level of the girls is indeed a lasting and most fundamental preventive measure in combating human trafficking.

Root-cause 2: Poverty

We set up scholarship and relief assistance programs to help the girls and their families, especially during the past two pandemic years. We thank our supporters for their generous help! Recently, a Chinese church in Texas has volunteered to assist us in constructing houses for the poor Cambodian families. The proposal is in concert with my dream of about ten years in building houses with separate rooms, providing privacy and protection to our girls in their puberty years. Poverty is a nationwide problem in Cambodia. Their "huts", especially those in the provinces, are built without any awareness of respecting and protecting their girls. These settings would also aggravate and enticing the males in committing sexual aggressions against their girls. We not only will build houses with clear structure in protecting their girls, we also advocate the communities in doing the same for their girls.

Root-cause 3: For hundreds of years, the Cambodian cultural saying of "Men are gold and women are but cloths" is the most subtle and stubborn root-cause for girls being not valued and suffering discrimination.

The sexual trafficking and exploitation, abuses and violation, incest, child marriage, quitting school when very young, forced marriages, working to help support the families, are the crucial societal ills towards the girls in their communities. 85% of these victims are girls, and >90% of the perpetrators are men.

While we are entering the New Year 2022, how should we broaden our vision and mission to reach higher and broader in facing these challenges of stubborn gender injustice that have been damaging our girls for generations?

In the beginning of 2020, we discussed and planned with our Board member, Dr. Melvin Wong, a California licensed psychologist, on a new vision and project, "Pleroma Men's Ministry". While actively researching and strategizing on the ministry, we were disrupted and delayed by the global pandemic outbreak. We sincerely pray that, in God's guidance, we can restart and resume the project on men's ministry in 2022.

On the one hand, with the gospel of Jesus, we plan on nurturing the male leaders to exemplify as fatherly images in the community. To be godly men in their homes, neighborhoods, schools, and societies, in loving and respecting their wives, daughters, and the women they are living with and co-working with.

Women and men work side-by-side, enjoying equal respect and honor, in living out abundant lives God destined equally for both women and men during creation. This is indeed the ultimate goal of our PMC ministry!

Lastly, we admit that the reach of our ministries is indeed very limited in this vast country of Cambodia. But we realize that, our original four projects together with this new "Pleroma Men's Ministries", we are powerfully testifying to the girls, the parents, the communities, and the country, that the Cambodian girls are highly valued by us, and are precious to our God. Girls need loving cares and to receive good education, discover their gifts and develop fully their potentials. They are more than worthy of our investments of time, effort, and money! These are indeed the very reasons God sent us to Cambodia ministering to them. God indeed unceasingly works among us with these PMC ministries.

For the past many years of researching these possibilities, we are now looking forward to concretely mobilizing and materializing these "Men's Ministries". We witness that our God, not only loves our girls in special ways, he is also merciful towards the men who have been deceived and swayed by these biased and unjust gender traditional cultures!



Deeper and Wider

By Heather Hui | Jan 28, 2022

Ten years. How does one make sense of that? A simple question, perhaps. But this decade has been a cumulation of life-changing ripple effects from God's plan, the participation of our long- and short-term partners, service targets and their families, as well as organizations that worked with us, even just for once. The full impact is beyond our imagination.

Looking back, God showered the PHG and PHW with so many blessings in the past decade that a recount is impossible. But if I have to sum up the decade, I would thank God for showing us our path: to become a community that brings positive changes to the lives of others. The professional and effective intervention services provided by our two homes have received recognition from our professional partners, local non-profit organizations and government departments. We are even providing support in counseling and social work to other non-profit organizations. These are the harvest of the hard work of our local staff.

This year, we will be launching Project 20/20 – the construction project of our PHG and PHW dormitory. 20/20 implies the ability to see perfectly. We firmly believe that this is a perfect vision from God to us. As our service targets have gone through physical, mental and emotional trauma, we hope that we are not only building a purely functional dormitory, but a space that caters to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our service targets. We pray that this will be a space of rest, healing and rebuilding for them. But above all, we pray that this will be the place where they experience love and seek God.

We pray that we could provide a refuge as such for our service targets, while deepening and widening the scope of our services in the future. By "deeper" and "wider", we refer to family intervention services that we have already kick-started, aside from our existing counseling, therapy and life planning services. We engage their community and social resources and mobilize personnel at the village and province level and even government officials from different departments to provide intervention, so as to confront fundamental issues in their family. Without a doubt, this is difficult work. But we have already started and are seeing results, such as the mother in "Mommy, Do You Love Me?" and the father in "Tribulations, Be Still." We have also taken on more preventative work, such as education and cooperation within neighborhoods, communities and among churches.

Besides rescuing, we also hope to provide our service targets with a better safety net: lowering the odds of harm going their way, becoming a safety net for them to heal and recover if they come to harm, and even becoming a slingshot in their life, sending them above and beyond formidable walls, into a place deeper and wider than they have ever envisaged.





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More details



A large group of children and adults are gathered in a room with a tiled floor, holding up a massive, colorful rainbow parachute. The parachute is the central focus, with its vibrant stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple creating a bright canopy over the group. The children, some in school uniforms, are smiling and looking towards the center. Adults are also present, some holding the edges of the parachute. The scene is filled with joy and community. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Thanks to all our companions
It is through your prayer and participation
That we know we are deeply loved

May this grace take root in Cambodia

