



## **Funeral Writing Up On January, February and March, 2019**

Funeral program is among the others programs has been implemented by Salvation Centre Cambodia (SCC) for the deceased families in its coverage areas in Phnom Penh capital city, Siem Reap, and Battambang provinces, funded by Firefly Mission from Singapore.

The purpose of this program is generosity for only the deceased poorest families who have no money to manage funeral support for died member. We have cooperated with NGOs partners, local authorities, and the leaders of poor communities, village's chiefs our network in order to implement this program for the needy people. The process of offering money to the poorest deceased families is that we sent our staff directly to the deceased family's home to assure that they are poor as well as asking information from the neighbors, community leaders, NGOs partners, and local authorities the background of those we are going to provide money. After we got information about them that they are really poor, we let them fill the form with signature or fingerprint and signature of confirmation from their leaders and NGOs partners to reassure that they are truly poor.

In addition, we work very carefully in providing the funeral support for the poorest deceased families before donating money to them. The reason is that we are afraid of being cheated from the tricky people. Funeral support program is very valuable for the poorest people in Cambodia, and we provide this program for all kinds of the people without discrimination with races, group of the people, political trends, and faith or religions. The main objectives of funeral support donation are: (1) for the poorest deceased families when their any members died and have no money to arrange the funeral services, (2) help to fill the urgent needs for the poorest deceased families and relief their suffering from their shortage of money to manage the funeral ceremony.

## 1. Funeral Support Phnom Penh City On March 2019

Mr. Long Chan Narith, male, age 64 years old who had departed on Date 28, March 2019. In Toul Songkae Village, Toul Songkae commune, Phnom Penh Capital City. He had died because of high blood pressure and chronic illness which causes him for 5 years of disease. He has had 3 daughters and 3 sons. His daughters and sons are married and they've lived with their new families except the youngest daughter who is a student. All of them are working as a housewives and construction workers. They can earn 15,000 Riel per day equal 3.75 USD to support on their dialing families using. While he's still alive, he used to work as a soldier but he had retired it for many years because of his old age and had chronic illness. His wife had passed away for a long time. All the family burden had fallen on him and the youngest daughter who are responsible. Because of his old age and had chronic illness, he cannot work or do anything just stay at home. While he got sick, his family does not have enough money to pay on medicine and hospital



caring. Mrs. Chea Sokhpisey and her age is 40 years old. She is the oldest daughter of the deceased family who had known about the SCC Funeral Program which Supported by Firefly Mission from Singapore. She had contacted and asked for help, after SCC has known this request; SCC president has sent our staff directly to the deceased house. Because of the poorest family situation, they cannot celebrate the funeral at their small and narrow house. All his daughters, sons and village chief had been asking the abbot to let

them celebrate the funeral at the temple. After the abbot had known this situation with the hard consequences they're facing, he had permission and helped this pitiful family with some materials and place for the funeral celebration. In this funeral have some relatives, friends, village chief and local authorities who are participated in the funeral ceremony.

When our staff arrived at their small house, we saw and knew that it's really hard to live with a small narrow block of house. His oldest daughter as you saw in this picture had welcome and invited us into her house. Our staff had asked some questions about their family situations, she had described with her tear fallen down on her cheek and said that "after my mother had died with the chronic illness for many years, we have only father who take care and look after us. While my father still alive, he used to work as soldier and got some salary but it's not enough for our family expense especially my father also had the high blood pressure and chronic illness too". All my siblings, they're so poor we don't have enough money to take him for the hospital. We could help by buying some medicines for him but his disease it's not better. It became harder and harder until he had departed from us. We have nothing even though money to arrange the

funeral ceremony. We have gotten 40.00 USD from SCC which supported by Firefly Mission from Singapore. I and my family really feel happy that SCC and Firefly Mission helped us when we have nothing in hand to manage father's funeral. I representative of my family would like to gratitude for SCC and Firefly Mission with the bottom of my heart wishes, be healthy, wealthy, happiness and peaceful in life.

## 2. Funeral Support for Battambang Province On January 2019

Madam Soung Vy, female, age: 60, died of diabetes on 27 January 2019 in Prek Snor village, Prek Kpoub commune, Ek Phnom district, and Battambang province. She suffered by diabetes and blood pressure diseases for three years ago. The deceased has three children among of those children, there are one daughter. Now, they all got married already.

After Soung Vy passed away, the oldest daughter's name is Eit Chheang, age 40, was



responsible to take of her elderly and disability father who is also serious disease laying on the bed every day. The daughter of deceased said that because of her serious disease situation, I and my siblings spent a lot of money to cure my mother. We sold everything to treat her but the result we could not rescue. Nowadays we have nothing and still owe lender. When the deceased has alive, she planted bananas for selling because she had a little land behind the house to earn money for supporting her stomach. However, this income is not enough to support her regular expend because bananas in the market is very cheap therefore she could not get another income to support her daily expend. Moreover, she needs to buy medicine and food daily. She

added that when her mother died, she asked the neighbors and generous people to donate money for the funeral ceremony. Fortunately, SCC has funeral support program to help the poorest deceased families. I asked local authority to call directly to SCC. She expressed to SCC's staff that in this funeral she owe 1 million riel (USD 250.00) to manage this ceremony. With funeral support program, she expressed her feeling that she feels very emotional and thanks very much to SCC and Firefly Mission that provided money USD 40 to help arrange this funeral ceremony.

The official of the commune women and children committee, said that the family of the deceased is very poor and their living very difficult, the heavy burden is that the husband of deceased is being serious sick and laying on the bed every day need to take care from his children that their living condition are very poor too. She expressed to thanks for SCC which supported by Firefly Mission helping this family who is facing shortage money to arrange funeral ceremony. She asked for the donor in Singapore continues to help the poorest deceased families in her community and the poorest people in Cambodia.



### 3. Funeral Support For Siem Reap Province On February 2019

Madam En Heng is 61 years old who died by traffic accident on date 20 February 2019 and live in Korkthnot village, Korkchork commune, Siem Reap District, Siem Reap Province.



This family has four children, two females and two males. They live in a small house with a hole and very old palm tree leaf wall as seen in this picture. When the deceased still alive, she used to weave a basket in Korkthnot village and had income for 5000 Riel (\$1.25) for per day. Her daughter works as a massage in Jasmine Bloom in Krolanh Market, Siem Reap City, Siem Reap Province. She gets salary 100\$ for per month.

This family is very poor because the family burden is depending on the decease who has responsible in the family. Now husband of the decease has chronic illness and relay on his daughter who works to supports on foods, father's medicine and her siblings.

When Mrs. En Heng died, the members of the family did not have enough money to arrange the Funeral Service like buying casket, foods, and other

goods for that ceremony. With understanding of the very difficult situation of this family, SCC's staff in Seim Reap Province brought USD 40.00 that the Firefly Mission's donation to them. For the poorest deceased family, the money 40 USD is invaluable and highly expensive for assisting them when they are in the circumstances of the needs.

Mok Thuy, age 64, husband of the decease who received money 40.00 USD from SCC which supported by Firefly Mission from Singapore. He felt very happy and said that I am very emotional and extremely happy when SCC provided the amount of this money to manage the funeral of my wife. On behalf of my family, I would like to express my profound thank you on SCC and Firefly Mission who donated 40.00 USD on my family for the funeral arrangement.

Additionally, the deceased family and local authority who participated in this ceremony was appreciated with SCC's staff brought money to help them. The owners of the funeral ceremony expressed the gratitude to SCC and Firefly Mission which feel kind and compassionate to their family by offering 40.00 USD for managing funeral service. They had expressed their gratitude and wishes SCC and Firefly Mission get the happiness, healthy and peaceful in life.

Finally, I substitutions of people in the three area (Phnom Penh City, Battambang and Siem Reap Provinces), village chief, communities, local authorities, the poorest families, elderly and people with disabilities, homeless people, people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV), orphans and vulnerable children in Cambodia still persist SCC and Firefly Mission please keeping hand to help the pitiful on Cambodian people. The last but not least, I would like to express my profound thanks so much and great grateful to SCC and Firefly Mission who have a good heart, loving-kindness, compassions, sympathetic, equanimities on all of the poorest families in Cambodia without any discrimination on races. May SCC and Firefly Mission always have with the Fourth Noble Blesses of the Buddha, be healthy, happy and peaceful in life.

With metta,

Written by: **Ven. Sovat Ann**

Monk Team Leader

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