

បង្គុំបណ្ណាល័យសហសង្គ្រោះកម្ពុជា
Salvation Centre Cambodia
(SCC)



Writing Up
From October-November-December 2020

Submitted to
Firefly Mission

Project Title: Funeral Support

Location: Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siemreap provinces, Cambodia.

SCC in a Nutshell



IDENTITY

SCC is a dynamic, Cambodian faith-based organization that has played a major role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through the loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, equanimity, commitment and dedication of a team of Buddhist monks, nuns, staff, volunteers and generous supporters, SCC has been able to improve the lives of many people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly the poorest and least fortunate families, especially children, either orphans or those adversely affected by HIV/AIDS.

VISION

A Cambodian society where all Cambodian people live with good health, freedom, dignity and prosperity.

MISSION

SCC commits to develop capacity and sustainable community mechanisms through faith-based networks and other stakeholders to reduce vulnerability, and to enhance livelihood, health and children's rights to education.

GOAL

SCC's goal is to significantly contribute to achieve the national strategic plan by increasing vulnerable families' and children's equitable access to health service and education.

VALUES

SCC is guided in all its actions by its core values which are solidarity, spirituality, compassion, human rights, good governance and democracy and rule of law.

Writing Up Hard Life Stories

The funeral project is one of many projects that has been implemented by Salvation Centre Cambodia (SCC) for the poorest families of deceased people in the coverage areas of Phnom Penh municipality, Battambang and Siem Reap provinces. The program is funded by the **Firefly Mission from Singapore**.

The purpose of this program is to support the poorest families who recently lost a family member, are struggling financially, people living with HIV/AIDS, elderly people with disabilities, homeless people, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) who have no money to arrange the funeral event for their dead family members. We have cooperated with NGO partners, local authorities, community leaders and village chiefs as part of our networks in order to implement this program for the people in need. The main objectives of our funeral support donation are: 1) Arranging the funeral for the poorest families who lost a family member and don't have enough money to arrange the funeral event on their own. 2) Help meeting the most urgent needs of the poorest families and share condolences to relieve their suffering from money problems and their recent loss.

The process before providing the family of the deceased with financial support is the following: After we receive the information from the family, the neighbors, community leaders, NGO partners, or local authorities, SCC staff visits the family to get exact information about them and their living conditions. Then we let them fill out the form of cash request for the funeral with their signature or thumbprint (if they are illiterate). After that we get a confirmation from their village leaders or SCC's NGO partners to make sure that they are truly in need.

We work very carefully before and while providing the funeral support to the poorest families and donating money to them. The reason is that we are afraid of being scammed by people who want to exploit our organization. Funeral support is very valuable for the poorest of people in Cambodia and we provide it to all types of families in need without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, political beliefs, or religion.

Significantly, SCC would like to share three stories of the funeral support implemented in Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siem Reap provinces from **October-November-December 2020** for your information as follows:

1. Funeral Support in Phnom Penh City

Mrs. Tim Vanny 55 years old, currently lives at Boeng Kak 2 commune, Tuol Kouk district, Phnom Penh City. She had four children in family, two sons, and two daughters, all of them was married and to living in different places. Separately, the second daughter name's Houg Rathana got married and had two children, a daughter and a son. Unfortunately, her son passed away because of an illness. Nowadays, her daughter staying at NGO to study grade 6 at the Institute for Children's Smiles (PSE). Mrs. Houg Rathana has been chronically disease many years, after her husband divorced, she brought two children to live with mother in Phnom Penh. Living in a small house on the first floor, about 4 meters wide, 5 meters length no space, that was built by some old zincs, low-quality woods, and almost collapse. Mrs. Tim Vanny is one of the poorest families living in poverty. With five members living together in a miserable life, Mrs. Tim Vanny described that, while her husband was alive he worked as a construction worker had earn some money to support daily life, during about 10 months ago her husband passed away due to illness because her family did not have money to send him to the hospital for treatment. After her husband passed away who was the pillar of the family, nowadays she lived as a widow and faced a very difficult situation. Every day she leaves home early morning to works as a scavenger from morning till evening, from the hot weather to the rainy season, from near to far as long as she could, she tries to collect the cans and bottles to sell. Moreover, to have some money to buy rice and the rest of the money to buy medical treatment and hospital care for the daughter. During COVID 19 pandemic all around the world, especially in Cambodia, there are also pandemics in the community, so she could not collected, sometimes she misses the food, eating irregularly, not enough to take rest, and her health deteriorated.



The family of diseased received fund SCC Monk Team Leader

Mrs. Houg Rathana departed on December 06, 2020, from her daughter and family forever never back again at the age of 35 years by blood cancer. It was a great shocked for her family and seriously upset about who had losing the member. Mrs. Tim Vanny is the mother and granddaughter did not have money to buy the coffin to manage the funeral ceremony. They had asked the relatives, neighbors, and village chief for helping them to manage the funeral, as well as the participation of the Buddhist monks at Neaka Vann pagoda who preached the Dhamma and guiding her family to know more about the physical of suffering. However, Buddhist monks helped arranging the cremation in the temple.

After the cremation completed, village chief contacted SCC staff and monk team leader Venerable **Sombo Panhna** to visit the deceased's home and shared a condolence with the member who has just passed away. Moreover, venerable brought the Teaching of the Buddha to educate them to live with the righteous way. Besides, our staff brought the donate 40 USD sponsored by **Firefly Mission** from Singapore. After receiving the donated, she immediately felt emotional almost tears fall down and speechless, the amount 40 USD is uncountable to those who's the poorest, she will take the donated to use to cover the funeral expenses and to buy some rice for daily consumption. Mrs. Tim Vanny would like to express their deep gratitude for this gift and thank **SCC**. Especially **Firefly Mission** who always kind and generous assistance to help the poorest families with their loving-kindness and compassion.

2. Funeral Support in Siem Reap Province

Mrs. Pol Soung present time residing at Sambuor village, Sambuor commune, Siem Reap municipality, Siem Reap province. She got married with San Vorng and has four children, two sons and two daughters. The oldest son was married and lives in different place with his wife. The elder daughter dropped out of school to help housework, while the younger daughter 13 years old and a youngest son 10 years old, both are studying at a primary state school.

Mrs. Pol Soung currently lives with her three children in a poverty due to lack of education and there is no money to run a big business. Mostly, Cambodia's people live in rural areas they depend on farmland to do agriculture or to do a farm of their livelihood as well, separately her family has a small farmland and doing farmwork in a year two seasons. Unfortunately, the farm not get fruitfully because of less water irrigate. On the other hand, when her husband was alive, besides doing farm he worked as a basket maker followed Khmer traditional style, he has been doing it since he was married for over 30 years. He collected the bamboo those who sell and cut by himself, after that carried on by bicycle that was tiring. The next step he sharpen the bamboo strips and weaving backward from the bottom for insert to the frame, if we looking at his finger so bad because he sharpen of bamboo. For salary he can earn only 100 USD per month which is not enough for everyday expense. Sometimes he asks the middleman for some money to buy rice daily needed. He never spends money on hanging out or gambling, he only knows how to make basket for selling. By reason of the pandemic COVID-19 crisis, all factories are suspended worker, many shops have been closed. As we know Siem Reap province is the most popular tourist destination, now it has become a quiet area no longer tourists visit, anyhow the profit of selling baskets are 5,000 Riels change into USD 1.25 per day.



SCC staff offered money to Mrs. Pol Soung

Regrettably, Mr. San Vorng passed away, on 27th December 2020, in the age 55 years old by drowning, he departed without saying any words to his family and friends. It was a seriously shocked for his wife and children who lost their beloved one. Throughout the time of Mr. San Vorng died, his wife and children had no enough money to buy a coffin and funeral ceremony arrangement, in that too with the kindness people surrounding, relatives and neighbors came to helped and managed the ceremony follow the Cambodian traditional. Mrs. Pol Soung sadly said that **“My family despite living in a poverty but we joint together happily, now the losing of husband is doubly difficult for me because he’s a pillar of the family to earn income”**. At the time funeral ceremony

she's really struggling in an unprepared situation, she had ask the relatives and neighbors to help and borrow some money to purchase the material for arranging the funeral of her husband. According to their real difficult situations they faced, the villagers, relatives and local authority came to participate for counselling Mrs. Pol Soung to contact SCC Siem Reap asking for help. Our staff, Mr. Long Saroun came to visit her home to share condolences and offered 40 USD to the suffered of the poorest family which was donated by the **Firefly Mission from Singapore**. Moreover, the suffered of the poorest family heartfelt expressed their gratitude and thankful to **SCC and Firefly Mission** who always help the poorest families with the regardless any compensations.

3. Funeral Support in Battambang Province

Mrs. Kim Saing, 48 years old, currently resides in Baoh Pou Village, Ou Dambang Muoy Commune, Sangkae District, Battambang Province. After got married, she lived with her husband and had five children, there were four daughters and a son. The two eldest daughters had married and living various places with their husband, while the three younger children are living with her, the other two elder daughters had dropped out of school, only one youngest son is enrolling primary state school. Unfortunately, her husband passed away early because of an illness by diabetes and many other diseases.

Living in a difficult situation life and having a small house in a dilapidated condition. Mrs. Kim Saing and her husband have been living together for many years, due to lack of knowledge and have no land to do a farm or planting crops, her husband working as a construction worker. She described that, at the time she lives with husband, her family was mediocre, but the five years later, her husband got illness and cannot do hard works, she used the money had saved to pay for her husband's medical treatment and hopefully he would recover. In the contrary, all her efforts have gone, the money was lost, her husband also passed away, and now the house about to collapsing because of inability to rebuild.

As a widow woman and have to take care three children in the family, now she works as a construction worker like other men after her husband's death, due to the woman strength and insufficient intake, so the construction work is not lucrative. On the other hand, the two elder daughters' forced to drop out of school to support their mothers, because they are too young and tried to apply a job but no any proprietors accepted. Additionally, the two siblings asked their neighbors to pick vegetables at the shop for getting some money to buy foods.



SCC staff counselling with Mrs. Kim Seng at her house

The saddest time, Mr. Kim Kuon passed away on 5th November 2020, in the age 47 years. It was a seriously shocked for his wife, daughters and son who lost their beloved. During Mr. Kim Kuon die, his family had less money for funeral ceremony arrangement, but luckily the kindness people surrounding as well as relatives and neighbors came to help and manage the funeral ceremony followed by the Khmer tradition. Mrs. Kim Saing sorrowfully said that **“Life is really miserable, I try to collect all the money had earned to take it for treatment my husband, finally nothing left”**. At the time arranging funeral ceremony, she had asked the relatives and neighbors to help and borrow some money. Until now, she still in debt money from other neighbors.

According to their real hard situations faced, the villagers and other relatives came to participated for counselling Mrs. Kim Saing to contact SCC Battambang asking for help. Our staff, Mrs. Rith Bormey came to visit her home and saw the really difficult situation, in that too we offered 40 USD to the deceased of the poorest family which was donated by the **Firefly Mission from Singapore**. Moreover, the deceased of the poorest family expressed their gratitude and thankful to **SCC and Firefly Mission** who always help the poorest families with the kindness and pure heart.

All human beings are dead, whether are rich or poor, young or old they all die the same. The only difference is that wealthy people organize a solemn ceremony, many relatives, friends, neighbors participate. On the contrary, the poorest people even the coffin to cover the body have no money to buy at the time of death, not to mention the money spent on organizing the ceremony for many nights. According to Buddhism causes of suffering are: cause of fear, cause of hunger, cause of debt, cause of sickness and the greatest is the sorrow of death desolation of this planet. Because when we are about to die, all the organs in the body stop working due to their function, stop operating due to the commands of the mind. At that time, the eyes no longer seeing, the ears become congested, the nose no longer smells, the tongue stops tasting, the body stops receiving hot and cold elements all of which make the body suffer terribly for nothing. Therefore, human being should try to do meritorious indeed from now onward.

To sum up, the activities that SCC has done in the past and is continuing to do almost have the support of all quarters and are being disseminated in all areas in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Battambang provinces. The advantage of sponsoring at a funeral for the poorest families are important and helpful for the deceased who has passed away. They take these donate to organize the funeral and settle some of their livelihoods as well. Members of the family who had died are very satisfied with the activities of the SCC and Firefly Mission are doing. Most people said that, they are excited about this precious donation and it is very useful for supporting their funeral.

In addition, the poorest families, village chiefs, community leaders, NGOs partner, and local authorities want **Firefly Mission** to continue to help the poorest families in their villages and all poorest people in Cambodia.

Last but not least, we would like to express our profound thanks and gratefully to **Firefly Mission and all members from Singapore** who always have the loving-kindness (Metta), compassion (Karuna), sympathetic joy (Mudita), and equanimity (Upekkha) to all of Cambodian people with your generous sponsorship our funeral support. We can't tell you how much all of us at SCC and all Cambodian people appreciate your contribution to our cause. Furthermore, thanks to your donation, we will be able to have funding support to run our funeral support program continuously. May you all be free from suffering.

May the triple gem Buddha, Dharma, Sangha bless you all.

With Metta,

Prepared by: Ven. Sombo Panhna

SCC, Monk Team Leader

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