

April 27, 2021

## Phnom Penh City Under Lockdown



In our March newsletter, Cambodia took serious measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 with a total number of 2,378 cases. **Unfortunately, in a matter of one month, that number has reached 10,555 as of today.** City of Phnom Penh has been under lockdown since April 15, and though it was supposed to be lifted after two

weeks, the seriousness of the outbreak has forced the government to extend the lockdown for another week. Citizens are not allowed to leave except for groceries (twice a week) and medical emergencies. Alcohol consumption (including buying or selling) has also been prohibited since the lockdown.



Checkpoints were stationed and lockdown policy breakers have been treated with no mercy.

In fact, the government has allowed the police officers to use cane sticks to use against citizens who blatantly break lockdown policies using the imagery of “parents who beat their trouble-making children.”

Many open markets experienced outbreaks of the virus and were forced to shut down which left many Cambodians with fewer number of places to shop for food when they were allowed to pass the checkpoints.



The students at Susanna Wesley House have been braving through new policies and rules from the government that change many things overnight. Their flexibility and cooperative spirit have been the greatest sources to enable community living enjoyable - especially when under a lockdown. They've been able to worship via online and continued with their English classes online as well. Buying groceries have been challenging, but they have

been taken on these challenging times together as one. **Please click on a [short video](https://youtu.be/lfGRDI01DIM)** (<https://youtu.be/lfGRDI01DIM>) to see how our students are living through their lockdown. Please continue to pray for us for perseverance and oneness. Everyone at SWH trust God and His Goodness even through these difficult times.

## **Pray for the Poor Who Are Suffering the Most~**

As the city extends its 2 week lockdown for another week, many are concerned about the poor in the city who have been living hand to mouth. Many families, children, and the elderly are suffering through this pandemic with no food or means to buy food. The GBGM-Cambodia is planning a relief project to reach out and to help such people. You can support a family with 10kg of rice and dried fish/canned foods with \$15. If you are interested in helping this project, please contact Andrew Lee ([alee@umcmmission.org](mailto:alee@umcmmission.org)).

## **How to Support: An annual tuition for most of the universities in Phnom Penh is about \$500.**

**Online support:** <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-393-children-and-youth-scholarships.aspx>

Children and Youth Scholarships; Advance # 3020791

**To donate by check:** Please make your check payable to **Advance GCFA** and write the **Advance # 3020791** on the memo line. (Address: Advance GCFA PO Box 9068 GPO New York, NY 10087-9068)

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