

# Helen's Newsletter

Women and Finance  
November 2021



Dear Friends,

It's quite a while since I shared stories and life in this situation had been hard, painful and scary... nevertheless, the grace of God overflows, nevertheless, God is always there....

At this time, what we need to do is continue, move forward, because waiting would only frustrate us more. There is the "new normal" and the term "we have to live with it" so we adapt.

GBGM -UMC office in Cambodia have programs and projects that went on-hold because of the pandemic. But now we started to use social media platform to continue work.

We just received 3 new Global Mission Fellows who will be working with us, plus 1 person assigned at another NGO. We also found a new local person to help us with Women Livelihood project. And we will introduce all of them here today.

We changed plans, we adopt new ideas, we transform ourselves to bring transformation. And that is what adaptation brings...



*Our new Global Mission Fellows: Jay Abayon(Phils.), Agustinus Hutabarat (Indonesia), and Rachel Therieh (India)*



*One GMF assigned at Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. Venus Gatdula(Phils.)*

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:2*

## Our New Coordinator for our Women Livelihood Project

### **Introducing:**

#### **CHHAN SAM AN,**

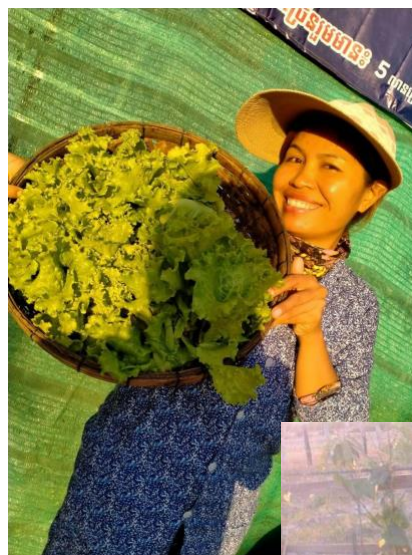
My name is Chhan Sam An (Srey Mom), born on September 22, 1984 in Kampong Chhnang province. I am a member of Trapang Ampil Methodist Church. Me and my husband are farmers and we have 3 kids (2 girls and 1 boy). I've been a volunteer coordinator of the Social Concern Committee (SSC) of the Methodist Church in Cambodia (MCC) in Kampong Chhnang and Pursat district. And now I am happy that I was considered to work with women group for the Women Livelihood Program.

#### **My Childhood life:**

I lived with my mother, stepfather and my grandma. Because my family was very poor, I decided to stop from school at grade 5 to give way to my brothers who wanted to pursue their studies. At 14 years old, I found a job at Phnom Penh as factory worker to help with the finances of my family. I worked hard and sometimes I didn't eat a full day's meal and cannot afford to buy clothes for myself, because I need to save money to send to my mother to feed my siblings.

#### **As a wife and Eldest Sibling**

At the age of 22, I was matched by my mother to marry my husband in 2006. After 6 months, my mother succumbed to cancer and left under my care all my younger siblings. At that time, I decided to stop from my work at Phnom Penh and



*Narrating herstory, from poverty to empowerment...now she and her husband own a big property for rice, trees, vegetables, chicken, ducks and a variety store.*

returned home to take care of them. After I returned to my hometown, I and my husband rented a land to farm and build a small palm leaf house and started a small store, selling the firewood and planting vegetable. It was our source of income to feed my sibling and old grandma.

### **Trained under Community Health and Agricultural Development (CHAD)**

In 2013, I met Pastor, Sum Ngeth from Methodist Church and sister, Him Daneth through CHAD program. During that time, I and my community people started working with CHAD program. After that, Pastor Sum Ngeth and sister Daneth motivated me to become a volunteer to work with Social Concern Committee for Kampong Chhnang and Pursat District. I decided to join and learned the CHAD strategy. I gained knowledge and good experiences to work with the people in rural community and I was trained by CHAD program to be a facilitator, monitor, leader, and mentor and agriculture trainer. After I know CHAD program, my family has transformed. I utilized the knowledge which I learned from CHAD to improve my income. I expand my grocery store, animal raising, vegetable plantation. I achieved all these thru the help of CHAD.

In 2019, CHAD send me to study at Asian Rural Institute(ARI) in Japan for 9 months. ARI is the place that empower the grassroots' leader to become a servant leader to help the community through the practical learning by doing. ARI shaped my mind to become a person who really want to serve the people in rural community and to empower the leadership in the rural community. Traveling to a different country has opened my mind to be exposed to



*CHAD Team and Helen meet with Srey Mom to offer her this new ministry ...*



*After training at ARI in Japan, Srey Mom applied her new learned skill in her farm...*



*She was trained at ARI (Asian Rural Institute) in Japan. And willing and ready to share her new knowledge to her women constituents.*

different culture and different work environment. My spirituality also deepened as a servant leader and to experience the differences of the development work through the practical learning related to Servant leader, Organic Agriculture, Community Development, peace building, and inter faith culture in ARI.

My life, being a woman, has gone through difficulties, joy, happiness, and success, but with all of these I want to thank our Lord Jesus Christ that He always stay with me every time. God blessed me with His grace and love and blessed me to be the salt and light to the community and to know more about Christ through my actions.

And now God is showing me a new path which is to help the women in the community to become more empowered by sharing to them the skills I learn that God blessed me.

I offer all of these to the glory of God, Jesus Christ, Amen!  
- Srey Mom

### COVID 19 UPDATE

We continue to work with Provincial Health Centers to help them manage Covid 19 and make good relationships with them through CHAD.



### A Worthwhile Wait

*The Lord longs to be gracious to you....Blessed are all who wait for him - Isaiah 30:18.*

We all experienced waiting patiently....especially during the Covid 19 pandemic, like what one of our Cambodian staff said metaphorically, as she helped us in working out in the processing of renewing our official document which had been delayed for months now and caused a lot of entangled problems with our missionaries visas. She said it seems like both our feet are deep in the mud....after we struggled to free one leg so we can step forward....the other leg pushed deeper in the mud and so on.....when will we be totally out of the mud? God said:

*"In repentance and rest .....is your salvation, in quietness and trust.....is your strength." - Isaiah 30:15*

In these times of uncertainty, we can only Trust in Him.  
- Helen

### Please support:

**Cambodia Mission Initiative 00230A** - we Various programs like Mondulkiri retreat centers and Mondulkiri children Ministry and Susannah Wesley Dorms and Women Scholarship

**Women's Livelihood Adv. #3020788**

**And please support our missionaries in Cambodia:**

**Helen de Leon Camarce - Missionary Advance # 13953Z.**

If you have any inquiry about #GivingTuesday, please contact [advance@umcmision.org](mailto:advance@umcmision.org)