

Union Church Missions News  
June 2015 issue 2

# Beautiful Feet

**serving giving going**



Should I  
stay or  
should I  
go?

Short Mission  
Trips explained

## Church Mission Trips. And the point being?

Depending on who you speak to, or listen to in Christian circles, participating in a church mission trip is either a good idea or not. For some, the idea of a group from one culture heading to “help” another group in another culture is just not that, well, helpful. And they are right. To a large degree.



**The** purpose of a mission trip is not to travel across a cultural barrier and offer “destitute” people—either spiritually or materially a better way of doing life or “showing how its done where we come from”. Mission trips should not be a burden on the receiving missionary, local church or organization. There has been a negative rap on mission trips in general because many were organized with this focus—that we have come to “help you”. There is an often unequal partnership where ministry partners are pulled away from their work while the team is in town, and end up having to create a program to suit the visiting partners schedule, resources and particular giftings.

There is also the thought, how much can be done in such a short period? Would it not be more helpful to send funds and have local builders involved in a building or painting project? Or is it really beneficial to visit children over an intensely relational weekend and then leave them, probably never to see them again?

These are all valid questions and arguments. But there are many good reasons to join a cross cultural trip. I would like to share several of them taken from an article by J. Lee Grady .

(Selected from Charisma Magazine, 6:00AM EDT 7/10/2014 J. LEE GRADY 7 Reasons You Should Go on a Short-Term Mission Trip, <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/44600-7-reasons-you-should-go-on-a-short-term-mission-trip>) - go to website to check full article).

### A Mission trip is a time to...

**1. Encounter God's heart.** Our God is big and He cares about the nations. When you step into a foreign mission field, you will sense God's amazing compassion for another culture and you will begin to know Him as Lord of the harvest.

**2. Expand your perspective.** Too many of us are stuck in spiritual ruts. Every now and then we need to step out of our comfort zones and allow God to stretch us

**3. Become more grateful.** There's nothing like spending time with a family of seven in a house made of mud and straw to put our puny problems in perspective.

**4. Discover our spiritual family.** When we minister alongside Christians in another country, we find that the Holy Spirit bonds us together supernaturally.

**5. Build lasting partnerships.** God gives us this strong bond so we will link arms and work for a common purpose across racial and cultural lines

**6. Help to overcome fears** - by doing things you never thought you could—praying for others, and serving them in ways that you weren't used to

**7. Expand the kingdom of Jesus.** By your willingness to go, and love and just share in the life of people from another culture, you go in obedience to the great commission . Christ's kingdom cannot be built without bold, radical obedience to Matthew 28:19: "Go therefore..." Somebody has to GO. There's no way around it. To share the gospel with the whole world, we must be willing to pack our bags sometime and leave home.

**8. Have a wonderful time** meeting people from church and building new friendships

**9. Give families travelling together** a great platform for sharing deeper issues of Faith and the Christian walk  
And finally...

**9. You will be changed!** - your life and idea of ministry will have greatly enlarged because of what you have encountered through new friendships, new experiences and the work of the Holy Spirit in you.



Children love to be visited by teams even if it is only for a day. In Cambodia, there is another sobering reason for a team to visit. Orphans here are commonly looked down on, and often regarded and treated as lowly as animals. But a team visit to a children's home, to love and serve, and play and just spend time with the children, raises their worth in the eyes of the community to give them dignity and honour. Mission trips are not about what we do, but it's what God can do when we make ourselves available to go.

Union Church Missions and Union Youth offer several trips a year, and we would love to have you join us! Look out for trips later this year to China, Philippines and Southern Africa.

# Family

## O C C U S



I asked Jesse and Gwen Sheley to share their experience of the Cambodia Mission Trip 2014

### **What was the focus of the trip?**

The focus of the trip was to visit orphan homes run by FCOPI, to deliver school supplies and uniforms to the children and to introduce the group to the orphan needs in Cambodia.

### **How many people traveled with you?**

Approximately 20 people

### **What was a stand out moment for you on this trip?**

Cambodia was the first mission trip for us, and it helped sensitize our hearts to the physical and spiritual needs of the children in a way that only an in-person experience could. It is truly difficult to grasp the depth of the needs without physically stepping out of your comfort zone once in a while and seeing things for yourself. Actually seeing the smiles of the kids and seeing how their lives are being transformed in spite of the spiritually bankrupt condition of the country after the genocidal reign of the Khmer Rouge, really sensitized our hearts to these needs.

### **How did you as a team experience the Spirit of God during your time in Cambodia?**

In Romans Chapter 1, Paul talks about being mutually encouraged by each others' faith. During this trip, our faith was encouraged by seeing the faith and faithfulness of the group from Union that we travelled with and also everyone that we met in Cambodia working and volunteering for FCOPI and being faithful to their calling to help care for the needy in Cambodia.

### **You are making a second trip in June. What has drawn you and your family to go back?**

We had not anticipated the impact that showing up would have on the lives of the kids. While we could have shipped all of the supplies to the kids, and for sure that is helpful and needed, it was by actually showing up in that remote village

that in some small part validated in a demonstrable way the worth of these children in God's eyes to the kids and the surrounding village. Orphans have a social stigma, and on that day, these kids were the most important and loved kids in the village.

### **Would you recommend this trip to other church families?**

Yes. We made the trip with our then six-year old son, and there were other families on the trip with their children as well. Having children accompany us to the orphan homes really helped to break down the barriers with the Cambodian children.

**Union Church mission ministry supports many wonderful organizations and ministries in Hong Kong and Internationally.**

#### **FCOPI**

#### **FOURSQUARE CHILDREN OF PROMISE**

#### **CAMBODIA**

- Founded by Ted and Sou Olbrich in 1999
- Vision: meeting urgent needs and doing good deeds to bring holistic health to hurting and oppressed people

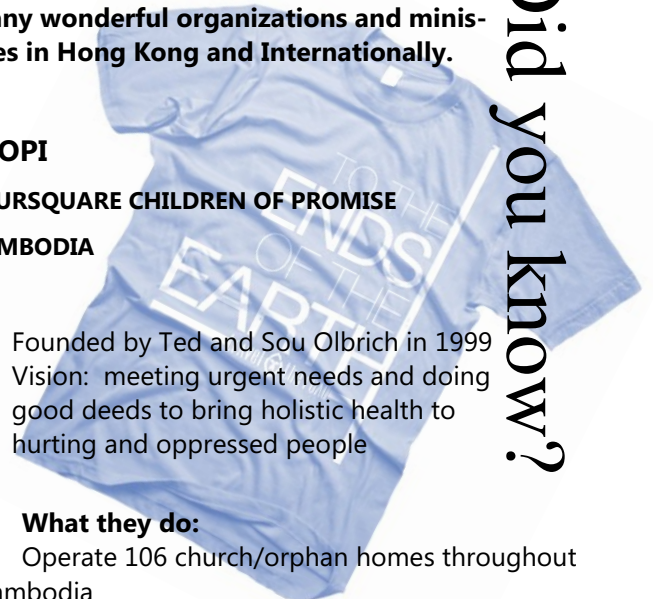
#### **• What they do:**

- \* Operate 106 church/orphan homes throughout Cambodia
- \* Operate and oversee approximately 6,000 churches and home groups as well as train and oversee all the leaders
- \* Care for ~3,000 orphans and separated children each year
- \* Staff ~600 widows (one for every five children we care for)
- \* Rescue, train, equip and release sexually trafficked young women
- \* Provide advance educational training for qualified orphans
- \* Continue the family relationship with 15,000 orphans who have been raised even for a short time in our homes
- \* Provide vocational training and assistance for micro-enterprises
- \* Provide medical and dental care teams to remote areas

Union Church has partnered with FCOPI since 2010, financially supporting a children's home in Pdhau Penh and annually organizing a weekend Trip.

For more information on the next trip or supporting FCOPI, contact Sheryl Nutland - [sherylnutland@hotmail.com](mailto:sherylnutland@hotmail.com)

Did you know?





# GOOD TO GO

**Mission Trips play a big Role in the Youth Program at Union Church. Youth Director Brenna Dykman tells us why.**

## ***Why do you plan youth mission trips?***

It is important to teach youth about our Christian tradition of service, but more important than that, is helping the youth build relationships with the people they are serving so that they can learn from them and that they come to understand that we are all dependent on each other.

## ***What's the fruit long after the trip has ended?***

Youth who go on Mission trips have a very different understanding of poverty. Poverty is no longer a problem of another country but is a problem of their friends. It is something they have seen up close and personal and that changes them.

## ***Stand out moment from a recent trip?***

On our most recent trip we had a group of Sr. High youth spend a week in Mongolia. One stand out moment from that trip was on our last evening there. All the participants shared what they had learned or were going to take away from the trip and the answers were so profound it was truly moving.

## ***Future plans for mission trips?***

We are planning to take youth back to Kid's International Ministry in the Philippines in October for a short mission trip. We also will be taking our normal weeklong mission trip over the Easter Break, 2016. The location of this trip is still to be determined.

**Our annual Youth Banquet and Auction to raise money for youth mission will be Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> 2015.**

**Tickets on sale a month before.**

