



Press Release

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Special deliveries from Sydney help Cambodian baby and Vietnamese children

A mission team from Sydney's Gymea Baptist Church visiting Cambodia has been able to make two very special deliveries this week. One was to a family with a baby born with a cleft palate and the other to a school for children of Vietnamese refugee families.

"This is our second trip to Cambodia," said Paul Summers, co-leader of the team of 19 and Pastor for Missions and Evangelism at Gymea Baptist. "Last year we made contact with Colleen Briggs who runs a school for Vietnamese children right next to where many Vietnamese refugee families live along the Tonle Sap River, just out of the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh," he said.

"When we knew we were going to bring a second team back this year, we asked Colleen what she most needed. Her answer was a computer laboratory," said Paul. "For Colleen, a computer room would help her encourage parents of the children to allow them to stay at school," he said.

For Colleen, this is key. "If we had something that the kids and the parents value, like learning computers, I think the parents may say oh, they're actually going to learn a skill that they can use. Hopefully this will encourage them to stay in school. Right now, some families don't understand why it's important to read and write Kymer, but computers they understand – that's something you can make money from," said Colleen.

Through a contact of the church, the team were able to purchase 10 new Lenovo laptops at a substantially reduced cost. The funds were raised by the 2010 Cambodian Mission team.

"We delivered them this week and Colleen was very pleased," said Paul.

Another request the team received, the day before they left for Cambodia, was for a special baby bottle, used in Australia to help babies born with a cleft palate to feed properly.

"I had an e-mail from a Pediatrician working in Phnom Penh for one of these special

bottles,” said Paul. “He had been contacted by an Australian mid-wife, working in Cambodia, asking if he could source such a bottle from Australia. Apparently they’re not available in Cambodia,” he said.

Although this request was received the day before the team left, Paul contacted team member Linda Chignell, a nurse, who was able to recommend who to contact. With the help of Paul’s wife and mother-in-law, the team received three of the bottles just before they left.

Together with Paul, Linda was one of the team who visited the family to personally deliver the bottles.

“Although it took a few minutes for the two week old baby to get the hang of the new bottle, he soon started to suck and had his first real proper feed,” said Linda. “As we watched him drink, Paul and I realized that God had been involved in each step of the process from that first e-mail through to finding the right contact in Sydney who provided us with the bottle which we were able to deliver personally,” she said.

The team from GyMEA Baptist are also supporting three Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps, run by Samaritan’s Purse and will attend the opening of a new one whilst they’re in Cambodia.

Images and video from the trip are on-line at:

www.cambodia2010.com

For more information: Martin Johnson – E-mail only whilst in Cambodia.

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Images: Team member Linda Chignell with the Cambodian family and the baby.
Adele Ezzy (L) and Richard Dwyer (R) setting up the computer lab.