



CAMBODIA MISSION

8-22 January 2025

APPLICATION PACKET



LifeWay
LUTHERAN CHURCH



CAMBODIA MISSION



"ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME. THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE." **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing your interest in the MT2025: Cambodia Mission Team. This mission trip is our fifth to Cambodia and second working on the ground as we seek to establish LifeWay Cambodia in Kampong Thom province.

LifeWay is deeply committed to establishing meaningful mission partnerships and advancing the Gospel both locally and globally. Through intentional relationships with local organizations and people, we join forces to advance the Kingdom of God and address pressing social, spiritual, and physical needs. It's all part of living Jesus' love, sharing his hope with all, and growing in grace together. Our mission trips reflect our dedication to spreading the love of Christ and making a positive difference in the world.

Cambodia is rebuilding itself, socially, economically and psychologically. However, the scars of the past and signs of the nation's tragic history are still very evident and have left behind broken families and a legacy of trauma which will take decades to heal.

The people of Cambodia are among the poorest in the world, trying to rebuild a country where most of the governmental and social structures were destroyed. Most of the educated people, especially men in the country, were killed in the Red Communist purge which makes the rebuilding an overwhelming task.

There are still many families, especially in rural areas who do not value or see the need for education. Many look to Buddhism for hope.

CAMBODIA



98%
BUDDHIST



1%
MUSLIM



KHMER
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE



17 MILLION
POPULATION

SOME FACTS ABOUT CAMBODIA:

- Only 1% of Cambodia is Christian. Some will say it is as high as 4% now but many of the older churches are closing as there are no leaders to continue the ministry.
- Only 20% of villages have a Church
- 59% of households occupy only one room
- 72% of households still use firewood for cooking
- Primary education costs on average \$140 US a year
- Tonlé Sap river is the only river in the world that flows in 2 directions in a year.
- Fish Amok is Cambodia's national dish – it's a fish curry custard steamed in banana leaves!
- There is still no McDonalds in Cambodia!
- There are still several million active landmines that are buried through the rural countryside.
- Angkor Wat is an UNESCO heritage site and the largest religious monument in the world at 162.6 ha



TONLE SAP RIVER



FISH AMOK



LANDMINES



ANGKOR WAT



Cambodia is a country that has great need. But the good news is that our God specializes in meeting the greatest of needs, and making beautiful things out of ruins and ashes. His promise is clear:

**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"
DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER
YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE
YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE." JEREMIAH 29:11**

We have seen God doing that in Cambodia, through Pastor Vibol who has a heart and passion to bring the hope of the Gospel to the people there. You can be part of that journey in living hope through our presence and actions in the community there.

Our next Mission Trip will continue to work in the village of Chong Doung, on the outskirts of Kampong Thmar in the Kampong Thom province. It is the community where Pastor Vibol is actively working to plant a new church community that shares the love and hope of Jesus. This area is where Pastor Vibol and his wife Sokry grew up, so they are committed to bringing the Gospel to this community. Vibol's story in itself is amazing – a mum who brought Vibol to Christ and a Dad who is a Buddhist Teacher, which means that Vibol is able to speak in those circles too! Our role is to encourage and support Vibol and Sokry in their work.



PASTOR VIBOL

WHY GO ON A MISSION TRIP?



USE YOUR GIFTS TO SERVE OTHERS

Use your time, skills and resources to help fulfill the spiritual and physical needs of others. You'll learn to care as you put others before yourself.



EXPERIENCE GOD IN YOUR LIFE

Step out of your comfort zone and allow God to grow your faith as you see him at work through, in and around yourself and your team.



GAIN A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Meet people in other countries and see the world through their eyes. Learn about their culture, views and what brings them joy.

On our next trip, we will be involved in running some programs for students as well as painting and improving facilities at one of the local schools (the particular work may change over the course of this year – we go with what the locals most need!). It is also the first time we will be going to Cambodia in January, so hopefully it is not as hot and humid as we have experienced on our other trips.

Thinking about joining a Mission Trip is an exciting time. It is a bit scary, but it is an adventure and journey that we know you will look back on and remember for a lifetime. There is no greater joy than to witness God at work as we live out his call to love and serve others.

But it is not just about you. It's also a wonderful time for our Church community to partner with you. As you share why you want to be involved in the Mission Trip, ask them to pray for you and to financially support you and contribute to the project, you involve them in the journey and stretch their hearts to love the things God loves.

So what can you expect?

- You will experience God's presence in a fresh way and see your faith from a whole different vantage point
- You will meet and learn to communicate with people from a different language and see a faith that is vibrant and active in service
- You will have the opportunity to serve others and see what a difference that makes in their lives.

But most of all you will come away from the experience feeling that you have received more than you have given and been blessed more than you have been a blessing! You will be amazed at how great and awesome our God and Father in heaven is.

As you consider joining the team, we want you to know that you are in our prayers too. Please take the time to read through all the information in this package. Pray about it and submit your application as soon as possible.

Should you need any further information, please contact me on 0418 823 950 or via email to mission@lifeway.net.au.

In Christ's Service,

Mark Schultz

Mark Schultz

LEAD PASTOR AND
MISSION TRIP LEADER



MISSION TRIP ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY

Depart Sydney
Arrive Phnom Penh

THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY

Visit Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum/killing fields to understand Cambodia

FRIDAY 10TH JANUARY

Program at Tang Krang for students

SATURDAY 11TH - SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY

Travel to Kampong Thmar

SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY

Worship/sight seeing

MONDAY 20TH JANUARY

Depart for Siem Reap

TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY

Angkor Wat tour/Evening Debrief tour

WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY

Depart Cambodia – arrive back in Sydney
Thursday morning January 23rd.

COST

\$3200 person (ex Sydney)

This includes all transport, transfer, hotel accommodation in Cambodia, lunches while working in the village, travel insurance and the sightseeing tours. It also includes a donation of \$200 towards the projects we will be working on in the villages.

For those coming from interstate or country NSW that need domestic flights into Sydney, this is an additional cost. If you would like us to organise those domestic flights in conjunction with your international flight, please let us know.

Evening Meals are additional (but for \$5-7 a meal, you can get a good feed in the village).

Payment is required in full as the airfares, buses and accommodation need to be paid for by the end of May/early June. If that is an issue, please contact Pastor Mark to discuss.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE APPLICATION



1

Prayerfully work through and fill in the **online application form**, via the link below:

**CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE
APPLICATION FORM**

Please submit by 12th May 2024.

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Mark Schultz : phone/text 0418 823 950 or email mark.schultz@lifeway.net.au

If you are under 18 years of age, you should share your thoughts with your parent(s) about why you want to be a part of the Short Term Mission Team. Take into account their perspective as well. After you have submitted your application, we will send a parental consent form to your parents to sign.

If you do not have a valid passport you should begin to obtain one soon. You should have a passport that will be valid for 6 months after the trip. Also leave enough time to have all your vaccinations.

2

Fill in the **online questionnaire** via the link below. **Please submit by 12th May 2024.**

**CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE
QUESTIONNAIRE**

3

Make payment via Direct Transfer to:

Account Name: **LifeWay**
BSB: **704-942** | Account No: **100907415**
Reference: **Your name MT2025**

OR via Redde at lifeway.net.au/give

Select Cambodia MT2025 from the dropdown menu

Please note, there are transaction costs incurred with this payment method.