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Bible Society NSW Cambodian projects up and running

Local partnerships bearing fruit for the Gospel

“Two Bible Society NSW projects in Cambodia are making a significant difference to villages and communities in the country,” said CEO, Daniel Willis. “Four of our Bible Society NSW staff visited seven remote villages and communities last week to see and film the projects first hand,” he said.

“**Our ZVox Project** is run in conjunction with Samaritan’s Purse,” said Daniel. “Their local Cambodian staff have identified villages that will benefit the most from the ZVox audio player,” he said.

The ZVox audio player, developed by US company, Voice for Humanity, has no moving parts and is designed to be used in remote communities with no access to mains power. The ZVox device can hold up to 500 hours of recorded material on a memory chip. The ZVox players delivered to Cambodia contain audio chapters on subjects such as; ‘Discipleship: Evangelism and character stories’, ‘Forming groups that pray’, ‘Stories of hope for women’, plus ‘HIV/AIDS: Foundational truths’ and ‘HIV/AIDS: There is hope’ and ‘Health lessons’. Each of the audio recordings have been made by native Khmer speakers and ZVox recipients are trained in their use by Samaritan’s Purse Cambodian staff.

“We were amazed at how enthusiastic local pastors and village elders were about the ZVox player,” said Communications Manager, Martin Johnson – one of the team who visited Cambodia. “They picked up the technology really quickly and were keen to get listening groups together as soon as possible so they could play the Bible story chapters to them,” he said.

The team visited the Kampong Chhnang province, north-east of Phnom Penh visiting Oknhapang Village, Chrolongkok village, where they filmed the training of trainers and Tumnup village. They also traveled south to Takeo province, where they filmed the training of trainers and the listening group in Prawmeng village.

The second Cambodia project supported by Bible Society NSW donors is run in conjunction with Bible Society Cambodia.

The Bible Society of Cambodia has been partnering with local churches to provide literacy training to the disadvantaged, with particular focus in rural areas. Over the

next three years, the project will reach 8,100 people, enabling them to read the Scriptures for their own personal growth and contribute to the development of their communities.

During the week the team visited the Svay Rieng area, south-east of Phnom Penh, travelling for three hours to reach a remote village, surrounded by rice paddies.

“We were met by over 50 students, both children and adults, who were meeting in the church,” said Johnson. “One group of three women were able to show us how their training had equipped them to read their copy of the Khmer New Testament which was given to them by Bible Society Cambodia, at the end of their course. To hear them read from Mark’s Gospel and tell us they felt ‘moved in their hearts’, was a wonderful way of seeing the impact of the course,” he said.

These projects are two of the more than 20 projects developed by Bible Society NSW in conjunction with local in-country partners.

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(Pictures are available on request.)