

## **The Cambodian School Project (Roger's View): July, 2018**

**The Past:** Sarith and I started CSP in the 1990's. In 2002, with Gray's help, we incorporated as a non-profit. By now (2018) we have built 6 schools and support 2 more. Every year, each student at these schools gets a school uniform, each teacher gets a cash bonus. We fund annual building improvements at every school.

In 2010, we built JHP Technical School. Our partners in this are from the Czech Republic. Their support honors two teachers who taught the truth when Czechia was occupied by the communists. JHP Skola has graduated over 250 young adults and 40 students attend this year. Every JHP graduate has been placed in a good job.

**The Present:** Our yearly budget is now over \$50,000, with JHP taking up more than half of that. Donations may have peaked – we were \$20,000 behind last year in fund raising this spring. The schools themselves are doing a good job - attendance and graduation are still up. We need new sources of funding to keep this going.

Nick Carderella has produced a video appeal for funding and made two video progress reports. This has raised \$3,000 through GoFundMe. We should continue to improve our skills at this form of fund raising and recruit Nick for our Board.

**The Future:** We are in transition. We need to cover some of the things I did and we need new energy on the Board and new projects to keep us engaged and make this fun. Mailed Progress Reports and a holiday card need to be supplemented by social media. We are the real deal. If we can organize to get and distribute high quality videos, I think we can engage and encourage long-term repeat donors.

**First Priority:** We can (through Kouy) provide interesting images and narratives about our project. I am hoping that Nick will join our Board and that he and Kelly will organize putting some stories together to show donors just how cool we are.

**Second Priority: Someone to make the next annual visit to Cambodia.** We need someone to communicate regularly with Sarith. We need a willing culture broker who knows enough about the project they can let the Board know what's really going on. I asked Brian to think about doing this.

**Third Priority: Someone to help Kouy develop language skills.** Kouy needs regular practice in English. He's proven his intelligence and good character. We need someone from the Board to put in the time and energy to help him improve his English. We need someone to befriend and get to know him, serve as his mentor.

**Summary:** Our project is well underway and still going very well. We are doing what we said we would do and it is working. Funding, however, is shrinking. To sustain our project we need new sources of revenue. We also need to visit Cambodia annually and we should help Kouy develop his communication skills. **To do all this, we need three energetic board members – we may have to recruit.** Our project is the real deal. We should continue to develop it and see where it goes.