

FIRST CAMBODIAN PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRY

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Dear Partners in Ministry,

VALIDATED MINISTRY

First Cambodian Presbyterian Ministry, validated by the Presbytery of Olympia on September 21, 2006, is becoming a reality. It is good to be this far along in the process with a growing number of partners. May this ministry be a blessing to many.

THANKS

Thanks to all who helped get this ministry started, especially

The Presbytery of Olympia Executive Presbyter, Rev. Longfield, Presbytery Council, COM, Rev. David Alger, Moderator of Presbytery and also CEO of Associated Ministries, for moving this project along and making the necessary commitments,

Rev. David Hackett for bringing an awareness of ministry opportunities among the Cambodian population in Tacoma to the attention of presbytery,

NCPC (National Cambodian Presbyterian Council), SEAAC (Southeast Asian Advisory Committee), and NAPC (National Asian Presbyterian Council) for their prayers and encouragement,

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tacoma for sharing office space and a place for meetings,

David Hillis, CEO of Northwest Leadership Foundation, for his advice and encouragement,

Radha Manickam, President of Cambodian Ministries for Christ, International, for helping me know the Cambodian community better,

Rev. Binh Nguyen, Coordinator of Southeast Asian Ministries for the Presbytery of Seattle and Chair of SEAAC, for being a gracious host on my visits and helping me know his area in nearby Renton, and

Cambodian families and friends in Tacoma for welcoming me into various homes for overnight fellowship, sharing their good food and helping me see their community through their eyes. Some of them are recognized leaders in the Cambodian community.

MINISTRY UPDATE

Presbytery already set up a three-person accountability group for me. I have connected with almost all the churches suggested by Presbytery Moderator Rev. David Alger. I have met some community leaders, teachers, schools, charity agencies, college students,

Cambodian youth in the housing projects of a target area, and others. The Cambodian community is mostly Buddhist and appears to be growing. With some exception, the Cambodian community struggles with economic issues and all the social problems that go with it, including gangs. On Sundays a Leadership Committee meets at Westminster Presbyterian Church and includes Cambodian adults and youth, a Laotian, and African Americans.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, a church within the target area, is a key partner in this ministry by providing a place for us to get started. Some Cambodians are within walking distance. At present there is a generous schedule of shared office space through the week and opportunity for meetings and fellowship on weekends. So it is possible for me to schedule things like family consultations as well as to start bringing the Cambodian community together. Our partnership is off to a good start.

VIDEO and/or DVD

In January 2007 a Video and/or DVD will be available on the healing process of sharing grief. I was one of the people interviewed because of my experiences in the Killing Fields of Cambodia, 1975-1979. I spent ages 7-11 doing slave labor in the rice fields. The topic of my doctoral dissertation was on the healing process within the Cambodian Community. I expect to have purchase information by the time of our next newsletter.

MOVING

I am negotiating for a suitable three-bedroom home in the right area with an asking monthly rent of \$1200 plus \$800 deposit. That is hard on my budget, but not as hard as other possible places. We hope to move around November 15.

FUNDING

I submitted a modest budget to COM as requested by Presbytery and it was accepted. This is the last year for a possible denominational grant, but the funds have already been distributed. That means we must raise more financial support quickly. If you know any church, foundation or person interested in supporting this ministry, please let us know. Checks may be made out to the Presbytery of Olympia, Account # 8404, and mailed to:

Presbytery of Olympia	Account # 8404
15508 Portland Avenue	Tax ID # available on request
S.W. Lakewood, WA 98498	Ministry Phone: (253) 678-7903

PRAYER REQUESTS

Growing prayer and financial support,
Unity and healing in the Cambodian Community,
My family and finding a place to live,
Finding a job for my wife who is an electronics technician, and
A laptop computer compatible with a program in Khmer (Cambodian).

In His Service,

Rev. Dr. Sahara V. Chea

