In the early 1970s, gun boat #2619 was commissioned in the Soviet Union to be sent to Cambodia to fight the infamous Pol Pot, who massacred almost 2 million of his own people in an effort to destroy the country's 2000 year old culture and build a communist utopia.

Communists fighting communists, the Vietnamese recruited by the current prime minister of Cambodia and aided by the Soviets pushed Pol Pot's army into the northwestern corner of the country and held him there until his death in 1999.

This gun boat fought in those battles up the Mekong River and across the Tonle Sap Lake. Now Navy surplus, they sold it to us and it has just been rebuilt and outfitted to serve as our ambulance, transporting critical patients to the mainland, and our supply boat which can navigate the strong storms with three foot waves that suddenly come up on the lake. At times, these storms have kept our crew from leaving the safety of the ship. In case of emergencies, this boat, Ship of Life II, can carry us across the lake to hospitals on the mainland. We can also haul supplies (food, parts for the ship and personnel) without worrying about safety when the weather changes.

The total cost is less than a good used car - $20,000 - plus an additional $5,000 for refurbishing and registration. Your partnership gifts make this possible.
Detecting Perceived Needs

After meeting with the ten village chieftains of Kompong Khleang Commune (county) where our water purification raft has been providing pure water for the last six months, we then spent two weeks going to each of the ten villages for meetings with the people to talk about the things which concerned them most. We thought we knew but wanted to be sure we weren’t overlooking the things they thought were most important.

Did we get a surprise! Yes, they were concerned about health, education and water, but their GREATEST CONCERN was the safety of their children traveling to and from school in their little boats. “Each year” they said, “our children are drowned on the way to school. Their boats capsize due to storms or other boats making waves and they drown.” For this reason some don’t send their kids to school and others wait until they are 10 to 13 years old and they are strong swimmers.

You can provide a life jacket for a school child that may save his life for only $5. It will certainly make it possible for them to go to school and they can start young and get an education. Educators tell us that if a child does not learn to read by the time they are in the third grade they will always be educationally challenged and probably drop out of school.

There are 1500 school-aged children in this one county that we want to put in life jackets. There are more than 10,000 in the thirty floating villages around the Tonle Sap Lake that need life vests.

WILL YOU HELP?
The new work we have begun on the Tonle Sap Lake has many needs and we are attempting to meet the ones that will have the greatest impact in improving people’s lives and thereby show them God’s love.

1. The first thing we did was put the water filtration/church building raft there to provide pure water for 12,000 people who had been drinking “the most contaminated water ever encountered” according to Steven Uhde, who works for New Life International, the water filtration company. Steven came from Indiana to help us install the system. New Life installs systems around the world in places like Haiti, Central America and Africa.

2. Saving mothers and newborns is our second undertaking. More than 100 babies are born each month in this little clinic but they have almost nothing to work with. When there are complications, the only hope for survival of mother and child is to get them to the District Hospital, but that hospital is miles away over dangerous water with poisonous snakes and submerged trees which can stick through the bottom of little boats when they can’t see them at night.

The health clinic owns a 18 ft. fiberglass boat but the outboard motor has been out of commission for months and so there has been no way to get these mothers to the hospital quickly. When we saw the boat and inquired, they told us they had no funds to get it repaired. We loaded it in the pickup and took it to Phnom Penn where we were told it was beyond repair.

Our capable assistant Somnang immediately went out and found a used motor that we could buy for $899.

When we told the clinic director and asked him if they could help with the purchase he went throughout the village and collected $100 (This came from families that earn less than $100 per year). We immediately committed to help them get the engine, thanks to your help!
Bill McDonough at the Hannah’s Hope Children’s Home in Siem Reap, Cambodia spending time with Daniel and Sopean. Sopean is 5 years old (in the blue shirt) and was born with his intestines exposed and no genitals.

When his mother saw him she fled the hospital believing a curse had been placed on her and her child by an evil spirit. She abandoned him without leaving an address or any contact information. Hospital staff at the Angkor Children’s Hospital in Siem Reap, Cambodia, kept him and performed multiple surgeries. The wonderful nurses even took him home with them at nights and on weekends after he recovered.

As he became older they were unable to keep him at the hospital because he roamed the halls, so they approached the orphanage who adopted him. Here he receives loving Christian caregivers who will also see that he gets an education. He will wear an ostomy bag for the rest of his life and they are very expensive and difficult for the orphanage to provide with their limited funds.

If you can help us by getting suppliers to donate these bags, it would be a tremendous service. They can send them to our North Little Rock office, PO Box 13989, Maumelle, AR 72113 or to the physical address - 3 Windsong Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72113.

You may send your gift through Paypal by going to www.partnersinprogress.org.