THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2016 has been another wonderful year for you, partnering with us, to make a tremendous impact on our world.

Together we have treated 40,000 patients on the Ship of Life in Cambodia, fitted several hundred pairs of glasses, provided 281 Infant and Mother Packets, delivered 355,951 liters of pure water to more than 8,000 people, installed three new water purification plants where people were drinking from ponds, fed two tons of rice to the hungry and provided more than 500 pillowcase dresses and 200 pairs of shorts to boys and girls who had little.

Together we provided Bible training seminars to 112 Christians from the delta region of Burma (Myanmar) at which 28 new Christians were added to the kingdom. We continued earthquake relief in Nepal, building housing, providing food and pure water and evangelism through local brethren. Countless people obeyed the gospel across seven countries.

Together we are helping European churches reach Islamic refugees with the gospel.

Without you, this could not have happened.

82 European Church Leaders from 20 Nations attend Refugee Ministry Workshop sponsored by Partners in Progress in Athens, Greece

In the first 500 years following the death of Mohammed, there is no historical record of a single Muslim converting to Christianity. Now, due to world events, thousands are seeking Christ and our European brethren are trying to reach them for Christ.

As millions of refugees poured into Europe from the Middle East, Partners In Progress seized the opportunity to encourage and train Central and Northern European church leaders to reach out to them with the gospel. Brethren in Athens, Greece, are successfully baptizing, disciplining and training new Arabic converts to evangelize among their own people when they reach their final destinations in Europe. In light of this, we brought 82 church leaders to Athens to experience firsthand what was being done in an effort to encourage and train them to do likewise. Five days were spent listening to and seeing what brethren in Athens were doing. We asked questions, worked side by side and listened to them explain what they were doing and how to go about it. Partnering with local evangelist Dino Roussos, who organized the program for European church leaders, they saw how close cooperation, coupling humanitarian relief with evangelism, brought amazing results.

Understanding the value of bringing leaders to Athens, PIP also knew many could not afford to come, so Partners In Progress arranged to cover the hotel, food and other conference expenses for two leaders from any congregation who could get there. The overwhelming responses proved the need and desire.

Attendees said, “If I had not experienced this firsthand, I would not have had the courage to work with the Islamic refugees, but now I’m going home with courage and a plan to begin reaching out to them.” “I learned that a straightforward approach, introducing myself as Christian while showing love and concern for the refugees opened the door to sharing the gospel.” “I learned I had nothing to fear as the refugees were seeking friends and kindness.” “This prepared me to begin a refugee ministry in my home city where thousands of Islamic refugees have settled.”

YOU helped make this possible and thereby are helping to change the world as together we send the gospel to Islamic peoples in Europe.
Kompong Khleang Continues to be Impacted with the Gospel

The church on the water purification raft continues to be a light among the 10,000 people that reside in Kompong Khleang. With the Siem Reap Bible School now working regularly with them, they are growing spiritually and numerically. People come to the raft for pure water and receive God’s Good News. The water distribution continues to grow.

The Combination – “Pure Water with Living Water”

A record 3,344 people came to get 20,024 liters of water last month, and we were able to witness to them all about the Lord.

New Mother and Infant Packages

The New Mother and Infant Package program continues to bless the community in the name of the Lord and provides comfort to some of the poorest people in the world. When new mothers leave the birthing clinic at Kompong Khleang, most of them don’t have clothes or even a receiving blanket to take their child home in, but now the Lord is using many of you who partner with us to send them home with new pajamas, onsies, a diaper bag and a beautiful receiving blanket. The Commune Chief (Mayor) has repeatedly thanked us for your gifts.

Between January and September you have provided 281 packets to those who could not afford basics for their babies.
When our Back To School (B2S) program came to an end in central Cambodia, we had worked eight years and had a strong presence in 24 villages, with 10 of them also having a mobile library called “The Book Club.” Closing it was a hard but necessary decision, as we were relocating to the north of the country to help there. Our B2S manager, who graduated from University, was leaving us for a work more related to his training. It was hard to say goodbye to the hundreds of children. We knew the nutrition program would continue the contact, as well as the Bible School’s students, but still… Although we may know God has a plan for each one of us, seeds had been planted in those children for more than 10 years. We never stopped praying for them, and God recently showed me a bright ray of hope.

As we drove into the parking lot of the church building in Siem Reap, many happy faces were there, waving at us on our first Sunday since our furlough trip to the USA. One girl especially caught my attention because she was smiling and waving, so happy to see me, but I had no idea who she was! Ok, the Church is not more than 60 members, with 80% being children and hugging your neck all the time, not letting you forget their name for a minute! But this one child was new to me, although I was not new to her! I stepped down from the car, greeting her and hoping she didn’t notice my puzzled look. “You don’t remember me?” she said, “I am Phady!” I was still puzzled. “Phady from the Book Club in Troupea Chrov!”

How in the world was this young lady (now 21 years old) living with two of our dear Cambodian sisters who moved from Phnom Penh years ago? Phady’s English was now beautiful, and we soon made time to meet over ice cream to fill in the gaps. I thank God for using all of us to plant the seed, water it and make it grow. I cannot say when God started working on Phady’s heart, but I remember when I met her through the Book Club and B2S program. I was amazed how she and her sister could do so well in school and be so determined to study, with miles to go every morning on the bicycle they had earned through reading so many books in our Book Club. Her older sister Thida became a book monitor and encouraged her to read and read and read. Their mother, Sambo, was also very impressive and was a positive influence, pushing them to study. They lived in a modest hut; father and mother were day laborers, working in the fields from dawn to night.

A year prior to the closing of the B2S program, Thida (the oldest of 6 children) graduated from 12th grade, the first person in their village ever to accomplish that. Then when her father passed away, their mother started to attend church with the whole family. There is not a church in her village, so she rides with the church truck to the neighboring village of Thom Thom (the first village church, planted by missionary Bob Berard, through our relief work following a huge flood in the region).

Phady didn’t think she could complete high school because she needed to work until God stepped in, again using our good sister and friend, Minea, who often helped us on her days off from work by translating and passing out school packages to the children. When the program ended, she brought a team of Christians from Singapore who were looking for a benevolent project for their youth group to visit those kids. They noticed Phady and saw she needed help to finish high school and stepped in. They wanted to send her to the university, but Minea knew Phnom Penh was a big, wild city for a village girl, so she invited Phady to share her little house, where she lives with her two sisters.

Phady is taking an English course now to be able to enter a better university in the smaller town of Siem Reap and improve her chances for a better future. She attends Siem Reap Church and is involved in all the activities that Minea and her sister Tony always participate in with the church-sponsored orphanage, cooking for them, training them and playing together. They also go to surrounding villages and to the Tonle Sap Lake to bring clothes and school supplies for the poor children. Phady, who appreciates how she has been blessed, is delighted to continue to be able to bless others!
Burma Work Moving Forward

Plans are for us to increase the efforts to evangelize the nation of Burma (Myanmar) in the days ahead because we know from experience that the window of “newfound openness” will not last long and things will return to “Status Quo.” More efforts toward evangelism and church planting are on our agenda for the next few years in order to take advantage of the new government’s policies of openness and the people’s new interest in the scriptures.

With your help, the installation of three new water purification systems took place in June and the ongoing teaching program of the Delta churches in Burma are continuing to produce growth. Partners In Progress team members Kevin Carson and Phanat Ouch recently conducted a Bible Seminar for 58 persons and eight new souls were added to the church during that event. God willing, we will be going there in February and plan to visit the Delta churches as well as other key cities to begin planning for evangelistic efforts to sow the seed and establish congregations in the days ahead. Most of the 58 million souls in this nation have never heard the Good News and live without hope. Your prayers on their behalf are requested.