

Newsletter

High Tower Ministries

The Lord is our Rock, Our Refuge and High Tower

June/July 2006

Dear Friends,

We send our greetings from Cambodia, along with the hope this update finds everyone enjoying the start of their summer. We made it through the hottest part of our dry season and are enjoying the respite brought by the early rains of the coming wet season.

This past February was a special month for High Tower Ministries. We enjoyed a visit from our leadership of Bykota Church and also Church of the Nations. With this encouragement and focus High Tower stepped into the next level of ministry in Cambodia. HTM is now a fully recognized NGO or Non-Governmental Agency and has three well defined projects underway.



-**Bykota House** - Our residential Children's Home that will serve up to 25 children in-need.

-**Cambodia Orphan Aid** - Our outreach into orphanages throughout Cambodia.

-**Shepherd's Crook** - is High Tower's way of caring for children and families deemed at-risk.

Bykota House began March 12th when the first seven children transferred to us from AOA orphanage. As we're working on this update, we can hear the children of Bykota House beginning a new day with a breakfast of "baw-baw" or rice porridge with meat and garlic, a favorite of them all. When we began writing this update Bykota House (BH) had nine children, with the addition of sisters Bopha and Chompa, we are now at eleven children. BH now has four girls and seven boys, the youngest of which is a four-year old boy nicknamed "Bee".



Bee, like most orphans, has a story to tell. Having survived four years of abuse and several attempts to end his life at the hands of his mother, Bee has now found a safe place here at Bykota House. He has adjusted very well and become the favorite of many. He attends a Christian pre-school run by a team of YWAM members and really enjoys each day to its fullest.

Cambodia Orphan Aid (COA) our ministry to specific orphanages continues to do well. In April, to celebrate Resurrection Sunday, the children of Bykota House performed specially prepared program of songs for the children of AOA orphanage. We took out special treats of fruit and vitamin-fortified soy milk, and the Bykota Kids made each a gift bag of hard candies. Each month COA makes deliveries of

food, milk and fruit in an effort to enhance the nutritional intake of these orphans. Food delivery was also made to KAOA Orphanage so that the children there could enjoy the season as well.



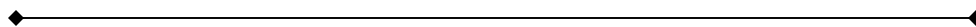
Beginning last week Cambodia Orphan Aid began a dental program by which each child at AOA Orphanage will receive the dental services needed. This very large endeavor is being assisted by Interns Esther Smith and her brother Malachi. Esther and Malachi are brother and sister to four adopted Cambodian siblings.

In addition to having teeth filled or pulled, Esther is continuing the training in proper dental care and teeth brushing.



In the near future we would like to see each child receive proper vaccinations. We anticipate a budget for this project of \$3,000 US Gifts can be designated accordingly.

Through our **Shepherd's Crook** ministry Mark has been working with doctors and sponsors in Singapore to get medical attention for an AOA orphan suffering with Cataracts. It is a team effort really with Pastor Paul Youen from Singapore heading up the fundraising and making arrangements with medical staff. On the Cambodia side there is the issue of obtaining government approval and a passport for the young boy to travel. Please agree with us in prayer that the government will be gracious and grant approval for travel.



On a personal note our family is excited with the visit of our son Steven, daughter Rebekah, and Rhonda's mother Jane. In addition to exploring Cambodia, each has stepped into helpful roles at Bykota House and High Tower Ministries.



-Beki – lead the children in a sewing class since her love is quilting. She began at the basics of threading a needle and sewing on a button. The children are enjoying the class, yes, even the boys!

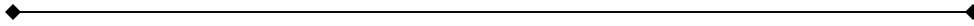
-Steven - Our die-hard military guy, has begun daily stretching and calisthenics. The children LOVE it! In fact, Steven is often hard-pressed to be heard over the giggles.

Rhonda's mom has always been "Granny" to our kids and this is how the Bykota Kids saw her too. They have really enjoyed her visit, when her lap was empty another child would sit down and soak up the hugs she had to offer.

-Kati - is stepping more into her role of household manager each day. She keeps the purse and tracks expenses, assigns duties to the Khmer staff and schedules out the day. She is focused on learning Khmer and adds vocabulary on a daily basis as she must interact with the Cambodian staff members.

-Danielle - is on her third month as English Instructor. Each weekday the children study English for one hour and learn more and more. Being a bi-lingual house we each are mixing the two languages in our efforts to speak and learn as much about the other as we can. Danielle is not as pleased with her Khmer as Kati, as so much of her time is speaking in English.

We know many of you have heard of Danielle's medical evacuation to Bangkok for surgery. As is the case in emergencies it was sudden and may have been over before some of you found out. But either way we want to thank you for keeping our family in your prayers each and every day.



<http://www.hightowerministries.net> is where you will find additional detail on each of our three ministry projects. On this site we have also posted a list of current needs for Bykota House and High Tower Ministries.

To receive our newsletters by email please let us know via email to: info@hightowerministries.net

In the United States, donations can be directed to:
High Tower Ministries
PO Box 535,
Carthage, MO 64836.
If you wish to designate a gift please include a note expressing your wishes.

On our last item The Mark Benz family is proud to announce the nuptials of Steven Nathaniel Benz and Dany Mohan.

Most of you will know Dany as basically "our right hand" during our first year and a half here in Cambodia. We will miss her help here but stand amazed at how God has orchestrated the meeting of the new couple and we have enjoyed watching the bloom of their love.



The two were joined in matrimony after a year's engagement on May 27, 2006, at New Life Fellowship, Phnom Penh Cambodia. The new couple spent a week of honeymoon on the Gulf of Thailand, and are now both back to work at High Tower Ministries until in August when they will travel to the couple's new home in Rolla, Missouri USA!

The couple is planning a small service to be conducted at Bykota Church in Carthage, Missouri following their return. If you wish to send a card please use their temporary mailing address: 5425 S. Honeysuckle; Battlefield, MO 65619-9350

Thanks from us all, and remember to pray daily for Cambodia and your High Tower Ministries Team!