

Extreme Love



A quarterly newsletter from **Extreme Love Ministries**

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OUR MISSION is to partner together to restore social justice and destiny in individuals and regions through outreach, events, advocacy, business, community development and gospel ministry.

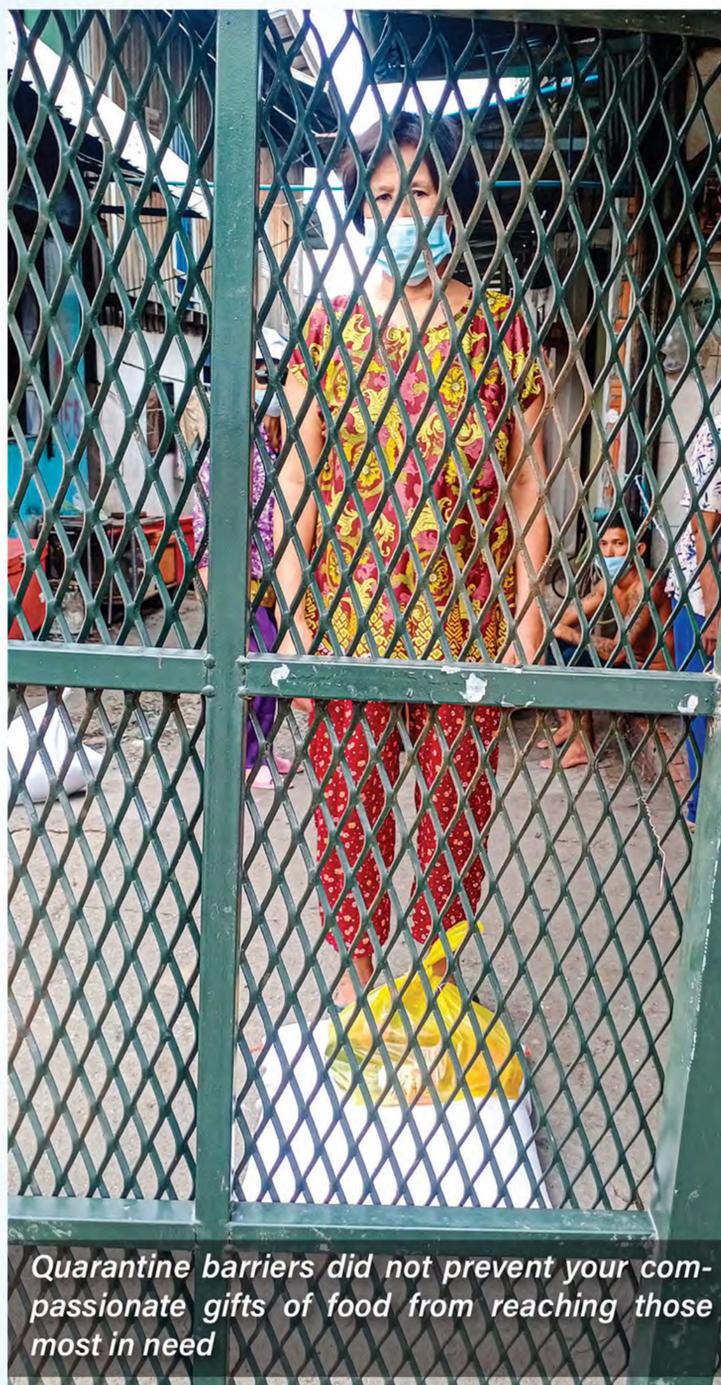
NOTE: The names of those who have been exploited have been changed to protect them from re-exploitation.

Riding the Covid Comet

Tough times, but you've stood by our side, believing God

YOU EITHER LOVED THEM OR HATED THEM.

IF YOU HAVE MEMORIES OF RIDING ROLLERCOASTERS IN THE SUMMERS OF YOUR YOUTH, YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.



Quarantine barriers did not prevent your compassionate gifts of food from reaching those most in need

Much of this year Cambodia has felt like a rollercoaster ride on the "Covid Comet." Outbreaks have cycled up and down many times, and so have the government's responses as they've tried to keep up.

Rolling community lock-downs have resulted, causing many to suffer hunger and the deprivation of other basic needs. Meeting those needs has been difficult, but God has been faithful, giving us strategies and opening doors, literally, so that we can help.

Testimonies keep rolling in, too, letting us know Jesus is touching hearts through it all. The relationships you've helped us build in slum communities are bearing fruit.

Buckle your seatbelt and turn the page as we share some of this season's thrilling ups and downs!

Summer | 2021

My Thoughts

By Andrea Aasen, Director of Extreme Love Ministries

Isn't it reassuring to know that God is sovereign? I find nothing more comforting than knowing that we can rest in His name as the One who is almighty and sovereign over all. No matter what comes against us, *He is still in control and is constantly working ALL things for good!*

As you've noticed, we're using the theme of rollercoasters in this issue to describe the ups and downs of the last few months. From new Covid laws and regulations, to adjustments within our team and operations, to fires and floods at our Hope House shelter for kids—and our most recent challenge of recovering from Covid in a third-world nation with mandated quarantine centers with our kids—it's been quite unsettling!

Yet all the while, we have seen such incredible victories! God amazes me by the way He has used these situations to bring about healing, restoration, and His strategic, "new" ways of doing things. There is so much good happening all around, and **God took advantage of these challenges to get us where He wants us to be.**

It's a good reminder for us all: When facing a challenge, look around. **Look deep into what God is doing, and look for the good.** What is God doing through our challenges to bring about His plan? Imagine how, in just one trial, He can reorder people and situations for good. *His ways are not our ways* (Isaiah 55:8-9)—thank God for that ☺!

Remain thankful. We are praising God for this incredible season of restoration and new things. **And we are praising God for you, too, and for all He is doing in your life.**

Andrea



Our wild ride . . . but God remains faithful!

When 2021 arrived, we were thrilled to be in a new location for Hope House, one that suits the needs of the children much better than our former home.

But tragedy struck in the spring when monsoon rains came early, catching us off guard. Hope House flooded, ruining everything that sat on the floor.

We were not long recovered from the flood when tragedy struck again—this time it was fire! Thankfully, no one was hurt.

God's people responded generously, enabling us to get restoration crews to work. As you read this, our Hope House kids should be back at home. **Thank you to all who helped make this possible!**



At top, early monsoon rains flooded our new Hope House in the spring, followed by fire a few weeks later that gutted several rooms and destroyed most of what had not been ruined in the flood. **Generous partners like you helped us get restoration work underway.**



Quarantines throughout much of Phnom Penh meant we were often cut off from ministering to those hit hardest by the pandemic: our beloved friends in the city's urban slums.

Thankfully, your compassion and the work of God opening doors enabled us to reach the neediest with vital food and other supplies.

In the photos at right you can see some of those whom we were able to help on your behalf. **THANK YOU** for your gifts during this challenging season! **You sustained many who had no other source of food.**



A few weeks after the fire came our own personal attack of Covid! Soon after Andrea and several kids and staff tested positive, they were whisked away in an ambulance by hazmat-clad government workers.

Altogether, they spent 6 weeks in quarantine! "I want to go home" became the familiar refrain of impatient children and staff alike.

Thankfully, the isolation came to an end, but not before **quarantine and medical expenses soared to over \$20,000 US** (in part due to mandated clinic and hospital stays for our boy with prior heart and lung issues).

Top left, an ambulance ride to the quarantine facility; middle, some of the kids anxiously peering down the hall, longing to leave; bottom, sleeping accommodations were simply mosquito nets and mats for our first few days of quarantine (afterwards we were moved to a clinic for further care).



Kicking Covid—and the high costs of quarantine

While Covid has been circulating for some time now, recent changes in Cambodia's quarantine laws and a new surge of variant Covid strains in Southeast Asia have made the last few months very challenging, especially the following events.

On June 12 Andrea, another adult staff member, and four of our Hope House children were moved to a government quarantine center. Weeks earlier, another Hope House child and an adult caretaker were brought to a hospital for similar quarantined stays and care (that child had serious heart and lung issues prior to Covid). All eight have since recovered physically and emotionally, praise God, but the financial cost for these incidents was far greater than anyone anticipated. **Our total for mandated quarantine stays, clinic and hospital care, and extra paid staff to cover related needs was over \$20,000 USD.**

Paying these expenses has removed budget from other crucial areas of need. **Join with us in sowing a seed into our costs for healing and restoration.**

Any gift is helpful and appreciated!



COVID hit Hope House kids and staff, and expenses for mandatory quarantine and care ran high. You can help meet these expenses so that Hope House can continue to help exploited children.

YES! I want to help by partnering with...

\$20 \$100 \$250 \$ _____

or...

- I want to give this amount monthly for Hope House
 I want to give this amount monthly for where most needed

Please send this completed form and your check in the provided envelope to:

Extreme Love Ministries, P.O. Box 170, Maricopa, AZ 85139

Or, to donate by credit or debit card, go to:

www.ExtremeLove.com/donate/covid-medical



Please use the enclosed form for your gift

meet us: Vannah

Let us introduce you to someone the kids at Hope House call Auntie Vannah (a.k.a. Grandma). She is one of our unsung heroes. Auntie Vannah provides the children living in our shelter with the love, care and discipline they need in great quantities to help them heal from the atrocities committed against them before they arrived at our door.



Her job is not easy. The great trauma and abuse the kids went through sometimes comes back out. She's been hit and even threatened by tormented children, yet she never stops loving them. "God has called me to the children," she says, "and without Him I would not be here."

Auntie Vannah changes dirty diapers, cooks, cleans, and gives lots of hugs. Her favorite "duty" is praying for the kids. Those prayers, we know, have brought the kids to new levels of healing and transformation. Please pray for Auntie Vannah as the Lord leads you. We know that will encourage her. 

NOT GETTING OUR EMAILS?



Some of you may not have been receiving

emails from our staff or our updates, which we try to send about once a month. *If that's you, don't miss another!* **Check your spam folder AND make sure we have your current email address.** Not sure? Contact us at info@extremelove.com



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