

# Extreme Love



A Report of Your Impact Through **Extreme Love Ministries**

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## Inside: Make-A-Difference Christmas Gifts!

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

*NOTE: The names of once-exploited beneficiaries have been changed to protect them from re-exploitation.*

**Thank you for making a difference in this world through your giving!** In addition to the miraculous cover story about how you helped rescue an abandoned newborn at risk of being trafficked, we've also added something a mini Christmas Gift Catalog we hope blesses you as you seek unique gifts for loved ones AND show your love for those who would otherwise have no hope or joy this Christmas.

Special | 2023

## “I was there!”

It was a day I'll never forget. Last summer I flew to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to participate in the work of Extreme Love Ministries. My name is Anna, and I do administrative work for ELM in our home office in Arizona, but always look forward to visiting Cambodia to see



*Yet another baby you helped rescue this year!*

things firsthand. It reminds me what it's all about, and why my behind-the-scenes work is so important.

I came with a few others, and on that soon-to-be unforgettable day we had planned a trip to one of the many slums ELM ministers to in order to deliver food hygiene items. We would be going door to door to love on the people who need it most. We were ready to serve and to pray and to share with them about Jesus and his love for them!

After breakfast, a small caravan pulled

up to the curb in front of our hotel. Andrea, the director of ELM, popped out of one of the vehicles, her always-sunny self. Our day's supplies were already loaded, so our team crammed into the remaining spaces and off we went, full of excitement. If you have ever experienced

the street traffic in Phnom Penh (picture thousands of ants scrambling after you uncover their nest by moving a rock) then you know there was little chance of our caravan staying together.

We arrived later than expected, but the rest of our group was nowhere to be found. *They'll be here any minute*, we assured one another. While we waited, Andrea patiently fielded many questions from our

team about life in Cambodia, and how ELM helps fight human trafficking. She also told us about the slum we were there to visit—which the ELM team affectionately called Noah's Ark because of its location along a large river that joins the mighty Mekong River nearby. Months prior the government began gradually relocating the community many miles inland so the riverfront land can be re-developed, forcing residents to dismantle and move their ramshackle homes. Not

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# My Thoughts

By Andrea Kofinoff, Director of Extreme Love Ministries

## How do you eat an elephant?

Someone once asked me that strange question. The answer is simple yet insightful: "One bite at a time." This African proverb has replayed often in my head and heart this year, as we faced some near-overwhelming challenges — both personally, as a ministry, and in the nations (I'm sure many of you have felt the same). It's truly been a year of overcoming, "one bite at a time."

Jesus said, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34). Whatever injustice you might be facing, stopping it can seem like an impossible task. Perhaps as difficult as eating a 5-ton elephant! But when we embrace the assignment and focus on today's "bite," we get through it. In the process, we are refined, strengthened, and transformed in new ways.

2023's challenges have strengthened us at ELM in incredible ways, creating new avenues for family care (including foster care and adoption), expanding our Shiloh church plants, opening doors for more kids to be sponsored in education, and aiding in tremendous victim rescues. **All this has been made possible through YOU!**

As we reflect on the year, and enter into this Christmas season, let's celebrate all that God has gifted us to do through His son Jesus! His peace, love and joy are multiplied and present, despite any challenge we are working through. He makes a way for the victory (Romans 8:37)!

**Thank you for joining with us to overcome "elephant sized" giants. Together, we are making an impact . . . one life at a time.**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Andrea



## "I was there!"

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much was left when we visited.

After some time waiting, we got a call from Jonathan, an ELM Shiloh pastor who was with the others, wondering where we were! We were at the usual spot, it seemed, but Jonathan said his group had parked on the opposite side of the community due to some government restrictions he'd heard about that day. He hung up and decided to hike to our location across a large area of debris so he could lead us back.

No problem, we could wait a few more minutes. Jonathan, a Cambodian who ministers in the community every week, arrived a few minutes later—clearly shaken. Without explanation, he directed us to follow him back. During our walk he tried to describe what had happened moments earlier...

While waiting for us to arrive, he'd spotted a lady walking towards him from the direction of the river's edge. He could see she was carrying a baby—a two-week-old boy, she told him, and it was not hers. She explained how she had found the baby abandoned under a tree that morning, covered with bug bites and wrapped in a filthy blanket, and how she wasn't able to take care of it. She went on to tell Jonathan that the mother, a woman whose name the ELM team recognized (she lives there too), had previously suffocated her first child by rolling onto it while on drugs/alcohol. It turns out this was not the first time she had abandoned her baby, either, and was known to have a mental illness. These facts, and because traffickers daily hunt for vulnerable babies and mothers in that place, prompted Jonathan to act quickly to protect the baby by contacting a fellow staff member who works on ELM's Elijah team.

In the meantime, it was clear that the baby was overheated and risked dehydration. The ELM team quickly purchased baby milk nearby and started caring for him. At the same time the Elijah team and one of our social workers rushed the case to a government office. Miraculously, that precious baby was placed in a safe, loving home that same day!

Jonathan later testified, "As I go to slum communities every week, besides sharing the gospel and prayers I always watch for babies at risk. Every time I rescue babies or kids that is a great encounter and I feel like I'm cutting off another string of poverty and darkness and bring the light, hope and future for them. For this baby case, I believe it was God's encounter..."

*continued page 3*

*"I was there!" continued...*

The moment I first saw the baby, I knew in my heart that God had rearranged our plans to save one baby. I then thought about how God had even let our vehicle go to the "wrong" place so that an ELM outreach group would be there in time to help that

baby. I also reflected on how impressed I was by our ELM team!

Our day had to be rearranged, but we gladly pivoted to follow His leading. I would joyfully repeat that "mistake" a thousand times to see again the wonder of God showing up for the one. God also blessed our time

later that day as we resumed serving those in the community. We even got to see some people healed!

That day I witnessed God "leave the 99 for the one," and I will never forget that. It was a moment to witness God working in mysterious and creative ways. That is who My God is.

# Christmas '23



**Give the gift of love this holiday season to your friends and family — and to those in need.**

## Begin...

Select one of 7 gifts from this page and the next

## Then...

Check the corresponding gift number(s) on the enclosed order form

## Done.

Mail your order form with payment

**1**

Gift 1 month of training and employment for someone rescued from prostitution or trafficking for \$200.



**2**

Shelter and care for a child rescued from trafficking for one week for \$100.



**3**

Feed one at-risk child every school day for \$40/mo



**More gift options on page 4**

# Ones who need your love



Gift a Bible to a Cambodian family for \$10



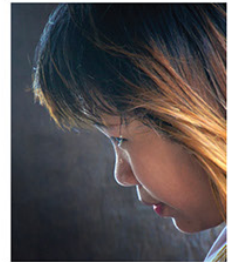
Send 30 kids on a special educational/discipleship trip for \$250



Protect an at-risk child from trafficking through an outreach in their community for \$5



Provide one year of medical care and counseling for a rescued woman or child for \$500



## Less stress, more love.

Imagine a Christmas where giving is made easier, your gift blesses a loved one, *and* it changes the life of one in desperate need of love.

Just click anywhere on the catalog cover, at right, and you'll go to our interactive online gift catalog. There you can choose gifts that specifically fit your heart.

Once you've decided, click the red Click HERE button on that page. You'll be directed to a giving form where you can tweak your gift selection, even entering specific text to describe how you want your gift to be used!

*Note: At this time our catalog does not support a shopping cart for multiple gifts, but on our gift forms we've tried to offer options that group multiple items together on that catalog page.*



EXTREME LOVE  
MINISTRIES

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