

Extreme Love



A quarterly newsletter from **Extreme Love Ministries**

INSIDE

- My Thoughts (a word from our director)..... 2
- A bad day for traffickers.....1
- Shiloh update2
- Store's open again!.....2
- Meet our staff.....4
- ELIJAH project4

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.*

A bad day for traffickers

A story about how you helped rescue a baby—just in time

Negotiations had begun—and we feared the worst. Chan* could walk away with up to \$500. A broker could walk away with her baby. Soon after, the infant could be sold on the black market. But you helped break up that plan. Just in time.

What is a newborn baby worth? The question jolts us. The going rate for a baby boy on the back streets of Phnom Penh is \$200-\$500 USD—a good month's salary in Cambodia.

But what woman would sell her baby? One chained to drugs or alcohol. A rape victim. A woman who already has more mouths than she can feed.

Baby trafficking is more common than we think—and not limited to Cambodia. Trafficking brokers watch for pregnant women wearing desperation on their faces. (Brokers here often solicit women at this point to clinch pre-natal contracts for their babies.)

And so, when Chan discovered she was pregnant, it wasn't long before her thoughts turned to profit. After all, she'd previously sold three of her other children. A drug habit is a powerful motivator.

But God had another future in mind for her baby.

Note: If you receive our email updates you've already heard mention of this story, but not in detail. The "rest of the story" is told here.



Just after his rescue, little Mark is lovingly held by a woman in the community*

Winter | 2022

continued page 3

My Thoughts

By Andrea Aasen, Director of Extreme Love Ministries

2022: A Year of Adventure!

Wow, 2021 brought some big challenges. But great victory, growth and wisdom also resulted. You stepped up to bring freedom and hope to the most vulnerable, and I thank you!

Though life and ministry around the world have changed, God is still the same! We expect 2022 will be a year of great ADVENTURE for His kingdom, so buckle your seatbelts!

Here's what we hope to accomplish this year through your partnership . . .

More opportunities to be salt and light in communities with unreached people groups, a priority at ELM. Our church plants continue to disciple and share the love of Jesus in authentic, tangible ways with those most needy. This year, we're strategizing for more house churches to be planted in areas of great darkness.

Aftercare, social work, and investigations are growing! Some restructuring and added expertise in police work, technology, and communications will help us rescue and restore more individuals than ever. (See ELIJAH, page 4.)

Likewise, new training, job partnerships, and even expansion into emergency response, foster care, and adoption models are underway! Together, we will create sustainable ways to mentor and place all in need within families.

Psalms 68:6 tells us God places the lonely in families. Let's be His hands and feet to bring more lonely, exploited individuals into safe spiritual and physical families.



Andrea

Shiloh Update

Over the last several months, Shiloh has moved from providing food to thousands of families in our Shiloh communities to helping them get back on their feet. We've also...

- Reached out to children at-risk, giving them notebooks (much needed), and providing stories of God's love through storytelling and prayer
- Strengthened our relationships as residents have seen the care and love of Jesus as we've walked with them through difficult times (which has also allowed us to identify those at risk of being sold and work with those families)
- Greatly expanded discipleship classes to meet a new, increased hunger to know more about Jesus (people are even bringing their neighbors and friends to hear the good news of the gospel!)

Please pray for continued access to these communities, and for many more to respond to the gospel.

Start up the band, we've re-opened the Everlasting Love Store! Purchase one-of-a-kind products handcrafted one at a time by our amazing artisans. Each purchase supports the EL training program, which teaches skills to those freed from trafficking or prostitution, so we can help others. Proceeds also give our artisans a living wage that helps them become self-sufficient. Drop by our online store today! (And don't miss our testimonies page.)



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continued from page 1

His strategy for her unborn baby began much earlier, when you followed His leading to donate the resources needed for ongoing ministry in Chan's community. *We were there because you sent us.* Through the many relationships you've enabled us to build within that slum, we discovered Chan's situation—and her desperate plan. Always desiring to keep families together, we encouraged Chan to keep her baby. We told her we would help.

Chan refused, then went missing. Our team tracked her down, only to discover she'd already given birth the week before. She was living in an abandoned house, ripe with the stench of urine, excrement and garbage. "Mark," as we called him, had yet to have his little body bathed with soap. Feces encrusted his tattered blanket. Infections raged on his skin and eyes.

We immediately began helping mother and child, and checked on them regularly.

But we soon discovered Chan had begun negotiating with multiple brokers to sell Mark. We stepped up our visits, and began weighing our options for intervention. We expressed our grave concerns for the baby's safety with police and local government, and they agreed to help.

Sensing our plans, Chan disappeared with the baby once again. Would we be too late to save Mark?



▲ Hope House kids love helping care for Mark!

It's important to note here that finding Chan took tremendous, coordinated effort. Our casework and investigations teams searched high and low to find them. That behind-the-scenes work that goes into every single rescue (see page 4 for details about this expanding work).

Thank God our team's effort's paid off. Chan, it turned out, had Mark back in the slum with the baby's father, but this time living in a smoke-filled, one-room meth house with several other adults.

We could wait no longer. A police officer accompanied us in case there was trouble. The situation was tense—



▲ Rescue day. Mark was retrieved from a one-room meth house inside the dark entranceway to this building.

such rescues always are—but God gave us the grace and strength we needed. *He also gave us Mark!*

We're thrilled to report that after 3 months Mark is doing wonderfully! He's fully healed, recovered from the in-vitro drug addiction he received from his mother, and has exceeded all growth and development charts for a 4-month-old. He spends his days at Hope House, where he has plenty of big brothers and sisters eager to help care for him.

Looking at Mark's joyful face (he's almost always laughing and smiling!) it's scary to think how close he came to becoming another faceless statistic. Thank you so much for helping to make Mark's rescue possible!

We know of other babies at risk, too. As you read these words, we are closely following many of those situations. Together with your help there is hope for each one. (Want to do more? See page 4.)



ELIJAH is on the case!

Extreme Love Investigations for Justice And Hope (ELIJAH) is what we've called our new division tasked with rescuing babies like Mark* and others who have been trafficked or exploited in some way.

We've restructured our rescue teams a bit, and throughout the year will be adding expertise in police work, technology, and communications. *The bottom line is that ELIJAH will provide the critical investigations and child protection necessary to rescue more victims, and go after the perpetrators who are inflicting harm.*

But we can't do this without your partnership. Our goal is to raise **\$50,000 to launch ELIJAH.** This is needed to pay for motorbike transports for the investigators, cameras, tech equipment, starting salaries, special protective measures, trainings, and more.

We've learned a lot about how to best facilitate rescues since we started here in 2010. We know what works and what doesn't, and now we're in a place where we need to go to the next level so we can more effectively investigate and intervene to set victims free!

It's a big step, and we need your partnership to do it!



Rescues happen when many caring people come together, coordinating their efforts. *Please become an ELIJAH team member through your finances and prayer. [MORE AWAIT RESCUE.](#)*

YES! I want to join the ELIJAH team with...

\$20 \$100 \$500 \$ _____
or...

- I want to give this amount monthly to help rescue children
 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-elijah



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Please use the enclosed form for your gift

meet us: Zak

Zak left his native Canada to join us here in Cambodia almost 4 years ago. He started by leading sports outreaches to children in poor and vulnerable communities. Zak says, "Seeing the extreme poverty and vulnerability of these children, and learning of their abuse and exploitation on a daily and weekly basis, forced me to pray about how I can use my skills to best serve the children of Phnom Penh, and Cambodia."



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Prior to moving to Cambodia, Zak served with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for nearly 10 years. This provided Zak with invaluable training that's directly related to investigations, as well as team management.

As we discussed expanding our rescue efforts through ELIJAH, it was clear that Zak would be perfect as its new Director of Investigations.

We are confident that ELIJAH, with Zak in the lead, will better serve and protect our vulnerable communities. We are so grateful for how God brought Zak to us, knowing that his experience would help ELM move to a place of greater effectiveness—and save more lives!

Prayer closet

Please pray for...

- a needed vehicle
- new staff, and transitions
- cont'd favor and connections with gov't, police, and community reps
- resources for ministry development and growth (esp. for investigations, social work, FGW, Shiloh, and EL)



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