



## JOHN AND KAREN WALKER

Being in our early fifties we have over a century of life experience between us. However, we regard age 50 as the new 35! In Cambodia others within our age range are in the significant minority due to previous intra-country conflict and turmoil. With more than 40% of the Cambodian population being under 15 years of age and a significant absence of middle aged, educated adults we hope to contribute to the emerging generations.

We go with the words of Jesus very much in our minds:

“I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me ...whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.”

While living and working in Australia, over many years we have intentionally been adding to our range of skills and knowledge with a view to working in a two-thirds- world country. Whilst we have both lectured in tertiary environments, Karen in education and John in history, we hope to draw on our many life experiences in contributing to the future of the people of Cambodia.

We see our commitment to living and working long-term in Cambodia as a response to God's call in our lives to engage in cross-cultural work.

Khmer people in Cambodia desperately need the sensitive, culturally appropriate help that Karen and John expect to offer. The country is recovering after decades of oppression and instability. 9.8 percent of the people live with a significant physical or intellectual disability, some as a direct result of the conflict and its aftermath. Churches grapple with what it means to follow Christ in this country where almost half the population live in absolute poverty and 95% of people are Buddhist. Almost all of the church leaders were killed during the period of the Khmer Rouge rule.

Karen and John, with other members of the team, want to work with Cambodian people so that they can experience the good things God has for them.

