



John Givonetti Giving

A Charitable Organization

Quarterly Progress Update

JANUARY – MARCH 2020

IN Memoriam



Chhin Sokkhen, Left & Hort Siema, Right

As you know, our charity trains selected poor rural high school students to teach English to junior-high students. This unique experience, combined with the other training and support JGG provides to them up through university, effectively transitions these “Student Teachers” from poverty to success. They could not do it alone, though if you met them and witnessed their confidence and optimism you are likely to believe they could.

Student Teachers are selected from the junior high school students who complete JGG’s three-year English program. By the time they graduate university Student Teachers will have had an eleven-year association with JGG. It is quite deep. JGG’s small staff does a remarkable job. Well before university a lifetime bond has developed.

Yes, a lifetime. As long as life lasts.

Near the end of January, two of our student teachers were killed instantly while riding together on a motorbike. They were on their way to teach their JGG English classes.

Within an hour of the crash, one of the girls was laid-out on a carpet in front of her grandmother’s hut waiting for the \$25 coffin to arrive. Following the funerals, both girls were cremated wearing their JGG uniforms along with their JGG backpacks.

So, now JGG's friends around the world know that Sokkhen and Siema lived, demonstrated great promise, and died. Just a few years ago even that small triumph would have been beyond the hopes of either girl. – Khary and John Pavese

THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS ON JGG

The coronavirus caused the closing of all Cambodian schools from kindergarten through university. These restrictions included JGG's classroom and Learning Center activities. In addition, the government is requesting everyone to avoid group meetings and to stay at home as much as possible. JGG's dormitories are still functioning, but with universities closed and many employers laying off staff, some dormitory students have returned home.

In response to this situation, JGG's staff is now training its Student Teachers by utilizing online educational programs developed by the Ministry of Education. Each grade level (10th, 11th, and 12th) will have a separate curriculum covering all the high school subjects, not just English.

While few Student Teachers own computers, virtually all have smart phones. JGG is providing them with free phone data cards so they can participate in this new way of teaching/learning. The JGG staff trains, monitors and grades the Student Teachers by mobile phone.



Meeting with Student Teachers and their parents to talk e-learning study program at JGG

This assistance is especially valuable for the Student Teachers who will graduate in July, as they need to prepare for the 12th grade exam in August. This exam is a key factor in determining a student's access to universities and scholarships.

On March 17th, JGG conducted its last in-person get together until the crisis ends. At this meeting the Students Teachers and their parents were introduced to the e-learning program.

CHARLEYS KIDS CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT FOR JGG

The Charleys Kids Foundation announced that it will continue supporting JGG through 2020. JGG is thankful to Charleys Kids for their continued kindness. JGG also extends its appreciation to Wings of Hope who helped make obtaining this grant a reality.

The Charleys Kids grant is focused on the following areas:

- Visits to various universities in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap by 12th Grade Student Teachers in preparation for selecting their universities and majors.
- Preparing Student Teachers for university study and employment by teaching them English, the computer and special skills such as preparing a resume, and how to interview.
- Motivating Student Teachers to complete their education by showing them the positive results that education brings.
- Supporting graduated Student Teachers living at JGG dormitories while they attend universities through a food allowance.
- Developing an understanding of the importance of education among the adults in the rural communities where JGG is active.
- Empowering the Student Teachers to gain leadership skills and self-confidence in order to improve their education, and job outcomes.



JGG ENGLISH PROGRAM PARTICIPATIONS

JGG's student population was 315 students at the end of the reporting period. This represents a decline of 28 students from last quarter's 315. The primary reasons for the decline was poor performance, and/or poor attendance.

JGG's STUDENT POPULATION					JGG's STUDENT TEACHER POPULATION				
Locations	Q4 2019	In	Out	Q1 2020	Locations	Q4 2019	In	Out	Q1 2020
Bakchinhchien	214	0	23	191	Bakchinhchien	15	0	0	15
Romlech	129	0	5	124	Romlech	15	0	2	13
TOTAL	343	0	28	315	TOTAL	30	0	2	28

The JGG Director and all Program Assistants and the librarian conducted regular inspections of the classes taught by Student Teachers (5PM to 6PM weekdays) to check the



performance of the Student Teachers to make sure they have good pronunciation, speak clearly, have good penmanship, good lesson delivery (reflecting good preparation) and show encouragement toward their students. Also, they need to have a positive attitude, and dress neatly. The students are interviewed to make sure they are successfully attaining reading, writing, and speaking proficiency.

VISIT OF FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN TO JGG CAMBODIA

In early 2020, JGG's Founder and Chairman visited JGG activities in Pursat, Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. The aim of these visits was to follow up on the progress of the programs in Cambodia, to provide coaching and support, to strengthen the capacity of the program and also to make recommendations for program and organizational improvements.

Besides meeting with the Student Teachers, the Chairman also met the parents of the former Student Teachers now living in JGG dormitories while they attend university. The Chairman discussed the rules for living at the JGG dormitories, JGG's loan program to help Student Teachers



Class Inspection by JGG's Chairman - Bakchinhchienh

financially survive their first year at university, and the importance of choosing a good major to study. The point was also made that former Student Teachers, while attending university, should get jobs that allow them to keep using and learning English, as well as to develop other important lifetime skills.



Meeting SVAs' Parent at Romlech



Meeting SVAs' Parent at Bakchinhchien

DICTATION AND TRANSLATION CONTEST IN THE QUARTER

JGG held the quarterly dictation and translation contest to encourage Student Teachers to develop and improve their English spelling capabilities. How well a Student



Weekly Basic English Writing and Monthly Dictation

Teacher can correctly write down English dictation with few spelling errors and then translate that English document into Khmer, directly relates to their ability to successfully teach English. In order to encourage the Student Teachers to develop this important skill, a dictation/translation contest is held each month. Prizes are given to the Student Teachers with the best scores.

In the reporting period, JGG conducted this contest for 28 Student Teachers. 5 Student Teachers in January and 5 in February achieved perfect scores and received their prizes.

CASE STUDY OF PHEN DITH

HOW HE WORKED HARD TO GET SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE!



PHEN Dith is 26 years. He grew up in very poor family with two brothers and three sisters. His parents were farmers living in Tuol PongRor village, BakChinhchien commune. He is now a Senior Teller at the ABA bank branch in Borei Keila. According to Dith, ABA is both the most popular, as well as, the best bank in Cambodia.

Like so many Student Teacher's Dith's day when he was growing up started early (5 AM), so he could help his father prepare for the day's farm work. When time allowed, he would travel with his father on fishing trips. He would then help his mother sell the fish in the local market. Ducks were also raised to be sold in the market.

Being poor never stopped **Dith** from learning. Without a watch or phone, he told time using the sun and the general activity on the road. He was never late for school.



Phen Dith, being a Student Teacher during his high school

Dith joined JGG's English Outreach Program as a student in 2009. A year later JGG announce it was looking for its first generation of Student Teachers, but he missed that opportunity. The next year JGG began searching for its second generation of Student Teachers. This time he joined the test and got a high score. Dith was very happy.

As a Student Teacher, Dith taught English to 6th grade students from Monday to Friday in the afternoon. He taught 7th grade students from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. Finally, at 6:00 PM he studied his English with the Professional Teachers provided by JGG.

In 2011 JGG did not have a Learning Center. However, JGG established a temporary computer training center at teacher Kong Sokhary's house. Training was conducted by JGG's first generation Student Teachers. Dith completed his computer course at the same time the JGG Learning Center was completed in the BakChinhchien High School compound.

Dith graduated high school in 2013, and then moved to Phnom Penh with other Student Teachers to live initially in a rented apartment provided by JGG, and then later at the JGG dormitory when it was completed. He studied Management at the Institute of New Khmer, graduating in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Management.

While attending university, Dith worked full time. His first job was a Cook at The Pizza Company. Later he moved on to an English teaching position at an international school, but he still worked at The Pizza Company on the weekends. Then in 2017 he began work as a Tax Agency Officer at CTAS Consulting. Finally, he moved to ABA bank.



Phen Dith at his current workplace

Dith feels very grateful to JGG for the many years it has supported his successful development. He says, "JGG was an important part of my life for a long time. It is something I will always appreciate."

FURTHER ACTIVITIES BY PICTURES IN THE QUARTER



Class inspection by JGG staff



Basic English and Grammar Training



Student Teachers' Weekly Meeting



Weekend Computer Class



English Outreach Program Test



Weekly meeting & Training



Training by Professional Teacher



Basic English and Grammar Training



Student Teacher receiving award

JGG's English Program and Building Student Teachers' Capability in Bakchinhchien and Romlech Hun Sen High School, and University Supports are funded by JGG, Wings of Hope, Charleys Kids Foundation, Nathan Yip Foundation and Friends of JGG.



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