If you have anything to share with the church, please don't hesitate to contact us on the below emails.
Mande :mande.lees@gmail.com ; **Stephanie**: stephcyee@yahoo.com ; **Alvin**: ajing@eppingsda.org.au

Hi All,

This will be the last newsletter for the year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to you all.

See you in 2019

EVENTS

Jan 1-6 2019	AUC Pathfinder Camporee - Victoria
Feb 3	Vegetarian Recipe Club @1:30
Feb 15-16 2019	IGNITE @ Sydney Showground

PRAYER REQUEST

- Please pray for Luisa and family
- Please pray for Penny as she recovers from her accident.
- Please pray for all our Epping Church Bible Study Groups
- Please pray for all the members of our local and global church

19/12/18

THIS SABBATH @EPPING

Elder: Vanessa

Speaker: Eva Ing

Offering:

Last Sabbath

We had a great Christmas service organised by Cyrus, followed by a great pot luck lunch.

Thanks to all those who participated and helped out.

Check out the photos!

No room at the inn

ise men
Juniors/Teens

LIGHT of HOPE

To all our valued supporters,

2018 has been an eventful year for Light of Hope, bringing unexpected challenges to funding our work in Cambodia. Through these months of uncertainty, God has brought peace and provided for the needs of all the families and children who are beneficiaries of our projects. You, as supporters, have had to navigate through a new name, a new donation process and new-look reporting. Despite the initial uncertainty and new changes the work of Light of Hope Cambodia is blossoming and many more lives of children and families have been given hope and a pathway out of poverty in the past year.

We have been blessed to have World Relief Australia provide us with the conduit by which to provide funding from you, as donors, direct to the development projects in Cambodia. This service continues to provide supporters with tax-deductible receipting for your donations.

Light of Hope continues to be managed and staffed by a strong Christian Cambodian team. This team manages the governance and day-to-day operations, and is focussed on improving the lives of families and children in their communities.

Over the last few months you may have had contact with one of our dedicated Australian volunteers. Light of Hope staff in Australia volunteer their time and expertise to co-ordinate your sponsorships, mail-outs, and the work of Light of Hope Cambodia. These volunteers might make contact with you in regards to your payments or sponsorship, and will be available to answer your questions. Please feel free to call or email to talk about any aspect of our work at Light of Hope.

We thank each of you who have re-engaged your sponsorships or donations to Light of Hope in wake of the changes this year. Without your dedication to give to the work of Light of Hope, we would not be able to touch lives of children and families as we do. If you, your family, your church or your community group would like to spend some time volunteering at Light of Hope, we would love to hear from you. These experiences bless us as volunteers as much as the children and families that we come to serve. Don't think that there is nothing you can do, you would be surprised what we can achieve with a passionate team ready to serve.

Blessings to you from all at Light of Hope this Christmas. May we all seize this Christmas season and make it our primary purpose to share love and touch souls for eternity. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to each family and child in Cambodia supported by the work of Light of Hope. Thank you for being a special part of this ministry.

Yours sincerely,

Sherree Hughes

Light Of Hope Project Manager

"Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:26

Contact us for more information:

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LIGHT of HOPE

PROJECT NEWS

December 2018

Another eventful year draws to a close. How exciting to share the highlights of the year at Light of Hope Cambodia!

There are currently 65 children living at Light of Hope in five houses. In each house a married couple serve as "Mum" and "Dad" to each of these children, and each home operates as an individual home. This year has seen a new routine established of different homes being responsible for an activity each Sunday. This brings everyone together in a fun social experience. The children in each home are tasked with planning and conducting the activity for the whole centre, and we have seen activities like talent shows, treasure hunts and team games. These fun times together are important in creating memories for these children who call Light of Hope home.

Our children's services team continues to work with the families in the local communities, identifying families and children at risk and assessing how they might be empowered to ensure the safety and nurture of their children within their families.

The gardens at Light of Hope continue to produce a wide range of vegetables to supplement the diet of the children. This year we have seen a significant expansion in our fruit production with the planting of more mango, custard apple and avocado trees and dragon fruit vines. Fruit is something that is difficult to include in the children's daily diet due to the cost. The production of this fruit will enhance the nutritional intake of the children and also provide a small income with any surplus stock that is harvested.

Education continues to be the pathway out of poverty for so many of these children from the outlying villages. This year has seen the addition of a second Kindergarten classroom and a dedicated Kindy playground has been created. It is exciting to see this commitment to early learning education thriving in our school. The end of the school year in August gave us reason to rejoice, as 100% of our students sitting the government exam in Year 9 and Year 12 passed. For our graduating Year 12 students, this opens up the world of university study for each of them. Ten students graduating from the Light of Hope School this year received scholarships to study in their chosen field in Phnom Penh.

QUICK FACTS FROM 2018
LOH CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

20
children currently in tertiary education

9 children chose to be baptised

19,200
kilograms of rice used for feeding

6,348
kilograms of vegetables grown in the gardens

115
fruit trees planted in the gardens

5
family groups, each in a house with a "Mum" and "Dad" and a dozen "siblings"

The Light of Hope students in Phnom Penh have settled well into a new academic year of tertiary studies. They are a cohesive group and it has been great to see the older students mentor the new ones to settle in and show them the ropes. The transition from Light of Hope campus to Phnom Penh can be challenging for some students and this support from 'brothers and sisters' is valuable. This last year we have had three of our students graduate university – one in electrical engineering, one in teaching and one in tourism.

Nuthpich's centre continues to support 16 children who are all growing so fast. Many of the students here are in their final years of schooling and some have commenced their vocational training. The children at Nuthpich's centre continue to be involved with Pr Nuthpich in serving the children living beside the rubbish dump.

Volunteer groups continue to provide valuable support, mentoring and training across the program. Visiting teams have a substantial impact across the program, each bringing a different skill set and focus. This year has seen hours of professional learning for our staff in teaching, children's services and our primary carers. Volunteers have worked long and hard in the Cambodia heat in creating a new kindy playground, building a new verandah along our canteen and library, replaced water tanks and guttering on the houses and commenced a revamp of our church building. In 2019 why not get together with a group and come and serve at Light of Hope, we know that you will not only leave an impact where you have served but you will be richly blessed in the process.

We praise God and thank Him for His care and guidance in the past year and we look forward to an exciting year in 2019 where, with your help, we can touch the lives of more children and families who need the light of hope.

QUICK FACTS FROM 2018 LIGHT OF HOPE SCHOOL

568
students receiving a quality education at LOH school

35
hours of contact teaching each week

697
children aware of their rights and protected from violence and exploitation

100%
of year 12 students at LOH school successfully passed their government exams

while only **66%**
of year 12 students across the whole of Cambodia successfully passed their government exams

29
teachers trained in child-friendly techniques

103
volunteer hours worked each week for LOH by Australian supporters, both in Australia and in Cambodia

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God who said "Let light shine out of darkness" made his light shine in our hearts

Contact us for more information:

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Light and Motion Photography's 2019 Calendar is now available.

Check out the photos in the facebook line below.
https://www.facebook.com/lightandmotionphoto/posts/2444268005586846?

The Calendar is presented in a glossy high quality A3 format with images from the past 12 months including photos from our photography classes in Australia, and our photography expeditions to New Zealand, Switzerland, Iceland, France and Italy.
All proceeds from the sale of this calendar will be directed to the ADRA Epping Project.

You can read more about ADRA Projects on this link:
https://www.adra.org.au/our-impact/?to=projects-heading

The cost of the calendar is only $30

Please pay via the Epping egiving link (On the bottom of the web page Click **"Show More Offerings"** and choose **"Epping Mission Project - ADRA"**

https://egiving.org.au/Epping%20SDA%20Church/

Email the receipt to Alvin - ajing@lightandmotionphotography.com for proof of purchase and to arrange delivery. If you need this shipped, please add $6.00 to your payment for express mail via Australia Post.

Thank you to all who supported our 2018 Calendar and Photography Classes in 2018, with all proceeds from these initiatives going towards our ADRA Project in Vanuatu. This helped build a large water tank and provide clean drinking water to remote villages in Vanuatu.

NOTICE BOARD

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Sandy took the time to share with us Operation Christmas Child by Samaritan's Purse, a non for profit Christian organization that aim to providing emergency relief and development assistance to those in suffering.

She has had some experience with Operation Christmas Child in particular as a volunteer collecting boxes filled with gifts that gets delivered to children in need all around the world.

A wonderful opportunity for God's word to be spread around the world.

For more information on packing your own shoebox, or to donate visit the website https://www.samaritanspurse.org.au/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/

Or speak to the lovely Sandy, who will you able to help you with your questions or thoughts.

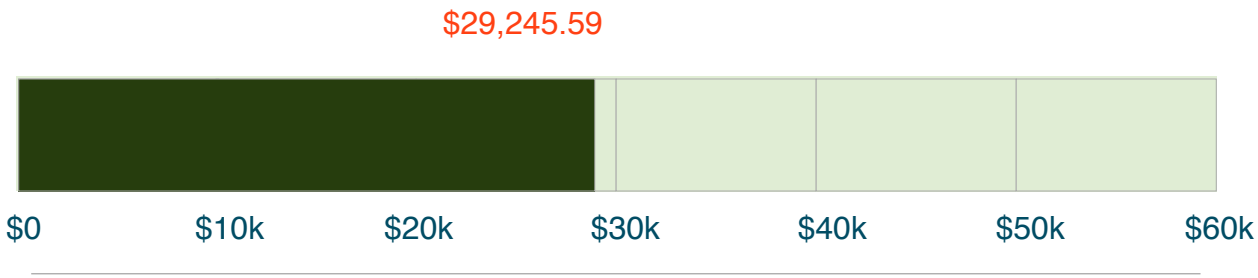
Watch more here : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvQdTqoCo0k

Epping Church:
Roof Repair Fundraising

The Epping Church roof is leaking and in need of repair. It will cost $60,000 to fix it. The Board has approved a "Repair the Roof Fund Raiser" with monthly Special Offerings on the first Sabbath of every month commencing August 5th (then Sept 2 / Oct 7 etc)

Roof Repair Fund trip is now on the e giving website. Feel free to donate here,

https://egiving.org.au/Epping%20SDA%20Church

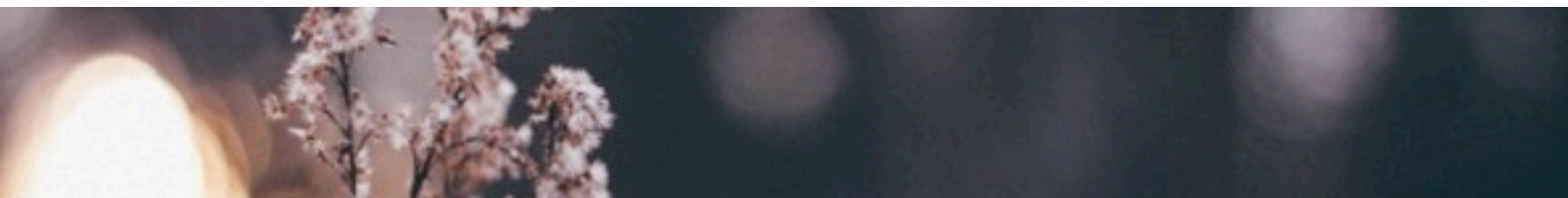


Finished product! - still going with Special Offerings

Christmas is almost here! For lots of people Christmas means food, presents, and holidays… so who wouldn't love Christmas?! Christmas is especially fun if you have little kids around. Just watching their unbridled emotions can be hilarious. So if you have kids in your life – enjoy spoiling them! But did you know Christmas can also be a time for teaching them important life lessons? (But Shhhh… don't let them know).

On Christmas morning do you let your kids see your face light up no matter how small or unwanted the present might be? Do they see and hear you say, "thank you"? Will they learn gratitude this Christmas?

If your place is anything like mine, you will probably have enough food to feed a small army. Have you invited a lonely person to share your Christmas table this year? Will your kids learn selflessness and generosity from watching you this Christmas?
"Too much importance cannot be placed upon the early training of children" (MH 380). What we teach our children today lays the groundwork for the adults they will be tomorrow. And yes, even Christmas can be a character-building day!

A safe and happy Christmas to all!

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, or whether it be right" Proverbs 20:11.