

UZIMA

THE GIFT OF KINDERGARTEN



DID YOU KNOW?...

- *IN CAMBODIA, THEY DON'T REALLY CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS!*
- *CAMBODIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHOSE NATIONAL FLAG FEATURES A BUILDING -- ANKOR WAT, ONE OF THE LARGEST TEMPLES IN THE WORLD*
- *THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MCDONALD'S IN CAMBODIA!*

A HEADSTART ON HOPE.

Did you go to kindergarten? Chances are you did -- or maybe you're in it right now! **Kindergarten is important because kids' brains are ready to learn things** like letters and numbers as well as language and social skills (don't you remember practicing *sharing* in kindergarten?..)

In rural areas of Cambodia, **many children do not go to kindergarten because there simply isn't one.** And when a child misses out on this headstart in learning, elementary school is even harder. Children who don't learn to read and write and do math have a harder time being independent and finding good work.

Parents in Cambodia know this and so does World Renew. **So when villages**

where we work tell us that they would like to have a kindergarten, we want to support them! And they're not looking for fancy toys or projectors or playground equipment. Parents there need simple supplies that you might take for granted at your school like a white board, an alphabet chart, notebooks, rulers, markers and pencils, and erasers.

Cambodia is what we call a "young" country, meaning that the population is more young people than older people. 32% of the population is 14 or younger, compared to 19% in the US and 16% in Canada. And while the Cambodian government is working hard building schools and providing education for its children, many young people, especially in rural areas, still don't have access to proper schools and don't get the head start they need.

Cambodian parents want the best for their children; they want them to have abundant life. So does God!



ONLY 11% OF CHILDREN IN RURAL CAMBODIA HAVE ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL OR KINDERGARTEN.

worldrenew.net/gifts

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LET THE CHILDREN COME

One of the blessings of being a Christ-follower is that, no matter what age you are, no matter what the rest of your life has looked like, Jesus offers us a fresh start. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* What a vast and precious gift. No matter your age or stage of life, you can step into the glory of following God.

The same cannot be said for education.

Teachers know that an early start to the fundamentals of learning is critical to success later on. If a child misses out on critical early learning, jumping into school gets harder and harder as years go by. At some point, a child simply won't have to tools to continue on.

After the Khmer Rouge decimated Cambodia's education system in the 1970s (estimates say perhaps 90% of teachers were killed by the brutal regime and 40% of the country emerged from that holocaust illiterate), the Cambodian government has made heroic attempts to rebuild and is having success.

But who gets lost in those attempts? Who still needs help? Children of the rural poor. Without an early start to education, these youngsters can soon find themselves struggling to survive like generations before them.

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them." He also said "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me." We can welcome people to His tribe at any age and any stage. **But abundant life for little ones includes the resources, resilience, and opportunity that come from education.** And that cannot wait.



KINDERFUN

Add some fun to your lesson with a video, book, or game!

It's hard to find books in North America about children going to school in Cambodia, but there are lots about children's first day of school around the world. **It's Back to School We Go!** by Ellen Jackson or **Off To Class: Incredible and Unusual Schools Around the World** by Susan Hughes are great options.

A fun and kinetic way to have children think about Cambodia is to **make**

SCHOOLED IN GIVING

Children and parents alike will be moved to help little ones in Cambodia have a hopeful start to their education. At \$70, a kindergarten pack is a reachable goal for a class.

One fun way to raise money for a school is to **sell school supplies!** Kids love collecting pencils and selling special ones - like the kind that smell or have funny tops -- at a profit can add up quickly.

A novel addition to church Coffee Time is sticky rice! Cambodians eat rice at every meal and this **sweet and easy-to-make dessert** goes great with coffee. Spooning it into cups and selling for \$1 or \$2 each, makes \$70 an easy reach. Recipes are easy to find online.

You don't have to focus on kindergartens or Cambodia to raise money for both. **An old-fashioned hymn sing and a church dessert night** can raise a lot of money -- and awareness! Sell pre-bought or homemade items and pass the collection plate during the event.

For more ideas, visit www.worldrenew.org/kidsfundraisingideas



sticky rice! Cambodians eat rice at every meal including dessert and sticky rice is sweet and easy to make -- **the perfect classroom or group activity.** Online recipes abound.

If children are simply curious about what life in Cambodia looks like, search **"Wee Box Cambodia"** on YouTube for a **3-minute video** about a day in the life of Nulai, a young Cambodian boy. While Nulai's life may not represent the poverty World Renew sees in its work, children will still like seeing Cambodian children's lives -- including school!

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