

DEC  
2021

# Relevant Expeditions

Disaster Relief - Feeding Programs - Church Planting  
Leadership Training - Vocational Training  
Children's Homes



It is Christmas morning (a few years ago), and I am sleeping on a dusty bamboo floor in a raised Cambodian house. It's the first time I've spent Christmas away from my family since launching Relevant Expeditions. I laid there groggy and feeling a bit sorry for myself as I knew the rest of my family would later be sipping hot cocoa, eating fresh homemade cinnamon rolls, and enjoying being together back home in Missouri. *Why, oh why did I decide to spend Christmas in Cambodia this year?* The kids at our Cambodian Children's Home didn't even know about Christmas. Obviously December 25 is not Jesus' actual birthday, so I could easily have told the kids that we were celebrating Jesus' birthday literally any other day of the year and they would have still had a great time. I kept thinking, *I should be home with Pat, our kids and grandkids. Poor me!* Suddenly - **COCKADOODLEDOO!!!** There are no words to describe the full body anxiety one gets from being crowded at by what must be a 500 pound rooster. . . in reality it was a normal sized rooster but a mere five feet from my head. Once my heart settled, I got up and went to see our team who was busy preparing for the Christmas outreach. We had a small gift for each child such as a pair of flip flops, or a towel, or some other useful item, and a new t-shirt or hoodie. We would be feeding about 1500 people, sharing stories about Jesus' birth, music and a fun day planned for everyone.

As the morning progressed I began to lose my *Grinch-like* attitude as I saw the joy of the people. In true *Grinch-like-fashion*, my heart grew three sizes. As the celebration continued I noticed a group of kids pulling an old toy car around by a string. It was rusty,

dirty and had no wheels. Just dragging it in the dirt making the car slide around while giggling and having a wonderful time. Our budget for this event was already maxed out, but I wanted to do something more. I wanted them to all have a new toy that was their own. So some of our team went with me into town where I took out my personal credit card. *(I do not recommend credit cards to purchase Christmas gifts unless you can pay it off in 30 days. 😊)* We purchased enough toys to give to all of the children. Back at the village we assembled the kids and began to hand out the toys. The children's eyes were wide with surprise. They politely accepted the gifts as if they were merely on-loan to them. Through our translator I told them that these gifts were for them to keep. The children erupted with cheers and joy. Some of the children were crying with delight. They proudly showed one another the special gifts they had received. They spent the rest of the day playing and sharing - the giggles seemed to never end. I felt the spirit of Christmas more that day than I had felt in a long time. There is nothing that fills your heart quite like the combination of giving and seeing others receive. The delight was thick in the air and it was a wondrous Christmas Day. Since then our teams, and partners have made it a yearly Christmas celebration and the kids are always grateful and joyful. Thank you partners for making it possible!





*Gifts that keep giving all year long!*



**#1 - Christmas Outreaches**

\$10 - \$25 - \$2000 - \$6000

In India, 600 people with Leprosy will receive a new outfit, a small gift, and a celebration meal. The cost for this is \$10 each person or \$6000 total. In Cambodia the children in our Children's Homes will receive needed gifts, a fun gift, and a celebration meal - at a cost of \$25 per child or around \$2000.

**#2 - Relief for Rural Pastors**

\$50 per family

This gift feeds a rural pastor's family who is living in extreme poverty for an entire month. India, Cambodia, Vietnam.

**#3 - Sewing Machine School**

\$250 each

Women in India are being empowered with a life skill, independence and at the same time are learning about the love of Jesus through our sewing school outreach.

**#4 - Water Well or Village Toilet**

\$2500 each well - \$6000 each toilet

30% of Cambodians don't have access to safe water. More wells mean less time spent gathering water and more time caring for their children. Together we can dramatically reduce illness and see the results of happier, healthier communities.

**#5 - Wheelchair Outreach**

\$300 each

This past year we provided 25 brand new wheelchairs to people in need. If this triggers your heart consider giving mobility to someone in need who likely could never afford the cost of a wheelchair.

**#6 - Children's Homes**

\$25 - \$50 - \$100 - \$1000 Monthly

We currently have FIVE Full-time Children's Homes in Cambodia. You can make a monthly donation to help support the costs of running these homes for kids who might otherwise be lost into sex trafficking or organ trafficking.

Questions? Contact Jim Harris directly: [jim@relevantexpeditions.org](mailto:jim@relevantexpeditions.org)

## Leprosy Village Christmas Celebration

One of our major on-going outreaches provides six **Leprosy Villages** in India with their monthly supply of rice. That's about **600** individuals whose main food staple for the entire month is provided by our partners. Those with Leprosy are shunned everywhere else. Our teams go each month with a truck hauling four tons of rice to minister to the people and love them. We also do a **Christmas outreach!** We provide a hot meal of Chicken Biryani, a gift of a new outfit, and a towel at a cost of **\$10 each person**. The people wear the same clothing everyday, so for them this gift is deeply meaningful as it represents dignity, and humanity. It says to them they are cared for and valued as human beings. **Many of these people are left here and forgotten.** When we first adopted these villages and kept returning to them, the people would look so surprised as our team came rolling into the village. With smiles, and tears they would say, **"You have not forgotten us!"** For fourteen years, every single month we have not forgotten them and yet they are still thankful and surprised when our teams return every thirty days.

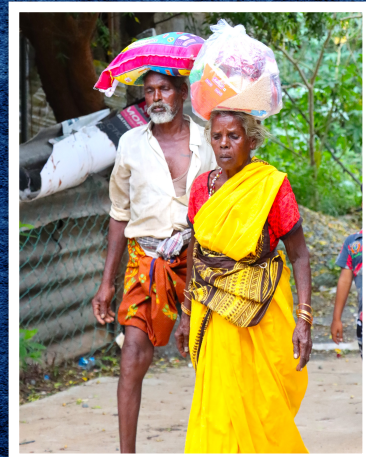


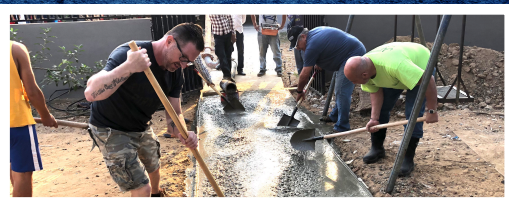
## Emergency Relief & Special Projects

Over the past 18 months our teams and partners have provided emergency COVID-19 and Natural Disaster relief in the form of cash gifts for **1800** rural pastors whose families were on the brink of starvation. Together we also provided **8000** food packets for families in Cambodia, Vietnam, The Philippines and India. We provided **25** wheelchairs to restore mobility to people in need. This year, through individual and corporate sponsorships we crossed a milestone having now drilled and installed over **350** fresh water wells, with more to come!



**W**e have full-time teams in both India and Cambodia lead by two world-class families. In India our teams are lead by Pastor Sam Paul and his family. The Cambodia teams are lead by Pastor Sokhon and his family. Nothing that we do in either of these places would be possible without these fearless, passionate, dedicated leaders, their wives, their families, and their teams. We love them so much!





I am humbled beyond belief when I look back at what you have enabled us to do for others through Relevant Expeditions over the past 17 years. There is no way you can possibly grasp the difference you've made in these people's lives. Maybe you give to us every month, maybe once a year, perhaps you play in our golf tournament, or maybe you pray for our ministry, but if you are receiving this newsletter, YOU have made a difference in the lives represented in these four pages. Because of your association with Relevant Expeditions you are part of everything we do to relieve hunger, thirst, poverty, suffering, and hopelessness.

If you are able, we invite you to consider joining us as a monthly partner if you haven't already. Regular monthly partners are the life-blood of this ministry, it enables us to have teams in place, the logistical solutions, supplies and abilities to be there for people. Of course if you are not able to join us monthly, we welcome special donations to go toward things such as our Christmas Outreaches, and Emergency Relief Projects.

I grew up in a farm house with no running water, a single coal burning stove for heat, an outhouse as a toilet, and parents who loved me so much that I had no idea that I was as poor as I was. Somehow, every Christmas was a magical, miraculous time because my parents dug down deep to make it that way so that my brother and I would not notice our poverty but instead would only see that we were loved beyond measure. That is the feeling we hope to give to others as often as we can. On behalf of those in our span of care throughout Asia, I humbly ask if you will send a special donation here at the end of 2021 to share your love and humanity with people who will be beyond grateful. YOU are what makes this ministry RELEVANT!

*Much Love & Merry Christmas!*  
Jim & Pat



**USA Donations by mail**

Relevant Expeditions  
PO Box 94 Fenton, MO 63026



**Singapore Donations**

Bank POSB  
A/C NO 05884805-0  
Payable to: Harris James William



**Online Giving with Credit / Debit**

[www.relevantexpeditions.org](http://www.relevantexpeditions.org)

