



3Violetsnews

The Marist Solidarity Cambodia Newsletter
 June 2011 Issue number 4

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Children visited the palace

Our Name

Marist Solidarity Cambodia founded on the principles and Beliefs of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the Founder of the Marist Brothers, hold as our vision the hope for an inclusive community where concern for individual human development makes education a high priority.

Director's Greetings

Greetings! Welcome to the 3Violetsnews June 2011 issue 4.

It's my first year since being appointed as the Director of Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC) that has passed so quickly after the amalgamation of Marist Mission Australia and Yodifee! I have reflected on what has happened in this first year in which I've experienced many new events and opportunities. My aim in serving as the Director of MSC is to help young people with disabilities to gain access to better educational opportunities and employment and to seek help from our supporters and friends around the globe to further our projects. With your generous help our goals can be achieved so that our beneficiaries are enabled to gain an education as well as employment to earn a living. For greater detail on our achievements this year please visit our new website www.maristsolidaritycambodia.org or download our six monthly progressive report for your reference.

I take this opportunity to say thanks to all our donors but I wish to say a special word of thanks to Mr Mark Brown and his companions who co-support our farm project which is located in Sa'Ang district. Their support enables our young people to equip themselves with farming skills to earn a living as well as earning income to

make our farm project profitable. Our corn crop is now ready for sale and will sustain our farm work. During the last few months our staff took the opportunity to attend Project *Cycle Management* to improve the quality, capacity and effectiveness of their work. As it is the middle of the year 2011 our Sala LaValla school students have just completed their final tests. I am confident that their results are positive and cheerful. There are fifteen Grade 6 students graduating this year, so they will be able to continue their educational journey at a government junior high school. We all wish them every success in the new challenges that are ahead. In turn the new enrolments will provide a new hope to other disadvantaged youth with disabilities. This last month was exciting for us as first we welcomed our four Australian school visitors on their Cambodian immersion and then the Cambodian government has officially approved our new name of *Marist Solidarity Cambodia* with its logo for official use.

My sincere thanks for all your generous support which is profoundly appreciated by Marist Solidarity Cambodia and especially by all those we help with our projects.

Nimul Ouch
 Director
 Marist Solidarity Cambodia



The Homepage of Marist Solidarity Cambodia is launching and please visit us @ www.maristsolidaritycambodia.org



Immersion experience for Australian students

The first semester school holidays in Australia provide the opportunity for an immersion experience for Australian students across the world. These past four weeks we have enjoyed visits from four Australian schools to Sala LaValla of MSC. Our visitors came from St Rita's, Brisbane; Marist North Shore, Sydney; St Francis Xavier's, Newcastle and St Mary MacKillop, Busselton. It was a chance for them to interact with our Khmer culture and to help Sala LaValla. Each school undertook some very useful physical work such as painting, planting trees at the farm, gardening, repairing or landscaping. So Sala LaValla and the farm look a picture now! After eating lunch with us the students played with us and then undertook some educational activities such as teaching some lessons on colours or animals, songs or learning new games, making *slime* all in English. The highlight of the school year, for our children, was the day at the Water Park with St Rita's and Marist. What fun! It was the contact with our children which they will value most when they return home for they interacted with us who have permanent disadvantages such as being in wheelchairs, others wearing limb prostheses or having only partial limbs. Despite our disadvantages we smile and enjoy our advantages even if we are sometimes sidelined by society as if we are so different.

Upon returning home I'm sure our visitors will ask themselves how they can further justice, love and compassion in their immediate circle of family and school; perhaps even the wider Australian community. They now see the many advantages that the disadvantaged possess. Because of their visit to MSC we hope they will grow and develop into young men and women committed to helping the disadvantaged people of Australia and Asia.

Marist Solidarity Cambodia official Name Approved by the Government

Subject to our Request for Change of Name from ' Marist Mission Australia' to " Marist Solidarity Cambodia", as our wish is to create a new civil structure covering both projects, LaValla School and Yodifee, to ensure the Cambodian Leadership and to continue and enhance these services,

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Royal Government of Cambodia on June 27, 2011 has agreed to our request to officially change the present organization's name " Marist Mission Australia" to "Marist solidarity Cambodia" , with its new logo.

We take this opportunity to announce to our network with our new logo.



Logo of MSC

In order to identify with new structure, we wish to present our Board of Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC).

Board is the organisation's highest in-country governing body and has final legal responsibility and authority. The Board will be primarily concerned with the policy, strategic direction and financial oversight of MSC, creating a policy and procedures manual which will outline the way MSC will be run, including but not limited to the management structure, administration, establishment of committees and delegation of duties.

Name of our Board Directors

Br. Martin Connell, Ms. Tith Davy, Mr. Hing Channarith,
Mr. Thong Vinal, Mr. Nimul Ouch, Sr. Luise Ahrens,
Dr. David Buckley, Br. Maximiliano Meier



2-day personal development training seminar



Personal Development Training in progress

The objective of the training is to integrate the Personal Development experiences of people with disabilities (PWDs) to ensure the human development of their talents in order to gain inner-sources, personal experience, pathways to well be

haviors management, self -esteem and motivation, morality, personal leadership and responsibilities for their lives integrated into society. We invited the mentor from Wyndham Disability Action Group Melbourne Australia to provide training in Personal Development to our selected students. There was a two-day training that we have done in June. There were 30 people attending the course. After the training each participant gained understanding about the NATIONAL DISABILITY LAW, PRIVATE vs. GOVERNMENT, JOBS TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT, WORK EXPERIENCE/ INTERNSHIP – WHY IS IT NEEDED? HOW TO GET IT? WHERE TO LOOK FOR JOBS, How to make RESUMES, JOB APPLICATIONS – CHECK OUT THE EMPLOYER etc. The training is part of human development for using their talents towards taking responsibility for their lives .

We thanks to *United World College South East Asia Singapore (UWCSEA)* that supported this program.

Champagnat day



Champagnat Day at La Valla 2011 began with a prayer/reflection on the lives of 2 former La Valla Community members. Br. Alexander Moss, staff member 1999-2000 and Gaio Keak, from Year 6, who suffered from leukemia. Both died recently. The service was attended by Keak family. While both were here they gave much to the La Valla Community. After morning tea the staff led the children in a variety of enjoyable games. A delicious lunch was followed by a well anticipated visit to the Royal Palace. Most had not visited the palace before so it gave all a chance to see and appreciate a very important part of Cambodian history. Such days are quite important for community building as all are able to participate and enjoy the significance of Champagnat in the building of the Marist Family here in Cambodia. Principal Maroum and Br. Darryl Slater

LaValla Camp September



The La Valla School aims to sustain the educational and personal needs of children with physical disabilities. La Valla School will conduct the Camp in **September 5th -9th** at La Valla School campus, located in Phum Prek Reang, Sangkat Kompong Samnanh, Takmao City, Kandal Province.

The goals of the camp are to give an educational experience involving fun and challenge to children with physical disabilities who would not normally be able to access the facilities at the La Valla School and to motivate young people to think about their future education and the possibilities offered by the La Valla School that they could access if they so desired. To publicize the educational

work of La Valla so that others may come to know of the opportunities available and hence enable more young people to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Marist Solidarity Cambodia.

Goals for the Participants are to engage in team and individual game situations, To succeed at new challenges. **More info to join the camp please contact Mr. Ngim Visal at 016831559**





Yodicraft

BEAUTIFUL HANDICRAFTS

Yodicraft is the social business enterprise established in 2009 aiming to provide training and employment opportunities for youth with disabilities to become more self-sufficient, to showcase the talents of these youths and to provide an income for ensuring the sustainability of our work.

On the website:
www.yodicraft.com
You can:
Browse our Catalogue
Pay by PayPal or credit card
Have your own Account and
See status of your order



Stock Yodicraft Goods

Should you wish to stock Yodicraft carving or sewing products, or should you wish Yodicraft to produce specific items for your shop or organization, please contact us on yodicraft@yodifee.org.

Our Current Needs Appeal

Currently we are in need of:

- + Wheelchairs for our children at LaValla school, and Yodifee project
- + Volunteer Film Maker to produce a promotional video clip of our projects.

All donations and help are appreciated, however because of practical reasons, such as security and postal problems many times we find it better to receive money rather than actual items.

ABOUT US

Marist Solidarity Cambodia is a humanitarian organisation founded on the principles and beliefs of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the Founder of the Marist Brothers, we hold as our **vision** the hope for an inclusive community where concern for individual human development makes education a high priority.

In fulfilment of this vision, we see as our **mission** a need to be in solidarity with the young, especially the most disadvantaged, providing them with the means of achieving their full potential through the delivery of education and life-building support.

The **Values** we hold in our approach to aid and development therefore encompass the promotion of equality, dignity and social justice for all members God's family.

The logo of Marist Solidarity Cambodia is represented by three violets. The Founder of the Marist Brothers, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, used these violets to teach of the importance of behaviour characterised by *courtesy, compassion, friendliness, joy, patience* and other values – sometimes called "little virtues". It is these "little virtues" that we aspire towards in our care for the young people we serve.

Our Volunteers Sharing skills

We thanks to our volunteers who offered their knowledge and experiences to train our students and staff for 6 months.

Our gratitude to

Kieran Gair– teaching computer
Anton Comg– to see the brothers and school

Martin Morris teaching English

Andrew William—carpentry

Angela William– Knitting and teaching English

Helen McCarthy- Knitting and teaching English

Wayne Slattery personal development training for our students and donated wheelchairs.

Contact us

3Violetsnews is a three– monthly newsletter published by Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC)

Should you have any comments, or feedback, about this newsletter, or our organization, here are some ways you could contact us:



Head Office:

Villa Maria
Phum Prek Reang,
Sangkat Kompong Samnanh
Takhmao, Kandal
Cambodia

Postal Address: Villa Maria, P.O Box 1309
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
(+855) 12 324 548

Phone: nimullavalla@yodifee.org

Email: nimullavalla@yodifee.org
Website: www.maristsolidaritycambodia.org

