

The Douglas Mendel Cambodian Relief Fund

The Douglas Mendel Cambodian Relief Fund P.O. Box 1094 Silverthorne, CO 80498 Email: wndrst49@hotmail.com

June 2006

Publisher's Notes...

Dear friends of The Douglas Mendel Cambodian Relief Fund,

Thank you for your assistance and patience the past year. I was hoping to get a newsletter out more frequently than every 12 months. I got back May 4 from my 10th trip to Cambodia and delivering the firetruck was a great accomplishment. I will try to get a newsletter out maybe every 4 months, even if it is short and sweet!

In June 2005, Red, White and Blue, a fire department in Breckenridge, Colorado donated a 1976 Firemaster pumper engine to the Douglas Mendel Cambodian Relief Fund. Within 10 months, the engine was shipped from the USA to Sihanoukville, Cambodia. With patience, perseverance, a little luck and by keeping on top of pertinent details, the process of getting the 12-ton engine from Silverthorne to Savannah, Georgia (on a flat-bed truck), then onto a steamship for the 33-day journey to Sihanoukville went relatively smoothly.

Three friends from Summit County came with me to help deliver the engine to the fire station in Sihanoukville. Two are firefighters from the station that donated the truck. The vehicle arrived April 7 at the port in Sihanoukville and within 24 hours had cleared customs and was driven to the station about three miles from the port. Once I received the great news, I was quite elated and could breathe a sigh of relief! The four of us arrived April 15, about a week after the arrival of the fire truck. It was a sight for sore eyes to actually see the vehicle at the fire/police headquarters.

After we arrived in Sihanoukville in the afternoon after a 37-hour journey from Denver, we were treated to a luxurious lunch catered by a Cambodian friend of mine who owns a restaurant. During the next few hours, after consuming many delicious vegetarian dishes and non-vegetarian entrees and washing it down with the local beer (about two cases for 8 people), we were ready for a couple hours rest at a nice hotel.

It was nice to get some rest and relaxation. The next several days would be spent training the 10+ local firefighters on how to operate the fire truck. It was arranged that a ceremony would take place to show the media (three papers and the local Cambodian TV station) and the high level brass at the police/fire headquarters that the firefighters knew how to spray water from the various discharge outlets.

The first full day we were in Cambodia, we tried to see if we could fill the 750-gallon tank by drafting water from a freshwater source. The engine came with three sections of hard-suction hose. We connected the sections together and connected it to the intake of the engine. After a few unsuccessful attempts at drafting water, we realized that

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The 800 lbs. of Donated Stuff at the Airport in Phnom Penh



Battambang Fire Station

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Siem Reap Fire Station

there was a leak in the system. It was about 100 degrees Fahrenheit with 90 percent humidity, so we took a break to cool off with much needed water and rest. No use getting heat exhaustion in a Third World country!

After getting dehydrated, we went to the station that is home to one of the five fire hydrants in Sihanoukville. We filled the tank of the engine in about seven minutes and then went about training a few firefighters for an hour or so. They caught on quickly and seemed to really enjoy their "new" vehicle. A couple of local youths were given the opportunity to spray water and were amazed at the big toy that had arrived in their community.

A couple days later there was a ceremony for the fire truck being donated to the station. Three local papers and a television station were on hand to document the event. Needless to say the firefighters in Sihanoukville, and the brass at the police/fire headquarters were quite happy at receiving an engine that benefits the province of Sihanoukville.

My next goal is to have 1 or 2 water trucks built in Cambodia by the end of next year to be donated to a rural fire station and/or province. I'll keep you posted...



Ceremony of the Firetruck Being Donated to the Station in Sihanoukville

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Donations to Fire Stations and Other Organizations as of May 2006



Phnom Penh Fire Station



Bokor National Park

Sihanoukville

- 1 1976 Fire Master Fire Truck
- 40 Safety Glasses
- 17 New Nomex Hoods
- 16 Coats
- 14 Pants
- 15 Pr. Boots
- 10 Pr. Gloves
- 11 Helmets, including 1 Orange new Helmet
- 7 Suspenders
- 12 Books on Fire Science
- 6 Boxes of Latex Gloves
- 1 Digital Camera & Accessories
- 1 Film Camera
- 20 Radios
- 1 Hi-8 Camcorder and Tapes
- 1 DV Camcorder
- Batteries

Bokor National Park

- 25 Safety Glasses
- 19 Fire Extinguishers
- 35 Brush Pants
- 13 Digital Cameras
- 13 Memory Cards
- Accessories for Digital Cameras
- 5 Cam Trakkers
- 5 Cable Locks
- 5 Garmin GPS 60 CS units and Accessories
- 1 DV Camcorder
- Batteries

[More >>](#)

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◆ June 2006

Kampot

- 14 Radios and accessories, batteries
- 1 Film Camera and film, 1 book on fire science
- 48 Fire Extinguishers
- 10 Safety Glasses
- 14 Coats
- 10 Pants
- 14 Pr. Boots
- 10 Pr. Gloves
- 11 Helmets, including 1 New Red Helmet
- 14 New Suspenders



Kampot Fire Station

Phnom Penh

- 30 Safety Glasses
- 21 Nomex Hoods (20 new and 1 old)
- 10 Boxes of Latex Gloves
- 2 Pr. Boots
- 4 Coats
- 5 Pr. Gloves
- 6 Helmets, including 1 new White and 1 new Black
- 3 Suspenders

Battambang

- 30 Fire Extinguishers
- 19 Coats
- 15 Pants
- 8 Pr. Boots
- 9 Pr. Gloves
- 5 Helmets, including 1 new Yellow
- 8 New Suspenders
- 3 SCBA Packs, only 2 Bottles
- 2 Masks
- 14 Radios & Accessories
- 9 Nomex Hoods
- 18 Safety Glasses
- 1 Book on Fire Science

[More >>](#)



A Beautiful Sunrise at Angkor Wat

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June 2006

Siem Reap

- 20 Safety Glasses
- 22 Nomex Hoods
(13 new and 9 old)
- 20 Coats
- 11 Pants
- 8 Pr. Boots
- 8 Pr. Gloves
- 5 Helmets, including
one new Black
- 7 New Suspenders
- 8 Fire Extinguishers

Angkor Station

- 1 Nomex Hood
- 2 Safety Glasses
- 4 Fire Extinguishers

Ban Lung, Ratanakiri

- 56 Fire Extinguishers
- 40 Safety Glasses
- 9 Coats
- 2 Light Coats
- 3 Pants
- 4 Pr. Boots
- 4 Pr. Gloves
- 4 Helmets, including
1 new Black
- 4 New Suspenders
- 4 Hoods

Friends

- 15 Stuffed Animals
- 48 Crayons
- 36 Colored Pencils
- 692 Sheets of Construction
Paper
- 20 National Geographic

Starfish Project

- 1 Camcorder
- 1 Digital Camera
- Clothing

M'Lop Tapang

September 2004

- 76 National Geographic
- 72 Children's Books
- 32 Washable Markers
- 250 Colored Pencils
- 384 Crayons
- 22 Stuffed Animals
- Clothing

January 2005

- 1 Digital Camcorder
- 200 Pieces of Clothing
- 42 Coloring Books
- 256 Crayons
- 100 Markers
- 168 Colored Pencils
- 100 Craft Sticks
- 40 Stuffed Animals
- Games, Toys

September 2005

- 209 Stuffed Animals
- 312 Crayons
- 267 Colored Pencils
- 6 Coloring Books
- 176 Coloring Sheets
- 1 Digital Camera & Accessories
- 4 Radios

