



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

SEQUERE DOMINUM

August 2015

Dear Parents

Proposed Immersion to Cambodia: 25 September – 4 October 2016

As a Catholic community we are called to live out the teachings of the Gospel. Part of our evangelisation mission is to touch people's minds, hearts and lives with the saving, healing and liberating Good News of Jesus Christ who came to serve others. Therefore when we see a need, we are called to act.

Corpus Christi College staff has established a relationship with Catholic and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in Cambodia to help such people in need. To further develop this relationship, we would like to give students and parents an opportunity to be involved in this challenging experience together.

The College staff has participated in two previous successful immersions to Cambodia, both in 2013 and 2014. It is now proposed to expand this opportunity to Year 10 students and their parents in September 2016 (during Term Three school holidays). Being a parent/student immersion, this means that for every child who wishes to attend, they need to be accompanied by a parent.

The Immersion will involve house building, visiting Missionaries of Charities' homes, and other Non-Government Organisations such as Green Gecko and Husk.

The aims of this immersion are to:

- Witness first-hand the power of education to make a difference in the lives of the poor
- Show solidarity with NGO's and those who are marginalised
- Develop greater awareness in cross cultural dialogue
- Form leaders who deeply understand the church's mission in the contemporary world context
- Visiting ministry sites, the Sisters of Charity homes for children, interacting with Khmers/Cambodians, younger and older
- Allowing the affections and exuberance of Khmers/Cambodians, especially the children, to touch the hearts.

Some of the ongoing benefits to be gained by immersions as opposed to just sending money are:

- During the Pol Pot era, Khmer people were made to feel they were of no value – some Khmers still feel they are worthless. When volunteers come from overseas it helps the Khmer people start to believe in their own value and self-worth
- By combining fund-raising with the follow up hands-on projects in Cambodia, gives participants a sense of how their funds are directly targeted to those in need

- Participants return home inspired by their experience of actively making a difference in another family's life and continue to support Catholic Social Teachings e.g. Preferential Option for the Poor.

The proposed costs and itinerary are attached.

A Parent/Student Information Evening will be held in the College Hall on Thursday 3 September 2015 at 6.30pm to discuss this exciting adventure. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

Rae Cook 

Mrs Rae Cook & Ms Wendy Quint
Immersion Coordinators 2016

CAMBODIA 2016

Immersion Costs

Flights: Estimated \$800 per adult and \$700 for child. Parents and students will be expected to book their own as the trip starts in Phnom Penh and departs from Siem Reap. This gives participants the opportunity to use Frequent Fliers, a carrier of their own choice or have a stopover.

Tour: Estimated price of \$1200.00 for 11 days in Cambodia, including hotels, transport, tours (as per the itinerary), and internal flight from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap, breakfast, 3/4 evening meals and tour guide, provided by Intrepid Travel.

Travel Insurance: Estimated \$120.00.

Tour Accessories: Polo shirt, cap and shoulder bag, \$50 with sponsorship.

Cambodia Visa: \$30.00.

Meals in Cambodia: Estimate of \$30 per day for lunch and evening meal.

Tips: The tour guides and bus drivers will require a tip at the end of their time with the groups. These are at the discretion of the participant but it may be worth considering about \$100 to cover all persons.

Fundraising Expectations

Each parent/student (family) will be expected to raise \$2000.00 towards the Tabitha Building Project. This fundraising will be external to the College.

Fundraising events will take place by staff attending for funds to be used for the following charities;

- Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa Houses) in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh
- The Husk Project
- Green Gecko

All staff that attend will be expected to fundraise for their own house for the Tabitha Building Project.

Note: All donations to the Tabitha Foundation Australia made online are 100% tax deductible.

Selection Policy for Participation in The Cambodia Immersion Programme

In the event that students/parents need to be selected to attend the Immersion programme, the following criteria will be required:

- Student and parent/legal guardian need to commit to the programme
- Reasons for wanting to participate need to be put forward in writing
- Student must have completed required Christian Service hours
- Strategy for raising the funds for building need to be outlined

- Commitment to the Immersion Programme events needs to be given and fulfilled; this includes both parent and student attending activities and a series of presentations in preparation for the trip
- Physical health and wellbeing to cope with the building in the heat.

Behaviour Code of Conduct

Parents will be expected to take the role of duty of care throughout the trip. However, there will be some general group rules in place:

- Participants will be expected to behave in a manner both respectful and courteous to each other and the Cambodians
- Participants will be required to attend all the events and excursions on the itinerary
- Participants will be expected to dress appropriately according to the rules and expectations of Cambodia, e.g. ladies must wear knee length shorts and cover their shoulders when visiting sacred sights
- When attending specific group activities, participants will be required to wear the tour shirt
- No alcohol is to be consumed by the students at any time on the trip
- Use of drugs is as per the College Policy.

ITINERARY

Sunday 25 Sept (Day 1)

- 1700: All participants of the tour meet in the hotel foyer in Phnom Penh.
General get together
- 1800: Meet with tour representative(s)
- 1900: Group welcome meal at local trainee Cambodian Restaurant
- 2100: Briefing with regards to meeting time for Day 2.

Monday 26 Sept (Day 2)

- 0730: Breakfast
- 0800: Meet and depart for presentation at Tabitha office
- 1030: Cyclo tour of Phnom Penh departing from Tabitha office
- 1200: Lunch at Cambodian restaurant on the Mekong riverfront
- 1330: Group tour of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and Killing Fields
- 1800: Briefing for evening and Day 3 itinerary
- 1900: Group meal at local Cambodian Restaurant.

Tuesday 27 Sept (Day 3)

- 0600: Breakfast
- 0700: Depart for Day 1 of building project
- 1600: Return to hotel from building
- 1800: Group debrief and briefing for Day 3
- 1900: Individual dinner and visit to local attractions
(Students MUST always be under the supervision of the parent).

Wednesday 28 Sept (Day 4)

- 0600: Breakfast
- 0700: Depart for Day 2 of building project
- 1600: Return to hotel from building
- 1800: Group debrief and briefing for Day 3
- 1900: Individual dinner and visit to local attractions
(Students MUST always be under the supervision of the parent)

Thursday 29 Sept (Day 5)

- 0700: Breakfast
- 0800: Depart for visit to the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Conservation Centre to experience
being a bear keeper for a day
- 1600: Return to Phnom Penh
- 1800: Debrief and briefing for the evening and briefing for Day 6.

Friday 30 Sept (Day 6)

- 0700: Breakfast
- 0800: Depart for morning at Missionaries of Charity to spend time with the young
children at the Catholic orphanage.
Some participants may go to buy stores for the children with the money raised
prior to departing
- 1200: Return to hotel and depart for airport
- 1500: Flight to Siem Reap
- 1600: Arrive in Siem Reap and transfer to hotel
- 1700: Either cycle or bus to visit Green Gecko project
- 1930: Group welcome meal in Siem Reap
- 2030: Briefing for Day 7
Parents to supervise students discovering Siem Reap and the local markets.

Saturday 1 Oct (Day 7)

0700: Breakfast

0800: Depart to visit the famous temples of Cambodia: Angkor Wat and Banteay Srei

1330: Return to city and lunch at a vocational training restaurant Salai Bai

1500: Visit to private Children's Hospital

1700: Debrief and briefing for the remainder of the day and Day 8

1800: Attendance at the concert by Dr Beat Richner fundraising for the Kantha Bopha hospitals in Cambodia and giving a history of their evolution on the cities

1930: Group meal at a local Cambodian restaurant and dance showcasing the traditional dances of the Cambodian people.

Sunday 2 Oct (Day 8)

0700: Breakfast

0800: Depart for working at the Missionaries of Charity home

1200: Meet at hotel to depart for visit to a local floating village, including Mass at the floating church

1700: Return to hotel

1800: Debrief and briefing for Day 9

1900: Individual activities and meal (students must be under the supervision of the parents at all times).

Monday 3 Oct (Day 9)

0700: Breakfast

0800: Visit to Husk and participation in the following activities:

- Working with the children
- Building projects
- Cooking class

1500: Return to hotel

1800: Debrief of day's activities and briefing for Day 10.

Tuesday 4 Oct (Day 10)

0700: Breakfast

0800: Depart for visit to a local village to watch their local crafts and participating in playing with the children

OR

Visit to a local school to assist with working with the children

1300: Second visit to the Missionaries of Charity to play with the students and assist with feeding and cleaning.

Buying of provisions at the local markets for the orphanage

1800: Meet to debrief the day and explain departure procedure for Day 11

1900: Final group meal and farewells to tour reps and group members.

Wednesday 5 October (Day 11)

0700: Breakfast – followed by departure according to flight schedule. Students to be accompanied by parent.