

Frontline CAMBODIA



National Changes to Help Trafficking Survivors

Often we are motivated by those emotional encounters with shattered lives. The ones at the Ratanak Centre where we see terror in the eyes of freshly arrived trafficking survivors fade into calm, as they dare to hope they are finally safe, finally with those who will love and protect them. These are powerful encounters indeed and your support makes them possible.

NATIONAL CHANGES TO HELP TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

A SPECIAL UPDATE FROM BRIAN ABOUT THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROJECT

Such dramatic recovery of traumatized lives cannot happen without an administrative and legal framework.

It wasn't too long ago that Cambodia was torn apart by bombings during the Vietnam war, followed by the horrors of genocide and a long and brutal civil war. These tragedies devastated Cambodians, and dismantled public institutions, including government and social protection systems.

Decades later, Cambodia is in the process of recovering from the trauma and shock of these atrocities. The government is working hard to rebuild and support its people. We are encouraged to see many positive developments, but it is a long, challenging road towards building social safety nets and being able to protect its citizens.

It is an honour that through over 30 years of steadfast work, Ratanak is positioned to offer support to the government and to help craft meaningful policies that prioritize trafficking survivors and improve support systems, creating long-term change and lasting impact.

This foundational work enables Ratanak to partner directly with the Cambodian government to create country-wide policies and train staff at both the provincial and national levels. Together, we work to improve the quality of services for survivors, systems of survivor-identification, data management and coordination within the government. Not only do these policies place

the dignity and humanity of trafficking survivors first, these changes will strengthen the national response to human trafficking and expand the services available to survivors so that they can be protected from re-exploitation, recover and rebuild their lives.

Working on such systems, while vital, appears much less dramatic. However, after 32 years of working with Western and Cambodian government officials, I can tell you these meetings are just as exciting to me. To be successful, these meetings must be based on long-term relationships, trust and mutual respect. They can lead to huge systemic changes that save lives, and they are every bit as personal.

Many of us have experienced uncomfortable high-stakes meetings with relative strangers like lawyers, bank managers, school principals, business owners. If only we knew the bank manager, if only the lawyer was a friend, if only we had known the school principal for years, how much easier and productive such meetings would be.

These are exactly the sort of relationships Ratanak's Cambodian team have built with Cambodian government officials, especially within the Anti-Human Trafficking Department in the Ministry of Social Affairs with which we work most closely.

We are continually amazed by the level of skill and professionalism that our young staff



“Our good relationship and collaboration with government partners has built trust and respect in our work. This has shaped our approach as one team working together to achieve a shared goal and mission of addressing the challenges that clients experience so we can better serve them.”

— Solita Sorn,
Government Liaison

team demonstrate as they build these key relationships. We have come to know these officials and have humbly offered them our respect, skills, and honesty.

Over time they have grown to trust Ratanak and even seek our input and partnership, developing policies and procedures that protect thousands of lives.

What a rare privilege, that God has allowed us to work in such a context of trust for the blessing of all Cambodians. So, these relationships

also change lives. They are a blessing and encouragement to me and, I hope, to you.

—Brian McConaghy, Founding Director

**Support vital improvements
that create long-term change for
trafficking survivors with a gift today!**

FUELED BY LOVE

WHY LESLIE ANN RUNS FOR REFUGE

I first heard about Ratanak through my daughter. Her school choir participated in a concert to benefit Ratanak. What I heard that night was both heartbreaking and inspiring. A few months later, I heard Brian speak at a conference. I was deeply moved by his love for Christ and the people of Cambodia, and the stories of freedom, healing, and restoration he shared. That was 2007, and my husband and I have been donors since.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed. I have learned to hear that feeling as a call to prayer. I believe God uses our prayers and that *“when two or three are gathered in His name, Jesus is with them”*. So, involvement with the Ratanak Prayer Hour is a natural fit for me.

As we pray, my heart breaks. Yet, it is also filled with hope and faith grows as I am given reason to celebrate what God is doing through Ratanak in Cambodia.

Leslie Ann is a long-time donor and has participated in Ratanak Prayer Hours and the Ride for Refuge. She is a champion for the cause to end human trafficking.

My involvement with Ride for Refuge began in 2020, when the event was reimagined. With Ride for Refuge “Freestyle” I could run to raise awareness and funds.

I was nervous about asking people for money, but pushing past my fears was so rewarding! The generosity of family and friends amazed me. Each kilometre I run, I pray for a particular supporter or prayer point from recent Prayer Hours and I feel the Holy Spirit carrying me.

Ratanak is an organization fueled by love. This is the work of the Lord and I am privileged to be a part of it.



PRAY WITH RATANAK!

We invite you to join us for our
online Ratanak Prayer Hour events!

This is a special and powerful time, as we pray with supporters from different parts of the world. We gather as a community to pray and lift up those who are currently enslaved and exploited and for the young men and women in our care. We come together in faith, knowing that, *"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit"* (Psalm 34:18).

"Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man."
(Proverbs 3:4)

It can be easy to see your impact when you read the harrowing stories of escape we share from individuals who've survived terrible situations and returned home. While it is not always as obvious, the work being done behind the scenes is just as critical. Government policies, data coordination and paperwork can mean the difference between escape and enslavement, life and death, support or re-exploitation.

Our staff team in Cambodia has been so dedicated in building strong, caring relationships of integrity with the government where they are trusted colleagues in this pivotal work.

This also could not happen without your faithful partnership. Your immense and consistent generosity over the years has done wonders in supporting this vital work. It's with your help, and through God's grace and favour,

A LASTING IMPACT THROUGH LEGACY GIVING

Donors often ask the question, *"How can I make the biggest impact in Cambodia?"* Becoming a monthly donor, participating in the Ride for Refuge and praying for Ratanak are great ways to help transform the lives of trafficking survivors.

Sometimes, the question is *"How can I leave a lasting impact in Cambodia?"* It has taken Ratanak over 30 years to build up trust with the Cambodian government. We're committed to the long-haul, impacting lives in Cambodia. To make a lasting difference, many donors have looked into the future and have made the decision to leave a gift for Ratanak in their Will to ensure their impact continues well beyond their lifetime.

For more information on Legacy Giving please contact us at steve@ratanak.org



We are privileged to partner with senior government officials and NGOs to fight human trafficking collaboratively at the national level.

that Ratanak is able to effect far-reaching change such as this, and we can't thank you enough for your ongoing care and support.

Together, we can continue moving forward for all the important work to come! Thank you so much for your dedicated support!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "BMcConaghy". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Brian McConaghy,
Founding Director