

## ORPHANAGES IN CAMBODIA

Maria Gates wins \$530.00 US Dollars and comes in 5th in the Best of Laos Photo Contest for the whole country of Laos...

Wanting to put the money to good use in an Orphanage, Maria Gates Foundation chose PLCO Orphanage to donate the money to, as they needed concrete work done, and being from a Fourth Generation Concrete family, this was true to my passion and roots. The Maria Gates Foundation loves doing concrete work for the muddy surroundings of the needy children...



*Fifth place Country of Laos Photo Contest*



*This photo also won an award in the Best of the Country of Laos photo contest.*

# After the Super Typhoon

## From the Cambodian Orphanage November 18, 2013

Photography by Richard Fisher  
Sponsored by The Maria Gates Foundation

After hearing that there had been some exceptionally intense Monsoon rains this year and there was quiet extensive countrywide flooding, how it would affect the orphanage property which is just above the high water mark was needed to be addressed. When arriving at the orphanage that first evening it was dark and depressing and the lights were turned off for fear of electrocuting the orphans who were standing in ankle deep water. Only candles for illumination made it seem very depressing, dark and even dangerous for the children, certainly uncomfortable.



*Cambodia Orphanage food delivery.*

That first evening at the orphanage we delivered 100 kilos (220 lbs.) of rice, some vegetables and a small amount of meat for flavoring. The children had something to eat that night. We felt so bad for them in those conditions where they slept just inches off the fetid water and had to get out of bed to greet gray threatening sky in the mud.



*Cambodian Orphanage, the original Sand lot floor for shower and toilet rooms.*

Overnight we learned of the monster super typhoon nearing the Philippines. Looking at the satellite and seeing that this largest Typhoon in human history stretched from east of the Philippines to Cambodia in the west and from far south Vietnam to China in the north. The weather men had no idea where it would go at that point but rain was flooding everywhere across the region.



*Cambodia Orphanage, installing rock for the foundation for the new patio floor.*

Fearing that if there were no steps taken, the orphans might be washed into the river already topping it's banks. As there were a few more days until the possible impact we ordered some stone and concrete to lay some flooring over the sand to give more strength for the established buildings and give them a shower room and pump wash room clean floor as well. That would add about a total of 6 inches more height.



*Cambodia Orphanage, the finished slab for the showers and toilets.*

As it turned out the big Typhoon did not hit Cambodia but was followed by a monster tropical depression that dropped tons of rain on the already flooded country.



*Cambodia Orphanage, working the earth for the new garden. We purchased the green fencing, seeds and the watering cans.*

We were very lucky and those 6" made the difference and gives the orphans a clean slab in which to dry off and wash their clothing as well, from an old hand pump at that.



*Orphanage Cambodia, we poured a new slab for the clothing and dish washing water pump room.*

In the meantime, we with the orphans, built a garden and garden fencing for some locally grown vegetables and healthy activities for the children.



*Orphans Cambodia, taking a break at the end of the 4 days hard work with cookies and drinks.*

Thanks to our relationship and sponsorship for these desperately needy orphans and the trust we built allowed us to do a weeks work in just a few days.



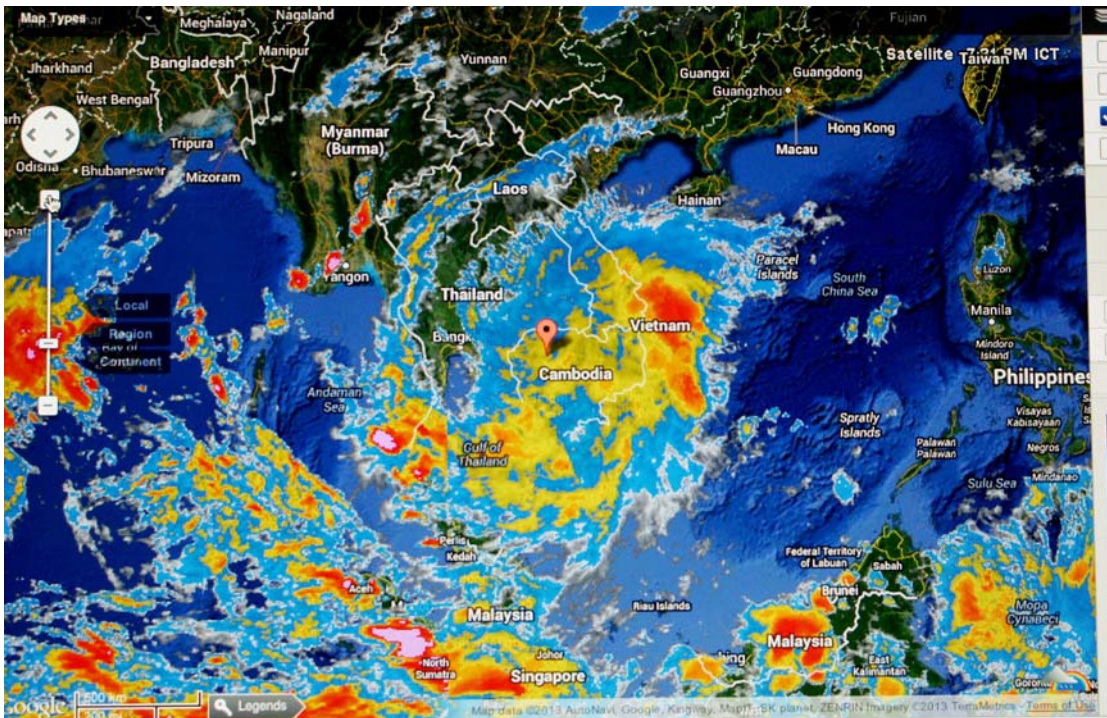
*Gateway and guard of the NLCO Cambodia Orphanage.*

*With OuK Ravy, tuktuk driver, the fine young man who did all the coordination, interpreting and supervision for our successful project. Thank you OuK Ravy to make our little orphanage project such a big success!*

*Good luck on your medical training, you have the big heart for it!*

*We are sure God will bless you for your fine helpful personality and kind spirit.*

In addition to continuing our food support for the Orphans and some minor build projects, we are donating 2 college, freshman year scholarships for our two volunteer youth. Ouk Ravy \$500.00 USD for EMT/nursing school and Ouk Phheakkdey \$350 freshman year accounting school.



*Tropical depression Cambodia, Thank God only the outer bands of the super typhoon came over Cambodia because it was followed just a few days later by a flooding tropical depression that hit Cambodia dead center.*

We are directly benefiting some of the most innocent, deserving and needy children in the world.



*Cambodia season long flooding affecting the orphanage.*

Urgent flood repairs needed at the Cambodian Orphanage now that the flood waters are beginning to subside, we will be doing repairs, more concrete work and flooring improvements also a new roof at the orphanage this March, 2014.