

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT  
SOUTHEAST ASIA  
CAMBODIA**

**Snapshots Section**

**Country Name:** Cambodia, Kingdom of Cambodia, *Preahreacheanachakr Kampuchea*

**Country Founded in:** November 9, 1953

**Population:** 14, 241,640

**Government Type: (national, regional, and local)** Cambodia is a constitutional monarchy with the King as the Head of State. Cambodia operates on democratic, pluralistic principles and is governed by their citizens through three primary branches: the National Assembly, the Royal Government, and the Judiciary.

**Geography/location in the world:** Southeast Asia, Cambodia is situated with Thailand at its west border, Laos in the north, and Vietnam on the eastern border, with the gulf of Thailand in the south.

**Number of people groups:** 40

**Picture of flag:**



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag\\_of\\_Cambodia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Cambodia)

**Religion Snapshot:**

Major Religion and % of population:

Buddhism 82.57%

All religions and % for each:

Non-Christian 95.5%

Chinese 4.69%

Traditional Ethnic 4.35%

Islam 3.90%

Baha'i 0.12%

(Non-religious/other 2.92%)  
Judaism unknown %  
Hindu .26%

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/jewpop.html>  
<http://www.simpletoremember.com/vitals/world-jewish-population.htm>  
<http://www.jafi.org.il/education/100/concepts/demography/demtables.html#2>

**Government interaction with religion:** “Buddhism has been the national religion since the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The Khmer Rouge sought to eradicate all religion; 90% of Buddhist monks and most Christians perished. Since 1978 there have been periods of more tolerance, but only since 1990 have Christians been allowed to worship more openly. There is increasing freedom of religion for Cambodians.”

*Operation World*, revised 2005  
[www.operationworld.org/country/camb/owtext.html](http://www.operationworld.org/country/camb/owtext.html)

### **Non Christian groups:**

*Jehovah’s Witnesses (Temoins de Jehovah) 1 congregation, 70 members*

Jehovah’s Witnesses have been in Cambodia since about 1992. As of the year 2000, there are 70 members and one Jehovah’s Witness church in Cambodia.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.  
[http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church\\_history\\_p4.htm](http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church_history_p4.htm)  
[http://www.adherents.com/Na/Na\\_362.html](http://www.adherents.com/Na/Na_362.html)

*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) 8,359 members (year-2009)*

The Mormon Church was given legal recognition by the Cambodian government in March of 1994. Currently there are 22 Mormon churches in Cambodia.

<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/statistical-information>  
[http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church\\_history\\_p4.htm](http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church_history_p4.htm)

### **Christian:**

Evangelical Christianity 0.5%

[www.joshuaproject.net/graph-bar-segments.php?rog3=CB](http://www.joshuaproject.net/graph-bar-segments.php?rog3=CB)  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cb.html#Intro>  
<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107378.html>  
<http://www.historycentral.com/nationbynation/Cambodia/History1.html>  
<http://www.historycentral.com/nationbynation/Cambodia/History2.html>

[http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql1/egov/english/news.view.html?doc\\_oid=@143111](http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql1/egov/english/news.view.html?doc_oid=@143111)  
[http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql1/egov/english/material.view.html?doc\\_oid=@180111](http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql1/egov/english/material.view.html?doc_oid=@180111)  
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php?rog3=CB>  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/mapc/asi se/reg/seasia.html>  
<http://www.threeland.com/cambodia-travel/travel.htm>  
<http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql1/egov/english/organ.assembly.html>  
<http://www.cambodian-parliament.org/>  
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>  
<http://www.operationworld.org/country/camb/owtext.html>  
<http://www.shagtown.com/days/cambodia.html>

Gall, Timothy, L. and Hob <http://www.operationworld.org/country/camb/owtext.html> by, Jeneen M. Editors, Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Twelfth Edition, Thomson Gale: United States, 2007.

Link for National Anthem of Cambodia: NokorReachKhmer

[http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql1/egov/english/material.view.html?doc\\_oid=@180111](http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql1/egov/english/material.view.html?doc_oid=@180111)

## Mission Atlas Project Asia

### Cambodia

#### Basic Facts

**Country Name:** Cambodia

**Demographics** (July 2008 estimate)

**Population:** 14,241,640

**Age structure:** *0-14 years:* 33.2%

*15-64 years:* 63.2%

*65 years and over:* 3.6%

**Median age:** *total:* 21.7 years

21 years

22.5 years

**Population growth rate:** 1.752%

**Birth rate:** 25.68 births/1,000 population

**Death rate:** 8.16 deaths/1,000 population

**Life expectancy at birth:** *total population:* 61.69 years

*male:* 59.65 years

*female:* 63.83 years

**Total fertility rate:** 3.08 children born/woman

**HIV/AIDS-adult prevalence rate:** 2.6% (2003 est.)

**HIV/AIDS-  
People living  
with HIV/AIDS:** 170,000 (2003 est.)

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cb.html>

### **Language:**

95% of the Cambodian population speaks the official language of Khmer. French and English are also languages used within Cambodia. Each of the 40 people groups within Cambodia have their own language which is used among their people groups.

### **Society/Culture:**

90 to 95% of the Cambodian population is ethnically Khmer. Other ethnicities within Cambodia include: Chinese-Khmers, Khmer Loeu, Vietnamese, and Khmer Islam (Chams).

During January and April the first and last sermons of Buddha are celebrated. The day the first sermon of Buddha is celebrated is the day before Buddhist Lent begins. Buddhists within Cambodia celebrate Buddhist Lent which starts during the eighth month of the Lunar calendar, during the first day that shows a waning moon. This time also marks the entry into the rainy season. Buddhist monks are required to stay in the temple of their choosing for 3 months during the Buddhist Lent season.

This time is used to train those who wish to enter the monkhood, whether temporarily for the rainy season only, or for life. Buddhist monks stay at one location in order to show respect, like Buddha did, and be careful not to ruin crops that would be fragile during the rainy season. Most Cambodians use Buddhist Lent as a time to seek to start a better life or to rededicate themselves to better lifestyle practices. The Buddhist Lent season runs from about July to September depending on the current lunar calendar for that particular year.

Woman's Day, celebrated in many parts of Asia, is celebrated in Cambodia complete with parades. Chinese and Vietnamese minorities celebrate the lunar New Year in January or February, depending on which date the holiday falls on. The traditional Cambodian New Year is called *Chaul Chnam* and is in April of each year.

Other national holidays in Cambodia include the founding of the Revolutionary People's Party in 1951 which is celebrated on June 28th of each year. This holiday is right after June 19th, which is the day that celebrates the creation of revolutionary forces within Cambodia.

One of the major holidays celebrated in Cambodia is on November 9, which is Cambodia's Independence Day from France in 1953.

On January 7th, also known as Victory Day, Cambodians celebrate the day that they were free from Pol Pot's reign of mass killings. Before January 7, 1979 Cambodia had experienced four years of Pol Pot's reign of terror.

In September, according to the lunar calendar, the Prachum Ben holiday, remembers family ancestors and the dead. During the month of Kadeuk, when there is a full moon, Cambodians will light candles and pray for the year to be a prosperous one.

The Water Festival celebrates the current flow change in the Tonle Sap River and officially starts the fishing season in Cambodia. This three day festival gives each village an opportunity to represent themselves in an annual boat race in Phnom Penh. Cambodia's water festival has been compared to the United States version of Mardi Gras in terms of excitement and large crowds that turn out for the event. Most people have a break from work and school during this time and look forward to watching the boat races.

<http://www.asiatour.com/cambodia/e-02trav/ec-tra12.htm>  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cb.html>  
<http://www.cambodia.org/blogs/editorials/2007/10/vassa-buddhist-lent.html>  
<http://www.thingsasian.com/stories-photos/1951>  
<http://www.angkorvenues.com/festivals-and-events.html>  
[http://www.essortment.com/all/polpotbiograp\\_rxdy.htm](http://www.essortment.com/all/polpotbiograp_rxdy.htm)  
<http://www.cambodiazone.com/cambodia/culture-ethnic.htm>

## **Government:**

Capital: Phnom Penh

20 provinces:

1. Banteay Mean Cheay
2. Batdambang
3. Kampong Cham
4. Kampong Chhnang
5. Kampong Speu
6. Kampong Thom
7. Kampot
8. Kandal
9. Koh Kong
10. Krati
11. Mondolkiri
12. Rotanakiri
13. Otdar Mean Cheay
14. Posat
15. Preah Vihear
16. Prey Veng
17. Siem Reap

18. Steung Treng
19. Svay Rieng
20. Takev

Four Municipalities:

1. Phnom Penh
2. Sihanouk Ville
3. Kep
4. Pailin

<http://www.cambodiazone.com/cambodia/cambodia.htm>

### **Economy:**

Cambodia's economy has been growing by about 11 % since 2004, but recently slowed to about 6% because its export industry has been affected by the general negative state of the global economy. The overall Gross Domestic Income for Cambodia in 2008 was \$8.6 billion. Cambodia's goal is to keep their economic growth at 7% annually to ensure that the citizens of Cambodia can live a life that is free of poverty.

The economic growth seen in Cambodia has been spurred on by the demand for Cambodia's main products: garments, wood products, and tourism within the country. 70% of Cambodia's exports are from the garment industry. Rubber, gem mining, fishing, cement, paper, food processing, and rice milling are also industries that support Cambodia's economy. Due to less demand for the export products by other countries, Cambodia's economic growth has begun to slow down. Cambodia's export industry is a major component of the overall economy.

According to H.E. Keat Chhon, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Economy and Finance for the Royal Government of Cambodia, the global economic slid backwards may hardest hit Cambodia's lower working class, which recently came out of poverty. Though the majority of Cambodia's revenue comes from the export industry, 75% of the Cambodian workforce is employed in the agriculture industry.

This high percentage of the workforce being involved in the agriculture industry may be due to the fact that 85% of the total population of Cambodia lives in rural areas of Cambodia. As of December 2008, it is estimated that 35% of Cambodians spend less than 50 cents a day for their needs because of lack of income.

Since 1996 Cambodia has been implementing community based programs to decentralize decision making within Cambodia by giving local communities the opportunity to be more involved in the financial decisions for their communities. The World Bank is helping to support Cambodia in this effort through this Rural Investment and Local Governance Project.

The Cambodian government is taking measures to help the economy by including fiscal stimulus in the national budget for 2009. The budget for 2009 includes measures to assist the education, overall infrastructure, and agriculture industry.

<http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql1/egov/english/country.overview.html>  
<http://www.threeland.com/cambodia-travel/travel.htm>  
[http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/International\\_Business/Cambodian\\_economy\\_to\\_slow\\_in\\_2009\\_World\\_Bank/articleshow/3817581.cms](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/International_Business/Cambodian_economy_to_slow_in_2009_World_Bank/articleshow/3817581.cms)  
<http://www.cambodianembassy.org.uk/index.php?lang=&menu=18&link=&slink=10&year=2009&cat=SPECIAL%20SUPPLEMENT>  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/cb.html>  
<http://www.cambodiazone.com/cambodia/cambodia.htm>  
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/CAMBODIAEXTN/0..contentMDK:21248370~menuPK:293861~pagePK:2865066~piPK:2865079~theSitePK:293856,00.html?cid=EXTEAPMonth1>  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bhn/2732.htm>

## **Literacy:**

The literacy rate among Cambodian men is at 82.1% of the overall population and at 67.4% for Cambodian women. According to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the overall literacy for Cambodia is at 37% of the total adult population. The literacy rate for those within the mid-teens to mid-twenties age bracket has been estimated at 83.4% in 2005. The lower rate of literacy among adults over 24 may be due to the fact that 42% of women and 21% of men over 15 have never attended school.

Depending on the location of various people groups within Cambodia, the literacy rates may vary from those stated above.

<http://www.cambcomm.org.uk/ff.html>

## **Land/Geography:**

Cambodia is a beautiful country that has exquisite forested mountains and lush wet plains. Some major features in Cambodia are the Tonle Sap (Great Lake), the Mekong River, the Cardamom Mountains, and the Elephant Range of mountains. The rainy season usually runs May to November. The dry season is December to April. It is a very humid area of the world. During the rainy season the Mekong River overflows and backs up the Tonle Sap causing it to grow in size by about 22,000 square km. Cambodia borders Vietnam to the east and southeast, Laos to the northwest, and Thailand to the west.

<http://www.angkorvenues.com/festivals-and-events.html>

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Twelfth Edition, Thomson Gale: United States, 2007.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2732.htm>

Great pictures of the Mekong River at:

<http://jumpstartlearning.wordpress.com/2008/11/15/jump--cambodia/>

## **History**

Cambodia's history is divided into several different time periods. According to Cambodia's own website the time periods include the Funan, the Khmer Kingdom, the Angkor era, the Cambodia Dark Age, French Rule, the Modern State, Khmer Republic, Democratic Kampuchea, Vietnam Liberation, as well as the most recent events in Cambodian history since 1989.

Before the beginning of the 1st century people had migrated to Cambodia from areas further north of Cambodia. Indian culture influenced the writing, art, architecture, and religious beliefs of those in Cambodia. During the 1st to 6th centuries the area was referred to by outsiders as Funan and is considered the oldest "Indianized state" in Southeast Asia. During the Khmer Kingdom period during the 6th and 7th centuries, Cambodia was ruled by various groups of kingdoms within Cambodia.

During the Angkor Era, which started in 802, King Jayavarman II took over and the Angkor Empire was established. King Jayavarman II was an ethnic Cambodian prince, who, upon returning to Cambodia, established his kingdom through a series of ceremonies. He started a cult that honored the Hindu god Shiva as a god-king. King Jayavarman used this cult to validate his rule in Cambodia. This empire lasted from the 6th to about the 18th century.

The Angkor Era was followed by Cambodia's Dark Age. This time was marked by heavy invasions by the Thai and Vietnamese. Thailand's Kingdom of Ayutthaya encompassed a large majority of modern day Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

In 1863 Cambodia became a colony of French Indochina. The king of Cambodia asked France to protect Cambodia in order to preserve Cambodia during the Cambodia Dark Age period. The French contributed to Cambodia through transportation systems for water and land as well as general rule over Cambodia during this dark period of Cambodia's history.

Cambodia received independence from the French Indochina on November 9, 1953 because of King Norodom Sihanouk working with the French government to establish the country's independence. The Geneva Accords in 1954 noted that the government that Sihanouk ruled was the only authoritative government within Cambodia.

In 1955 King Sihanouk abdicated his throne so that he could be involved in politics full-time and his parents took over rule of the country. After his father's death he accepted the position of Chief of State from 1960 to March of 1970. It was while Sihanouk was out of the country that he was removed from the Chief of State position by the National Assembly of Cambodia's legislature. This started the era of the Khmer Republic within Cambodia.

The prime minister of Cambodia, General Lon Nol, established rule of Cambodia and engaged his troops in a war to fight against North Vietnamese Communist troops. The United States assisted in fighting against the Communist forces, but in the process bombed much of the Cambodian countryside. The U.S. sent aid to assist Cambodia, but the Khmer Republic eventually collapsed in 1975. This caused the North Vietnamese forces to be victorious.

A Cambodian guerrilla commander who used the pseudonym Pol Pot established a Communist reign known as the Khmer Rouge in 1975. During their reign the government was referred to as



the Democratic Kampuchea. This time brought about great upheaval in the social structure within Cambodia.

Those who lived in the city were forced to work on farms in the countryside. Anyone who disagreed with the new government, were considered intellectuals, involved in commerce, politics, or religion, were killed. It is believed that between one and three million Cambodians were killed thru murder, starvation, or died from being overworked in the countryside. During this time period the Khmer Rouge sought to regain land lost in previous wars and incited a war with Vietnam. As the Khmer Rouge was losing the war they abandoned the capital of Cambodia, the city Phnom Penh.

In 1979 Vietnam established a reign in Cambodia called the People's Republic of Kampuchea. They helped restore the education system within Cambodia as well as Buddhism practices. Freedom of expression was restricted within the country.

Democratic countries continued to support the previous leaders of the Democratic Kampuchea within the United Nations. Communist countries assisted the Vietnamese countries in providing aid to Cambodia. Many Cambodians fled to Thailand, France, and the United States during the 1980s.

During the Cold War between the democratic and communist countries world-wide, the Soviet Union was a continual support to the Communist reign in Cambodia. However, when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1989, this caused the Vietnamese troops that were supported by Soviet aid to withdraw from Cambodia. This caused the Cambodian government to have a strong potential to be attacked by the Khmer Rouge again.

Capitalism had begun to take root within Cambodia's structure and the country turned towards privatization of business and markets. Great social upheaval took place among different social classes as they moved from each person essentially having the same income, to some becoming rich while others became extremely poor.

This caused great economic upheaval overall. Cambodia underwent a time of on going friction between the local government, led by the Prime Minister Hun Sen, and Khmer Rouge forces that still occupied northern areas of the country.

In 1991 both sides, along with the United Nations and several other nations, signed an agreement that the United Nations and the Supreme National Council of Cambodia would work together to share power within Cambodia. In May of 1993 elections were held and for the first time in Cambodia a government was elected that was not an army ruling by force.

By September of 1993 the government established a new constitution that allowed Cambodia to once again be a monarchy under the title of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Norodom Sihanouk became king for a second reign. One of his sons, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, of the FUNINPEC party became the first prime minister, and Hun Sen became the second prime minister.

From 1993 until about 1998, Cambodia experience friction between political parties in the country especially when they elected leaders. Elections were held, but watched closely and elections were somewhat controlled by the CPP party which sought to harasses, imprison, and kill some of the party workers and candidates of opposing parties before and after the elections.

In spite of the opposition faced surrounding the times of elections in Cambodia, FUNINPEC and CPP parties eventually formed a coalition government with Ranarriddh as the president of the National Assembly and Hun Sen acting as the prime minister. After the elections in 1998, a senate was created in 1999.

Trials for those involved in the murder of civilians during the Pol Pot/Khmer Rouge era are still in progress today. In order to recover from the difficult history Cambodia has experienced, many foreign countries have sought to assist financially.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations, Twelfth Edition, Thomson Gale: United States, 2007.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107378.html>

<http://www.cambodia.gov.kh/unisql/egov/english/country.history.html>

### **Christian History**

A Portuguese Dominican by the name of Gaspar da Cruz was the first to go to Cambodia as a missionary. He focused on reaching his fellow countrymen that lived in Cambodia. Three years after Gaspar da Cruz, Sylvestre D'Azevedo arrived in 1574 and began missions work among the Khmer people. A church was built and a book was produced about Christianity in the Khmer language.

During the 1600s and 1700s many Catholics from Japan, Indonesia, and Vietnam fled persecution and relocated in Cambodia. In the late 1700s, Siam and Vietnam, in an attempt to invade Cambodia, took many Christians captive, so the church experienced difficult times even after having fled to Cambodia. Around this time the French established a protectorate over Cambodia and allowed French missionaries to evangelize only the Vietnamese and Chinese living Cambodia.

From this time until about 1922 there were no missionaries to the Cambodian people. Starting in 1922, the first known Protestant missionaries to Cambodia arrived. David Ellision and Arthur Hammond were missionaries from the Christian Missionary Alliance. Mr. Ellision and his wife worked to start a Bible school which opened in 1925.

Mr. Hammond worked to translate the Bible from the King James English version into the Khmer language. The Hammond Bible translation was completed in 1954. It is believed that about 2,000 people in Cambodia accepted Christ between the early 1920s and about 1965.

By 1970 the Christian church had grown to 65,000 people, but only 5,000 of these were ethnic Khmer Christians, the rest were Vietnamese Christians. However, when Cambodia was invaded by the Vietcong, many of the Vietnamese were killed or expelled from the country.

Because of the church being toppled during this time, Cambodian Christians worked to rebuild the Church and were able to do it in a way that was more uniquely Cambodian and not of foreign influence.

In 1973 a Protestant group called Overseas Missions Fellowship (OMF) sent some missionaries to Cambodia. A charismatic preacher from America also started mission work during the same year in Cambodia. By 1975, all foreigners were required to leave Cambodia. This was a result of the Khmer Rouge taking governmental power.

During 1975 there were 14 national Protestant pastors; by the end of the Khmer Rouge's reign only 3 of those pastors were still alive. During the Khmer Rouge reign, churches were destroyed and Christians practiced their faith in secret.

On April 4, 1990 Christians were allowed to practice their faith openly again. Currently there is a Catholic seminary located in Battambang, Cambodia.

Among Protestant Christians, most work is done by Methodist, Anglican, and independent groups. The Protestant church has begun to spread rapidly and has been helped along by Cambodian Christians that previously lived overseas and have returned to Cambodia. Currently, a church planting movement has begun to spread across Cambodia, as more and more people realize that only Jesus Christ can heal the pain of the past and give peace to troubled hearts.

<http://www.cambcomm.org.uk/church.html>

[www.cambodianchristian.com](http://www.cambodianchristian.com)

[http://www.archive.org/details/MN41422ucmf\\_2](http://www.archive.org/details/MN41422ucmf_2) (PDF in file)

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

<http://www.catholiccambodia.org/en/church/history.php>

<http://www.bibleleague.org/church/planting/cambodia.php>

*A Dictionary of Asian Christianity, Editors: SunQuist, Ed, Sing and Chea, Associate Editors. William B.Eerdmans Publishing Co., Cambridge: 2001, p. 111-113*

## Religion

### Non Christian

All statistics are from *Operation World*, unless other wise noted.

*Hinduism 0.26%*

Hinduism began in Cambodia in the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. in the area of Funan. Hinduism influenced the local government during that time period, but the Funan Empire was overthrown in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. After that the way of life of the people there was absorbed into the surrounding society. Today less than 1% of Cambodia's population is practicing Hindu.

<http://www.civilserviceindia.com/subject/History/prelims/funan-cambodia.html>

<http://www.cambodia-travel.com/khmer/funan.htm>

### *Buddhism 82.57%*

Buddhism started in Cambodia around the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Buddhism co-existed with Hinduism, but was not the predominant belief at the beginning of its introduction to Khmer society. The first sect of Buddhism introduced to the Khmer people was Mahayana, to be followed by Theravada Buddhism in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The Khmer people did not focus on differences among the types of Buddhism and today Buddhism is the predominant religion in Cambodia. Buddhism claims over 9,300,000 persons in Cambodia.

<http://www.civilserviceindia.com/subject/History/prelims/funan-cambodia.html>

<http://www.cambodia-travel.com/khmer/funan.htm>

<http://www.cambodia-travel.com/khmer/religion.htm>

### *Baha'i 0.12%*

Baha'i beliefs arrived in Cambodia in the mid-1950s. Conflicts within Cambodia caused many people to flee to refugee camps in Thailand and to accept the Baha'i faith they heard about there. This caused Cambodia to have a more substantial number of Baha'i in Cambodia as they resettled there in the 1990s. Currently Baha'i outreach is done through community education projects and it is estimated that there are about 7,000 Baha' believers within Cambodia.

<http://info.bahai.org/article-1-8-1-8.html>

### *Muslim 3.90%*

Muslims in Cambodia date back to the 1<sup>st</sup> century during the Kingdom of Champa. Though the people of the Champa Kingdom followed Hinduism, many chose to follow Islam during this time. Since that time, the Islamic community has gone through a variety of changes. Currently they have freedom of expression as a religion. About 80% of all Muslims in Cambodia are of the *Cham* minority. Islam claims as many as 440,000 members.

<http://www.talesofasia.com/rs-50-cham.htm>

<http://www.islamfortoday.com/cambodia.htm>

<http://idsCambodia.blogspot.com/2009/03/cambodia-allows-muslim-students-to-wear.html>

<http://muslimmedianetwork.com/mmn/?p=3444>

<http://www.civilserviceindia.com/subject/History/prelims/funan-cambodia.html>

### *New Apostolic Church (Eglise Apostolique Nouvelle)*

The New Apostolic Church in Cambodia has grown from 3 churches, 1,200 members, and 3,000 affiliates in 1990 to 200 congregations, 25,000 members, and 50,000 affiliates as of 2004.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001

[http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church\\_history\\_p4.htm](http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church_history_p4.htm)

Operation World Johnstone, Patrick and Mandryk, Jason Johnstone, Robyn, London: 2005.

### *Chinese Traditional 4.69%*

The Chinese Traditional religion is a mixture of Confucianism, Taoism, Ancestor Worship, and Buddhism. This mixture of Chinese religions arrived prior to the 1800s in Cambodia. Chinese Traditional Religion claims as many as 525000 people in Cambodia.

<http://www.cambodiaevisa.com/religion/>  
<http://countrystudies.us/cambodia/49.htm>  
<http://www.blurtit.com/q738169.html>  
<http://countrystudies.us/cambodia/45.htm>  
<http://countrystudies.us/cambodia/10.htm>

#### *Traditional Ethnic 4.35%*

These are religious practices that have been followed for centuries by people in Cambodia. In Cambodia some traditional ethnic religions tend to be animism. Some 4.35% of the people follow Traditional religion , about 490,000 people.

#### *Jehovah's Witnesses (Temoins de Jehovah)*

Jehovah's Witnesses have been in Cambodia since about 1992. As of the year 2000, there are 70 members and one Jehovah's Witness church in Cambodia.

*World Christian Encyclopedia*, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

[http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church\\_history\\_p4.htm](http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church_history_p4.htm)  
[http://www.adherents.com/Na/Na\\_362.html](http://www.adherents.com/Na/Na_362.html)

#### *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)*

The Mormon Church was given legal recognition by the Cambodian government in March of 1994. Currently there are 22 Mormon Churches in Cambodia with about 8,359 members.

<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/statistical-information>  
[http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church\\_history\\_p4.htm](http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church_history_p4.htm)

#### *Non-religious/Other 2.92%*

*Atheists*                      0.3%

*World Christian Encyclopedia*, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2009021324206/National-news/Buddhist-Hindu-clergy-convene-in-Cambodia.html>

*Operation World Johnstone, Patrick and Mandryk, Jason Johnstone, Robyn, London: 2005.*

#### *Catholic/Orthodox (Eglise Catholique au Cambodge)*

In 2005, those observing Catholicism numbered 0.20% of the total population. The Catholic Church has a long history in Cambodia, dating back to the 1550s. There are 15 congregations, 9,630 members, 17,900 affiliates

*Operation World* Johnstone, Patrick and Mandryk, Jason Johnstone, Robyn, London: 2005.

<http://www.catholiccambodia.org/en/church/history.php/print>

## **Christian/Evangelical**

Since 1923 there has been an evangelical missionary presence in Cambodia. Currently, less than 1% are evangelical Christians. The evangelical church had 10,000 believers, before Pol Pot's reign. According to a preliminary census during 2002, it was estimated that there are over 100,000 evangelical Christians and 2,000 evangelical churches in Cambodia.

<http://www.cambcomm.org.uk/ff.html#religion>

[http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church\\_history.htm](http://www.cambodianchristian.com/church_history.htm)

### *Anglican Church (Eglise Adventiste du Septieme Jour)*

The Anglican Church plans to set up an English school in Cambodia as a way to reach out. There is 1 congregation, with 20 members and 100 affiliates.

<http://sg.christianpost.com/dbase/missions/1598/section/1.htm>

World Christian Encyclopedia, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

### *Eglise Evangeliques*

This work was begun by Far Eastern Gospel Crusade. There are 50 congregations with 2,000 members and 3,000 affiliates.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

### *Eglises Radiophoniques Isolees*

These are groups of Christian believers who listen to radio broadcasts. It is thought there are around 1,500 congregations with 6,000 members and 10,000 affiliates.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

### *Protestants*

The Protestant church first started arriving in Cambodia through various missions organizations in the 1920s. As of 1990 there were ten Protestant churches in Phnom Penh, the capital. Since that time the Protestant church has continued to grow in Cambodia. As of 2005 0.20% of Cambodia's total population was Protestant.

<http://www.cambcomm.org.uk/ff.html#religion>

*Operation World Johnstone, Patrick and Mandryk, Jason Johnstone, Robyn, London: 2005.*

### *Other Protestant Denominations*

These churches were started as a result of missions work by various French and American Pentecostal and Charismatic missions work. There are 3 churches with 230 members and 460 affiliates.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

### *Baptists*

Baptist missionary work began in Cambodia in 1991. The Cambodian Baptist Church has grown from 6 churches in 1992 to 260 churches with 7,895 members as of 2008. Through the showing of the *Jesus* film by Pastor Toun Kakada, the first churches were started in 1991. Missionary Bruce Carlton and Mr. Nhem Thavy were influential in encouraging a church-planting movement that started within Russey Keo Baptist Church in Phnom Penh. In 1995 the Cambodian Baptist Union was formed. The Cambodian Baptist Convention is also a part of the Evangelical Fellowship.

<http://cambodiabaptistunion.com/history.aspx>

<http://www.bwanet.org>

*The Light of Youth Magazine, Phnom Penh, Cambodia,* <http://www.efcyc.com/efc-web/Magazine3.htm>

<http://www.bwa-baptist-heritage.org/his-as.htm>

### *Church of Christ*

The Church of Christ reaches out in Cambodia through providing a nutrition program that assists malnourished children and encourages children to stay in school. They also have a “Ship of Life” that travels along the Mekong River assisting people medically. Several of the Church of Christ congregations are located both in the capital of Phnom Penh and the city of Siem Reap. It is reported there are 19 churches with 3,000 member and 4,500 affiliates.

<http://www.riverroadchurchofchrist.com/SAMPSAACETPasiacam.htm>

[http://edmontonchurchofchrist.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=38&Itemid=65](http://edmontonchurchofchrist.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=38&Itemid=65)

<http://www.churchzip.com/countrysummary/CB>

### *Khmer Evangelical Church (Eglises Evangelique Khmere)*

This church was started by the Christian Missionary Alliance (CMA) and a French organization (ACM) in 1922. There are 55 churches, 5,500 members, and 9,560 affiliates. In addition to the churches, there are about 120 unorganized groups that meet.

<http://www.cmalliance.org>

World Christian Encyclopedia, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

### *Hidden Buddhist Believers in Christ*

Hidden Buddhist Believers in Christ was started in 1970. They are Christians in Cambodia who prefer to worship in the same structure as Buddhist temples. As of 1995 there were 400 Churches, 20,000 adults, and 36,000 affiliated adults with the Hidden Buddhist Believers in Christ movement.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Volume I, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

*Independent 0.78%*

*Methodists, 150 churches*

During the 1980s the Methodist Church first began outreach to Cambodian refugees through the Board of Global Ministries. In 1990 a Cambodian congregation in Stockton, California partnered with nationals in Cambodia to start the first United Methodist congregation in Cambodia, in Tek Thlaa. In the mid-1990s collaboration among Methodists globally begun to take place in order to more effectively reach Cambodians in a unified effort. The working together among other Methodist churches lead to the establishment of the Cambodia Methodist Mission in 1997. Currently, there is support from Korean, Swiss, French, American, and Singaporean Methodists to reach Cambodia. The Methodist Church is a part of Cambodian's Evangelical Fellowship. The Methodist church has grown from 3 churches in 1989 to 150 churches as of 2009.

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/work/initiatives/cambodia>  
[http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=1218](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=1218)  
[www.wfn.org](http://www.wfn.org)

*Seventh Day Adventist (Eglise Adventiste du Septieme Jour*

Seventh-day Adventist work first began in Cambodia in 1930 when the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary, Fred L. Pickett, went to Cambodia. The work was interrupted by World War II and then again in 1975 during the Khmer Rouge's reign. Seventh-day Adventist reached out to Cambodian refugees during the 1980s as they lived in refugee camps in Thailand. Seventh-day Adventist work continued within Cambodia in the 1990s and the Seventh-day Adventist church was officially recognized by the government in 1993. As of 2005 there were 25 congregations, 2,500 members, and 5,000 affiliates.

Historical Dictionary of Seventh-day Adventists, Land, Gary, The Scarecrow Press, Inc., Maryland: 2005

*Pentecostals / Charismatic 56,000 adherents, 0.7%*

When calculating how many Pentecostal and Charismatic believers live within Cambodia they were grouped in the same category. There is not much information available about these churches within Cambodia. It is known these churches have grown from 2,000 adherents in 1970 to 56,000 adherents as of the year 2000.



World Christian Encyclopedia, Volume I, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

<http://www.efc.org.kh/news/articles.htm?ano=6>

### *Assemblies of God (Assemblees de Dieu) 12 congregations, 758 members, 1,000 affiliates*

The first Assemblies of God missionaries went in 1990. The AG work has established several outreach ministries including an orphanage, two schools, a medical clinic, churches, and a college age outreach called Students for Christ center. There is also a translation team in place working on translating the “Fire Bible,” which is a study Bible written from a Pentecostal perspective, into the Khmer language.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Volume I, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

[http://ag.org/top/About/Biennial\\_Reports/2005\\_2007/03\\_AGWM\\_Asia\\_Pacific.cfm](http://ag.org/top/About/Biennial_Reports/2005_2007/03_AGWM_Asia_Pacific.cfm)

<http://www.biblealliance.org/359103.ihtml#KhmerFB>

<http://www.biblealliance.org/widgets/download.aspx?file=%2Ffiles%2FDocuments%2FCase+Studies%2FKhmer+FB+Case+Study.pdf>.

[http://www.google.com/search?q=Assemblies+of+God+in+Cambodia&rls=com.microsoft:\\*&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&startIndex=&startPage=1](http://www.google.com/search?q=Assemblies+of+God+in+Cambodia&rls=com.microsoft:*&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&startIndex=&startPage=1) (official name: Kingdom of Cambodia) pdf

### *Independent Chinese Congregations, Holiness (Congregations Chinoises Independantes)*

This church is recorded as having 3 congregations, 200 members, and 500 affiliates.

### *Church of God*

The Church of God is involved in assisting the Cambodian community through poverty reduction and helping people to relocate to better homes. There are currently two known Church of God churches in Cambodia with about 30 believers in total.

<http://www.chog.org/Missions/Regions/AsiaPacific/CountryInformation/Cambodia/tabid/235/Default.aspx>

<http://peopleforcare.org/relocation.cfm>

### *Four square Gospel*

One Foursquare Gospel Church was located in Cambodia in 1999. It is estimated that there are currently over 2,000 Foursquare Gospel meeting places within Cambodia. The Foursquare Gospel Church reaches out through orphan ministry, teaching agricultural and small business skills.

<http://fmi.foursquare.org/countries/countries.sd?iid=106>

### *United Pentecostal Church International*

The United Pentecostal Church International currently has missionaries serving in Cambodia.

<http://www.upci.org>

### *Independent churches found in the country*

Cambodia is home to various churches that reach out to foreigners living in Cambodia. There are over 100 various church and non-profit organizations located within Cambodia.

<http://www.yellowpages-cambodia.com/search/?q=churches>

[http://www.cmcnews.org/CMC2/About\\_CMC\\_files/Cambodia%20Limits%20Christian%20Activities2.pdf](http://www.cmcnews.org/CMC2/About_CMC_files/Cambodia%20Limits%20Christian%20Activities2.pdf)

### *Unorganized local Churches 61 churches, 2,500 members, 6,250 affiliates*

These churches were started in 1979 as a result of Christian Missionary Alliance working with Cambodian refugees that were living in Thailand.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Barret, David B., Kurian, George T., and Johnson, Todd M., Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2001.

## **People Groups**

### **18251**

#### **Brao (30,000)**

The Brao live in Ratanakiri Province along the border that touches Vietnam and Laos. Migration to western nations has occurred among the Brao as a result of the Vietnam War.

The Brao people are the only people group in Cambodia to speak Lave, also referred to as the Laveh language. They are sometimes referred to by various names including the Brau, Lave, Laveh, and Bru, to name a few. It is important not to confuse one of their names Laveh, with the Laven which is a different people group that lives in Cambodia.

The majority of the Brao follow ethnic religions, mainly animism, with 0.25% of the Brao evangelical Christian. Ceremonies which involve sacrificing a chicken and a pig to get healing are common practices. Drinking for special occasions is common among all ages. During their yearly buffalo-sacrifice ceremony, it is common to use musical instruments such as brass gongs. Spears and shields are also used for various special ceremonies.

Currently, there is one known Christian church among the Brao people. More and more Brao people have been accepting Christ in recent years. There are gospel recordings available in the Brao people's language. The *Jesus* film is not yet available in their language.

<http://www.millionelephants.com/UPGs/brau.htm>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/languages.php?rol3=brb>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peoples.php?rop3=101655>

<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/brb>

<http://www.jesusfilm.org/film-and-media/statistics/languages-completed>

### **00000**

#### **British (1000)**

The British people in Cambodia seem to include a number of expats that travel to Cambodia for work or for vacation. Christianity is the main belief among the British in Cambodia. 70% are considered Christians, but the exact percentage of evangelical Christians is unknown.

Their primary language is English. There are many resources for evangelism among the British in Cambodia, including the *Jesus* film, the *Hope* video, and various tracts and tools to share the gospel. The Bible has been available in the English language since 1382.

## **18252**

### **Burmese (4,084)**

The Burmese in Cambodia are also referred to by a variety of other names including Myen, Bama, Man, and Burman. The Burmese family lifestyle is unique because they do not recognize specific lineages within their people group. Marriage is unique to the Burmese because couples are encouraged to live together and marry whenever they are expecting their first child. Parents do not usually arrange the marriages for their children.

The Burmese prefer to eat rice and fish and prefer vegetarian options instead of eating meat. Typical Burmese homes are built of wood with dirt floors. They sleep on mats that they roll up and store during the day. Culturally, it is appropriate to remove your shoes before entering a Burmese home.

The main religion is Buddhism and many will go to great lengths to follow these beliefs. These Buddhist beliefs are also mixed with animism. Burmese followers believe that objects have spirits. Upon death those that have done bad deeds will be reborn as ghosts or demons, animals, or live in hell. Those that did good deeds will pass into their new "life" unafraid. The largest household expense tends to be for religious purposes.

There are a variety of evangelistic resources available in the Burmese language. The Bible has been translated into Burmese in its entirety as of 2006. Resources in Burmese include films such as *God's Story* and the *Jesus* film. Other tools are available in various formats such as tracts, radio broadcasts, and audio recordings.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp> June 2009 listing

[http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/profiles/nonChina/Cambodia/Burmese%20\(Myen\).pdf](http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/profiles/nonChina/Cambodia/Burmese%20(Myen).pdf)

<http://www.millionelephants.com/UPGs/myen.htm>

## **18253**

### **Campuon, Tampuan (32,000)**

The Campuon or Tampuan, as they are commonly referred to, live in the hilly area of Northeastern Cambodia. There are 50 communities, with each village having a population less than 1,000. Their first language is Tampuan with a 5% literacy rate followed by a 10% literacy rate in the Khmer language. Most Tampuans prefer their language and do not generally learn the Khmer language unless they live close to the capital of the province of Rottana Kiri.

The Tampuan people work mainly as farmers raising rice, fruits, vegetables, and cashews.

99% of the Tampuan follow ethnic religions, with less than 2% evangelical Christian. There has been rapid growth followed by a decline among the Tampuan people.

Christianity is met with a mixture of indifference and resistance. However, there is a curiosity as well. There are 4 Christian churches among the Tampuan led by part-time church leaders. Church leadership has had the opportunity to receive Bible training. The church is in a time of needing to be strengthened.

The Tampuan people are one of the minority groups in Cambodia that is being affected by “land grabbing.” This results in the Tampuan losing their land to others.

[http://www.bestcountryreports.com/zoomify.asp?name=Z\\_Cambod\\_Pol2](http://www.bestcountryreports.com/zoomify.asp?name=Z_Cambod_Pol2)  
[http://www.discoveryindochina.com/cam/map\\_provinces.html](http://www.discoveryindochina.com/cam/map_provinces.html)  
<http://www.minorityrights.org/3415/cambodia/khmer-leou.html>  
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp> February 2009 listing

### **8183**

#### **Chong (5,726)**

The Chong, also known as the Chawng, Xong, or Shong, speak Chong as their primary language. They live in two provinces that border the western side of the Tonle Sap Lake: Batdambang and Pouthisat Provinces. Pouthisat Province is now known as Pursat Province.

The main religion among the Chong is Buddhism. 0.30% of the Chong people are evangelical Christians. There is one known church among the Chong and one agency is dedicated to reaching them with the gospel. There are no known developed evangelical resources available for use in the Chong language.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp> May 2009 listing

### **47721**

#### **Deaf Cambodian (73,565)**

.50% of Deaf Cambodians are evangelical Christians. According to a 1999 Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 5% of people with disabilities in Cambodia are considered to have a hearing impairment or to be deaf. There is a self help group for the Deaf located in Svay Rieng Province and sign language development is taking place Phnom Penh. Schools for the Deaf are located in Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, and Battambang Provinces.

Ways to reach the Deaf community in Cambodia could be done through assisting to develop interpreter training programs and helping to establish secondary Deaf education programs in local colleges.

A Non-profit French organization, called Krousar Thmey, has helped to establish Deaf schools in Cambodia for young Deaf students. In addition to the Deaf schools there are some integrated classrooms in local schools for Deaf students. Implementing integrated Deaf classrooms in the

Cambodian school system is seen as a way to assist in integrating the students into Cambodian society as they are often times looked down upon because of their differences.

Cambodians have been working since 1996 to develop an organized Cambodian Sign Language.

<http://www.dac.org.kh>

<http://www.parish-without-borders.net/ddp/resources/sign%20lang%20article.htm>

<http://www.theinterpretersfriend.com/indj/dcoew/cambodia.html>

<http://www.dac.org.kh/pwd-cambodia/index.htm>

<http://www.dac.org.kh/PDF%20files/Research%20report%20final.pdf>

<http://laymissioners.maryknoll.org/index.php?module=MKArticles&func=display&id=115&office=article>

## **8199**

### **Eastern and Western Cham (503,200)\***

The Cham in Cambodia are descendents of the former Kingdom of Champa. The Cham are divided into orthodox and traditional Muslims. 50% of Eastern Cham are traditional Muslim and live in Battambang, Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham, and Pursat Provinces. 40% of Eastern Cham follow Hinduism.

The Cham who are Orthodox Muslim, are primarily Western Cham, live close to and in the capital of Phnom Penh and in the Takeo and Kapot Provinces. 88% of Western Cham, which total population numbers 322,000, is Sunni Muslim, followed by 10% who are Hindu in belief. Almost 2% of the Western Cham considers themselves as “non-religious.” Due to the mixture of Islam and Hinduism that poured into the previous Champa Kingdom, this effects how the Cham worship today.

Less than 1% of both Eastern and Western Cham is evangelical Christian. The Eastern Cham, which number about 200, speak Eastern Cham and have several evangelical resources available in their language including the *Jesus* film, as well as gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts. The Bible has not been completely translated into the Eastern language yet, but portions of the Bible are available.

The *Jesus* film is also available in the Western Cham’s language. Gospel recordings and other evangelical resources are available for the Western Cham. The Bible has not been translated into the Western Cham language yet and there are no portions of the Bible available in their language. However, the Western Cham also speak Eastern Cham as a secondary language and using evangelical resources in the Eastern Cham language may be beneficial when no resources are available in the Western Cham language.

The villages of the Cham are unique because they are inhabited usually by those of their people group only. Villages tend to specialize in providing certain services such as agricultural, fishing, weaving, metalworking, butchering cattle, or raising water buffalo and ram breeders.

Due to the Vietnamese War the Cham are still recovering as a people and tend to live in very difficult poverty. The Cham people trace their lineage through the matrilineal line.

\*People group number above is only for the Western Cham.

<http://www.cambodiazone.com/cambodia/culture/cambodia-ethnic.htm>

[http://www.discoveryindochina.com/cam/map\\_provinces.html](http://www.discoveryindochina.com/cam/map_provinces.html)

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp> May 2009 listing

**00000**

### **English Speaking, Generic**

Within Cambodia there are about 2,100 native English speakers. Among this group 25% are evangelical Christian, while 16% are non-religious. There are a variety of resources available in English to reach this group.

**33445**

### **Han Chinese (523,000)**

The Han Chinese people consist of the Cantonese, Hainanese, Hakka, Min Nan, and Teochew. In addition to speaking Mandarin, each of the various ethnicities within the Han Chinese also speak languages that are native to their own unique Chinese minority group.

The Chinese are sometimes referred to as the "Diaspora Chinese." Within Cambodia the largest group, the Teochew or Teochiu as they are also referred to, makes up about 60% of the Chinese living in the country. Within villages where they live they are involved in the local economy of the village through rural credit and operating local village stores, in addition to supporting the production of rice and vegetables. The Teochiu are involved in import-export, or have smaller businesses where they sell things on the street.

Most Cantonese live mainly in the city and usually work as mechanics or carpenters. The Hainanese people are successful pepper growers in Kampot Province, and are involved in the hotel and restaurant business in Phnom Penh. The Hakka people, who live in Phnom Penh, work in pharmaceuticals promoting the selling of traditional Chinese medicine, folk dentistry, and as shoemakers.

The main beliefs among the Chinese are ethnic religions, Buddhism, or no belief in religion at all. There is an average of 1% or less who follow Christianity among the Chinese in Cambodia.

The Hainanese, Min Nan, and Teochiu people's common languages are Mandarin Chinese and Min Nan, which is also referred to as Amoy. There is an audio version of the *Jesus* film in the Min Nan language. Other evangelical resources are available in Min Nan including *God's Story* video and the Words of Life series.

The *Jesus* film and the *God's Story* video are available in the Hakka language. There are various audio items available. A regular radio broadcast is produced in Hakka. There is a Taiwan Hakka version of the Bible available. This Bible is written using the Chinese Mandarin characters and includes a pronunciation guide for the Hakka language.

Many of the same above resources are also available in the standard Mandarin Chinese, including the Bible which was completed in 1983. Many resources are available for all speakers of Mandarin including radio broadcasts, worship music, and various discipleship materials.

[http://www.vietnamsunshinetravel.com/cambodia/about\\_people.html](http://www.vietnamsunshinetravel.com/cambodia/about_people.html)

<http://worldscriptures.org/pages/chinesehakka.html>

<http://www.megavoice.com/searchaudio.php>

<http://www.wbradio.net/jplang.php?ethcode=hak>

## **20437**

### **Jarai (20,200)**

The Jarai people are referred to by a variety of names including the Gia Rai and Jorai. They live primarily in the Ratanakiri Province. The Jarai people breed a variety of animals including elephants, cattle, and pigs. Other jobs include growing rice, weaving, and making baskets.

The Gia Rai people have a love for music, dancing, and enjoy the oral tradition of passing on stories through storytelling. Their society is matriarchal, with families living with the mother's family when they are starting their own home. Women lead in the home and men lead in the community.

90% of the Gia Rai believes in ethnic religions. Many times they will have special rituals where they will communicate with genies. 5% of the Gia Rai people are evangelical Christians.

The Jarai people speak Jarai which is also referred to as the Jorai language, among other names. There are a variety of evangelical resources available in the Jarai people's language including: the New Testament and audio gospel messages. The *Jesus* film and *God's Story* are available in the Jorai language. There is a small church among the Jarai.

<http://www.orient-tours.nl/2vietnaminsights/ethnics/ethnics4.html>

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=jra](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=jra)

<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/jra>

<http://www.worldchristianvideos.org/index1.php?code=jra>

*Operation World Johnstone, Patrick and Mandryk, Jason, Johnstone, Robyn, London: 2005*

## **20439**

### **Kachok (3,000)**

The Kachok people, also known as the Kaco people, live in Ratanakiri Province in northeast Cambodia. They speak only the Kaco language.

99% of the Kaco are believers in ethnic religions, with .20% possibly evangelical Christian. There are no known evangelical resources in the Kaco language.

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=xkk](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=xkk)

## **20438**

### **Khmer (12,735,000)**

The Khmer of Cambodia are about 90% of the total population of Cambodia. The Khmer are also referred to as the Central Khmer and Cambodians. During Pol Pot's reign about 3 million of the Khmer died. The Khmer currently live in central and western Cambodia throughout all 21 provinces. Since the Khmer Rouge's rule and the Vietnam War, the Khmer people have endured many difficult times.

About 92% of the Khmer are Buddhist, with about 2% being non-religious, with less than 1% evangelical Christian. Ancestor worship and spirit worship are very important to the Khmer people.

The folk dancing, classical royal ballet, and the traditional Khmer music all reflect the Khmer people's culture even today. Many Khmer women use red and white or blue and white checkered cloth for making bandannas to wear or as a sling for carrying their children.

The main language of Cambodia is Khmer. The entire Bible has been available since 1998 in the Khmer language. Various evangelical tracts, films, discipleship materials, and gospel music are available in the Khmer language. Resources available for Khmer who prefer more oral methods for learning about the gospel include the *Jesus* film and *God's Story* film.

#### **46656**

##### **Khmer Krom (281,540)**

The Khmer Krom people live in Southern Cambodia in the Mekong Delta. Others live in various provinces throughout Vietnam. It is believed that this minority may have been singled out for abuse by the Khmer Rouge during Pol Pot's reign.

June 4, 1949 is considered an important day to the Khmer Krom, because it is the day that the French president Vincent Auriol signed a law that gave the area the Khmer Krom called home to Vietnam. This caused the Khmer Krom living in Cambodia to be considered Vietnamese by Cambodia and to be Khmer by Vietnam.

The Khmer Krom speak the Central Khmer language. They have several evangelical resources available in their language. The *Jesus* film, some Bible translations, radio broadcasts, and gospel recordings are available in the Central Khmer language.

<http://www.khmerkrom.net/>

<http://www.khmerkrom.org/node/329>

<http://www.khmerkrom.net/node/1972>

<http://khmerkrom.org/node/335>

<http://khmerkrom.org/node/18>

<http://www.peoplegroups.org/Detail.aspx?PID=46656>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=Mq8sAevg-AgC&pg=PA298&dq=Khmer+Krom#PPA298,M1>

#### **20440**

##### **Kraol (3,000)**

The Kraol people live in Kracheh Province which is also referred to as Kratie Province. It is in eastern Cambodia. 88% of Kraol are Buddhists. Data is uncertain as to how many if any Kraol



people are evangelical Christian. The Kraol people are not bilingual and only speak Kraol. There are no evangelical resources available in the Kraol language.

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=rka](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=rka)

<http://globalrecordings.net/research/language/RKA>

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp> June 2009 listing

## **2044**

### **Kroeung (19,505)**

The Kroeung people are commonly referred to as the Kravet people. They are also referred to as the Krung, Kowet, Khvet, or Kavet people. They live in the northeast area of Cambodia within Rottana Kiri and Stueng Treng provinces. They speak the Kravet language.

Their main beliefs are in ethnic religions. It is thought there are a small percentage of evangelical Christians among the Kroeung people, but details are uncertain. There are no known evangelical resources available in the Kravet language.

[http://www.discoveryindochina.com/cam/map\\_provinces.html](http://www.discoveryindochina.com/cam/map_provinces.html)

## **00000**

### **Kui (30,000)**

The Kui people are known as “ancient Cambodians” to the Khmer people. They live along the border of Cambodia and in central Cambodia. The main provinces are Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Stoeng Treng, and Kracheh Provinces. In the past the Kuy, or Kui people, worked as blacksmiths and did other metal works as well. Currently, their main jobs are working as farmers, harvesting rice and cashews. As farmers they care for chickens, pigs, and cattle.

Recently more and more Kui villages have moved closer to main roads in Cambodia. The Kui’s homes are made of bamboo or other woods and are usually on stilts. Their village is surrounded by the fields they work in.

Western clothes are worn by the Kui, however the women enjoy wearing sarongs. The distinctive “Cambodian Krama,” which is a cotton cloth that has a checkered print on it, is used in a variety of ways including a head wrap, scarf, belt, or as a wrap while bathing.

Economically, the Kui people struggle much more, compared with their Khmer counterparts. The Kui speak two dialects that are classified as “Kui.” However, as the Kui speak and study in school using the Khmer language, their distinctive dialects are fading away. The Kui dialects are not written and according to a village fable, the records of them, written on pigs’ skin were eaten by dogs. Therefore, the Kui’s language is an oral language and those wishing to reach the Kui may find that using methods such as Bible storying or using the Khmer language may be more effective than other methods.

The Kui's main beliefs consist of a mix between animism and Buddhism. They believe the spiritual and physical world intermix and influence each other. An example would be when someone is sick, the sickness is caused by a spirit, and the person is not sick for physical reasons.

The Kui were first reached with the gospel by the Christian Missionary Alliance in 1955. As a result it is believed there are several hundred Kui Christian believers within Cambodia now. About 75% of the Kui are Buddhist, followed by 21.50% that are followers of ethnic religions, and less than 1% of the Kui are evangelical Christian. It has been suggested that an effective way to reach out to the Kui would be through helping to provide adequate health care.

## **8188**

### **Lamam (1,404)**

The Lamam people live in the northeast corner of Cambodia within Rotanah Kiri Province. They speak the Lamam language. 99% of the Lamam people are followers of ethnic religions. It is believed there is a small percent of evangelical Christians, however, details are not available. There are no evangelical resources in the Lamam language.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp> June 2009 listing

## **20442**

### **Lao (27,677)**

The Lao people live in central Cambodia in Preah Vihear and Stoeng Treng Provinces. They work as farmers raising cotton, rice, coconut palms, and other fruits. They also grow mulberry bushes in order to attract silk worms.

The Laotians have survived many years of intense pressure due to wars. Their homes are usually set up on stilts and are made from the typical bamboo. They add palm leaves, which is more distinctive. Villages may be as small as ten families or as large as several hundred families. Leadership in villages is divided between the village chief and the local Buddhist monk. The villages tend to be strategically located near rivers and roads.

57% of the Lao in Cambodia are Buddhist. They follow the practice of allowing the young men to attend a village monastery to study Buddhism for several months. 33% of the Lao practice ethnic religions and less than 1% of the Lao in Cambodia are evangelical Christian.

There are many evangelical resources available to reach those who speak the Laotian language. The Bible was completely translated into Lao in 1932. The *Jesus* film, the *God's Story* film, and *The Story of Jesus for Children* are available in the Lao language. There are also many other ministry tools available for sharing Christ and to assist in discipleship. The resources range from tracts, printed language and visual materials, to radio broadcasts.

## **8189**

### **Malay (13,614)**

The Malay of Cambodia are originally from Malaysia. The two common characteristics in order to be considered a Malay person around the world are to speak the Malay language or a form of it, and to be Muslim. The Malay people work as farmers and harvest rice and rubber products. Other jobs include working in sales, factories, as government clerks, and operating small businesses.

Marriage is highly valued in Malay society and it is important to have both parties agreement before the marriage takes place. During weddings and other important life events such as birth and death, they will use non-Islamic rituals, some of which may relate to their previous belief systems such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and ethnic religions.

Treating others with courtesy and respect is considered extremely important in the Malay society. The Malay people's arts of making batik cloth and metal are unique to their culture.

Less than 1% of the Malay people are non-religious while the majority of the Malay people are Sunni Islam. There are no known evangelical Christians among the Malay. There are many evangelical resources available in the Malay language including the various films such as the *Jesus* film and *Ahmad's Dream*, as well as various tracts and discipleship materials. A complete Bible in the Malay language was finished in 1996.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp> June 2009 listing

## **20443**

### **Phnong (27,969)**

The Phnong, also referred to as the Mnong, live in the Mondol Kiri Province. They speak the central Mnong language, but may also know the eastern and southern Mnong languages as well.

88% of the Phnong are followers of ethnic religions. About 5% are evangelical Christian. Almost 4% are Buddhist. The Phnong have a strong background of Christian believers within Vietnam. Currently there is a church planting movement taking place among the Phnong in Cambodia.

Various evangelical resources are available in the Central Mnong language including gospel recordings and the *Jesus* film. The New Testament is available in the Mnong language.

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=KH](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=KH)

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=cmo](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=cmo)

## **20444**

### **Por (1,276)**

The Por people, also referred to as the Eastern or Western Pear people, live mainly in the central part of Cambodia in Preah Vihear Province. They speak the Pear language which is also known as Por or Kampong Thom.

98% of the Por are followers of ethnic religions. Less than 1% of the Por people are evangelical Christians. Evangelical audio resources are available. There is one known church among the Por.

<http://www.peoplegroups.org/MapSearch.aspx?country=Cambodia>  
[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=pcb](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=pcb)  
<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/pcb>

**8190**  
**Rhade (2,629)**

The Rhade people live in Vietnam and Cambodia. They speak the Rhade, or Rad, language as it is sometimes referred to.

59% of Rhade people follow ethnic religions while 15% are evangelical Christians. Currently, there is a church planting movement occurring among the Rhade people. There is a New Testament available in the Rhade language. Other evangelical resources include various audio resources.

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=rad](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=rad)  
<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads/thismonth/2009-05%20GSEC%20Listing%20of%20People%20Groups.xls>

**22373**  
**Robel (2,389)**

There is not any detailed information concerning the Robel people in Cambodia at this time. It is known that they follow ethnic religions. There are no evangelical resources available in their language which is unknown.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp> June 2009 listing

**8191**  
**Samre (230)**

The Samre live in the northern area around Siem Reap Province. Their main language is Samre. There are no known evangelical resources available in this language. 99% of the Samre are followers of ethnic religions and there are no known evangelical Christians among the Samre.

**8192**  
**Saoch (248)**

The Saoch live near Kompong Som in Kampot Province. The city of Kompong Som, formerly called Sihanoukville, is located within Kampot Province, but is politically independent of the province.

The city functions as a seaport within Cambodia. It was built with French aid and has continued growing with the addition of a highway that connects the city with other parts of Cambodia. Access into the city is also available through a local international airport.

99% of the Saoch people follow ethnic religions. It is believed there may be a small percentage of evangelical Christians among the Saoch, but details are undetermined. There are no known evangelical resources available in the Saoch language.

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1E1-KompongS.html>

"[Kompong Som](#)." *The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition*. 2008. *Encyclopedia.com*. 10 Jun. 2009

<http://www.encyclopedia.com>

### **8193**

#### **Somray (2,290)**

The Somray people live in the western area of Cambodia around the Tanyong River and around Phum Tasanh. 99% of the Somray are followers of ethnic religions. Less than 1% of the Somray people are evangelical Christians. There is one agency involved in reaching the Somray with the gospel. Evangelical resources are available in the Somray language.

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=smu](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=smu)

### **8194**

#### **Stieng (6,000)**

The Stieng people live in Kracheh Province in southeastern Cambodia. 90% of the Stieng people are followers of ethnic religions, while about 3% are evangelical Christians. Currently there is one agency working among the Stieng to share the gospel. Evangelical resources are available. The New Testament is available in the Stieng language. There is one evangelical church among the Stieng.

### **8195**

#### **Suoy (230)**

The Suoy people live in Kampong Speu and Pouthisat Province northwest of Phnom Penh. 98.50% of the Suoy people follow ethnic religions. It is believed that less than 2% of the Suoy are evangelical Christians, however, details are not available. There are no known evangelical resources available in the Suoy language.

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=syo](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=syo)

### **8196**

#### **Tamil (1,362)**

It is uncertain which area of Cambodia the Tamil people live in. 85% of the Tamil people are followers of Hinduism. 2% are evangelical Christians. There are a variety of evangelical resources available in the Tamil language including videos, the *Jesus* film, many tracts, discipleship materials, worship music, and radio broadcasts. The entire Bible is also available in the Tamil language.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads/thismonth/2009-05%20GSEC%20Listing%20of%20People%20Groups.xls>

**00000**

**Thai (10, 849)**

The Thai people live mainly along the Thai/Cambodia border in Banteay Mean Chey, Battambang, and Pouthisat Provinces. The Thai are 98% Buddhist and 1% non-religious. It is believed that less than 1% of the Thai people in Cambodia are evangelical Christians, but details are uncertain.

There are many evangelical resources available in the Thai language including *God's Story* video, the *Jesus* Film, and *The Hope*, as well as many tracts and discipleship resources. A complete version of the Bible has been available since the year 2000. Ethnic worship music as well as other kinds of Christian literature are available in the Thai language, including *The Heavenly Man*.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp> June 2009 listing

**22376**

**Thmaun (714)**

Details concerning the Thmaun are unknown at this time. It is unclear about exactly which language they speak or what their lifestyle is like. It is believed that 85% of the Thmaun are Christian, and up to 10% may be evangelical Christians, however no details are available concerning evangelical work among the Thmaun and there are no known evangelical resources available. It is possible they have access to Christian resources in the primary language of the country.

**8197**

**Vietnamese (1,061,208)**

The Vietnamese live throughout six provinces in Cambodia. They include Kampong Cham, Kracheh, Svay Rieng, Kandal, Prey Veng, and Takev Provinces. A little over 60% of the Vietnamese people are followers of Buddhism while 19% are non-religious. 11% adhere to unknown religious beliefs and 2% are evangelical Christian. There are currently agencies working to reach the Vietnamese in Cambodia and there is one known church.

The Bible has been available in the Vietnamese language since 1994. There are a variety of evangelical resources available including the *Jesus* film, tracts, discipleship materials, ethnic worship music as well as radio broadcasts in the Vietnamese language.

### **Missiological Implications**

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop materials for evangelizing and starting churches among peoples who are primarily followers of Traditional Religions. These materials should be shared with local believers who would be encouraged to reach out to the several people groups that follow traditional religion.

2. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop materials for evangelizing and starting churches among the people who are classified as Non-religious. Since many of these will have been followers of Communism, these materials should demonstrate the Christian way as contrasting with Dialectical Materialism.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop materials for reaching Buddhists with the Good News of Jesus Christ. These materials would be used to train local believers to share with Buddhists.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to meet the tremendous humanitarian needs within Cambodia. Such ministries provide opportunities to minister among the Cambodian people. Areas of service according to *Operation World* include reconstruction, orphanages, health care, agricultural projects, fisheries, water management, education, and rehabilitation.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should introduce small group methods into Cambodia and lead in the planting of 100s of house churches.
6. Evangelical Christians should introduce the methods of Bible Storying as a means for proclaiming the Gospel in this country.

*Operation World* Johnstone, Patrick and Mandryk, Jason Johnstone, Robyn, London: 2005.  
*Anonymous Missionary in Cambodia, Personal Interview, 2009.*

### **Pictures**

[http://www.tropicalisland.de/travel\\_cambodia.html](http://www.tropicalisland.de/travel_cambodia.html)  
<http://www.picturesofplaces.com/Asia/cambodia.html> Great site with links to other photos of Cambodia.  
<http://www.frizz-restaurant.com/cambodia-travel-guide/links/cambodia-pictures.html> Great website put together by a local restaurant in Cambodia.

### **Links**

Paper related to Oral Story telling, from a Buddhist perspective: [http://www.budinst.gov.kh/files/Than\\_Bunly.pdf](http://www.budinst.gov.kh/files/Than_Bunly.pdf)

Website of resources for sharing: <http://www.ethnicarvest.org/peoples/countries/cambodia.htm>

Official Website of the King of Cambodia: [http://www.norodomsihamoni.org/front\\_e.htm](http://www.norodomsihamoni.org/front_e.htm)

Link for Museum reminding Cambodian Americans about the Khmer Rouge era:

<http://www.killingfieldsmuseum.com/>

<http://www.picturesofplaces.com/Asia/cambodia.html> Great site with links to other photos of Cambodia.

Etiquette in Cambodia:

<http://www.parish-without-borders.net/cditt/cambodia/khculture.htm#behavior>

Deaf in Cambodia:

<http://adamaitken.blogspot.com/2008/03/deaf-girl-of-outtres.html>

Clothing:

<http://www.parish-without-borders.net/cditt/cambodia/culture/2008/khramas/khramas2.html>