

"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:17-18).

Among [ASEAN](#) countries, Cambodia will be the [worst hit economically](#) by COVID-19. The World Bank says COVID-19 "poses [the greatest threat to Cambodia's development](#) in its 30 years of modern history." Tourism, which accounts for a significant portion of Cambodia's gross domestic product, has halted. Factories, which employ 1 million Cambodians (out of a total population of 16 million), have shuttered. The real estate market has tumbled. The effects on everyday families (pics b, e, and f) are devastating.

But instead of seeing only challenges, the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC) saw this as an opportunity for mercy and witness. Over May, June, and July, the CLC reached out in Christian love to families hard-hit by the economic effects of COVID-19. Pastors and church leaders in local communities identified families with significant challenges. CLC leaders then provided each family with enough basic food staples (rice, instant noodles, fish sauce, cooking oil, canned fish, soy sauce, and soap; see pic d) for about one month. In total, the project will reach 350+ families from all over Cambodia (see pics from all the trips [here](#)). Even though this material help is small considering the challenges Cambodians presently face, it is a tangible demonstration of the boundless and endless love of God in Jesus Christ for all people. In each location, CLC leaders, along with local pastors and church leaders, not only delivered food, but also [prayed with and for the families](#) (pic c), sang [songs of praise](#) to God, and [preached the spiritual food of God's word](#).




This project was also a prime example of the power of collaboration. Lutheran agencies from all over the world joined in the effort. The project was funded by the [Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod](#), the [Lutheran Church—Canada](#), [Garuna Foundation](#), and the [Lutheran Church of Australia](#). Moreover, [Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation](#) provided critical training on [hand washing and face masks](#) for COVID-19 prevention (pic a). Further, [Lutheran Heritage Foundation](#) and [Lutheran Hour Ministries'](#) staff were present to hand out literature and other resources for local Christians.

What a joy to open our hearts to our brothers and sisters in need, to love them in deed and in truth, all because of how much love God has shown ALL of us in Jesus Christ!



[See complete pics and videos here!](#)

 **"We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:20).**

 Square Two
Cima Newsletter
Vol. 14, No. 6
June 2019
John.Cima@lcms.org
Aimee.Cima@lcms.org



Prayers: for those who receive food aid, that they would be strengthened physically and spiritually; for all those who aren't receiving any aid; thanksgiving for JP completing his coursework; for a seminar on Acts that J.P. is teaching in late July.

Wanna help us impact the people of Cambodia? Give online [here](#), or mail a check to 1) P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 (payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), OR 2) 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034 (payable to Mission Central). For ALL checks, in the memo line write "Cima family-Cambodia."