

**Annual Report of the Trustees  
of  
Silk Road Ministries International  
for  
The year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

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Clocks around the world keep ticking and the world is increasingly becoming more chaotic. Many millions of people have been displaced by wars, civil unrest, famine, floods, and disease, not to mention Covid-19; all of these have presented international charities with so many challenging needs and situations. SRM International has responded to such challenges both in Cambodia and Myanmar, and with additional resources more could be accomplished in both countries.

**Cambodia.** The year 2022 finished on a very positive note: the Campbells were able to visit the Hope House Organization (HHO) in December, after a three-year forced absence because of Covid-19. Therefore the reunion with pastor Yem Sarorn and the staff at the Hope House school, in Kompong Speu province, was a very special one. Sarorn has continued to direct the work and projects of HHO with wise and godly leadership. The dedicated school staff teach up to 300 children daily, which is quite a challenge in a remote, rural community with substantial drug abuse. Sarorn is a courageous, committed, skilful leader who is loved by the children, his staff and the people in the surrounding villages. He is trusted and respected by both the local communities and the district authorities.

The Kubota tractor, purchased in early 2021, has transformed the Hope House farmland; the hard ground has been ploughed more regularly, thereby producing better crops. The watering of the fruit trees in the dry season, with the invaluable help of the tractor, has also made a big difference. Coconut trees have been planted in the goat field, providing shelter for the reduced goat herd and a potential income from the sale of the coconuts in the future. The goat herd has decreased in numbers from around 85, to a more manageable 65; the plan is to sell off the older female goats in the coming year. The sale of the male goats this past year subsidised the school budget by almost \$3,000USD. The fishponds provided approximately 2000 Tilapia fish for meals for the children, giving further savings to the monthly school food budget.

The Hope House Christmas celebration was a great success; over 100 guests, as well as 345 children and former students, the HHO staff and guests were present. Pastor Sarorn shared the Christmas story, and the children and staff sang Christmas carols before enjoying the much-anticipated fish curry meal, prepared by the school staff. The impact of the Hope House school, through the teaching and example of the staff, has been exemplary; the influence on the lives of the children, their families, and the people in the surrounding villages, is significant and will have lifetime rewards.

Dr Tom Johnson has continued to hold medical clinics at the Hope House school and to provide invaluable medical advice and information to pastor Sarorn. Some of the first children to attend Hope House school have pursued further studies and one of them is now a second-year medical student at the university of Phnom Penh; hopefully one day he will be able to help or replace Dr Tom Johnson.

**The new year, 2023,** brought both exciting and challenging developments for the Hope House school. A **new road**, passing by just a few metres from the school gates, has made travelling easier but quite dangerous when the children leave school in a hurry on their bicycles. However, the comings and goings through the school gates are carefully watched and patrolled by the staff. A **new well** was successfully bored in the goat field, to provide more water for the farmland. **Isaiah Ch. 43:19, “Behold, I will do a new thing ... I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”**

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Silk Road Ministries International**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Silk Road Ministries International for the year ended 30 September 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of Silk Road Ministries International you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Silk Road Ministries International accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of Silk Road Ministries International as required by section 130 of the Act; c Year Ended 30 September 2023
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Beech  
29 Powell Drive  
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