

## Hope Through Education: Paht

### Paht Keo

**Age:** 18

**College:** Asia Pacific International University, Thailand

**Major:** Education

**Favorite Things:**

Playing sports, listening to music, studying, spicy or Italian food

**Most Thankful For:** "My BIG family at Asian Hope."



Paht is not unlike his classmates at Mission College in Thailand. He studies hard, and enjoys sports and music. Paht is also very unlike most of his classmates; he has lived in a tent. He did so out of necessity, not as an experience, and he was grateful to have any shelter at all.

Paht remembers the first five years of his life with his family as happy, even though they were poor. Paht's family owned a small bit of land, on which they were just able to survive. Sadly, his mother died when Paht was five years old.

Things went from bad to

worse for Paht and his brothers when his father turned to alcohol and gambling after the loss of his wife. During this time, he decided to sell their parcel of land and move to try to make a new start.

*Continued on page 2*

Detach here and send in with your donation

### PARTNER WITH ASIAN HOPE

Help Asian Hope continue to educate, share the love of Jesus, and provide life-changing experiences for these orphans!

**Yes! I will partner with Asian Hope:**     Monthly Gift     One-time Gift    Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$400 to pay for books for one college student per semester     \$1,000 for health insurance for one student per year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  **I would like to learn how I can get involved in other ways!**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### *News and Updates*

#### **The \$20,000 Challenge Gift was Met!**

Thank you to our very generous donor for this incentive gift, and thanks to each and every one of you who has given support to the children and mission of Asian Hope. It is through your care and generosity that Asian Hope is able to bring the very good news of Jesus Christ and hope for a more stable future to Cambodia!

#### **Ignite the Ice was a Success!**

Asian Hope was able to raise over \$10,000 at our Ignite the Ice interactive fundraising event at the Pepsi Center on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Participants enjoyed meeting Socheatha and Bora who shared their life stories, VIP seats to the Blackhawks vs. the Avalanche game, dinner and conversation in an intimate setting, access to our unique silent auction items, and skating on the ice after the game. Our volunteers, Lori Walkup, Sandy Woudstra, Kyle Petrie, Amy Connell, Katie Jo Pinon, and Katie Fischer helped the event run smoothly. Thanks to all who attended, donated, prayed, and to everyone who supported this event and made it a success!

### Did you Know?

- The Cambodian flag is the only national flag that incorporates an actual building into its design.
- The temple in the middle of the Cambodian flag is Angkor Wat, which was built in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century as a Hindu temple. It was later dedicated to Buddhism.
- 95% of Cambodian citizens are Theravada Buddhist.



## Paht's Story Continued..

At that time in Cambodia, people still traded in gold currency, and Paht's father received gold for the sale of his land. Paht's uncle offered to take the gold into the city to exchange it for cash. That was the last Paht's family ever saw of it.

With no land and no money, the family was forced to ask a neighbor if they could erect a tent on their property. The neighbor graciously agreed, and Paht's family found materials to construct a tent. The heavy rains and harsh winds in Cambodia made life in a cobbled together tent miserable. The family was only able to survive due to the generosity of members of the community who gave them food.

Paht credits God with saving his life by bringing him to Asian Hope. **"Just hearing the name (Asian Hope), it gives me comfort; it's like a sanctuary for me.** Asian Hope does live up to its name. It has given me hope, not only for the future, but for the next life to come. It brings back many delightful memories as I'm writing this. Asian Hope has made men and women out of all of us, I dare say, God fearing men and women. I owe the world to Asian Hope."

Something that distinguishes Paht from many of the students his age is his complete willingness to serve God and his fellow man. When asked what his dreams were, Paht replied, **"I want to be an English teacher, but I'd be more than excited to be anything God wants me to be, ranging from cleaning up after people to sitting in an office."** Undoubtedly, Paht will bless the lives of many when he returns to Cambodia after completing college.

Children of any culture who experience homelessness, trauma, poverty, or a parent with an addiction are at significantly increased risk of repeating this cycle in their own lives and passing this crushing legacy on to their children. Any one of these factors alone can undermine a child's life. Together they are devastating. Through God's grace, Paht has been lifted out of a life of desperation. He is gaining the skills necessary to successfully care for himself, his family, and his community. Even more than that, **Paht is full of hope...and he wants to share that hope with others, "I want to give something back to God. I want to serve him the rest of my days. It's not much compared to what he did for me, but I'm committed to doing that."**

**Paht's Prayer Request:** Paht would like prayer for his father. He is severely ill with throat cancer and has had intense pain to the point that he can neither speak nor move his head. Please pray for healing, comfort and his spiritual well-being.

## Your Prayers Matter

- 1. The Ohlin family is moving to Cambodia:** For their preparations and a smooth transition. Dan Ohlin will be working in Development for Asian Hope in the Cambodian community.
- 2. 4 Girls from House of Faith Applying to College:** That they will be accepted to their schools of choice and that God will provide the funds for their education.
- 3. The New Logos Building:** That all would continue to go smoothly and that God's hand would be upon it. We would like to move into it in late summer.
- 4. School Staff Needed:** We potentially need to fill Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 5 teaching positions. We also need an English, Science and Computer teacher for middle and high school.



Dan, Carolyn, Cameron 4, Calli 9, Abby 12, Alex 14  
The Ohlin Family

## Get Involved

Discover how you can get involved:

- Discount Tickets to Games of the Month
- Volunteer
- Pray
- Church Presentations

[www.AsianHope.org](http://www.AsianHope.org)