# Together in Cambodia Campaign Assembly

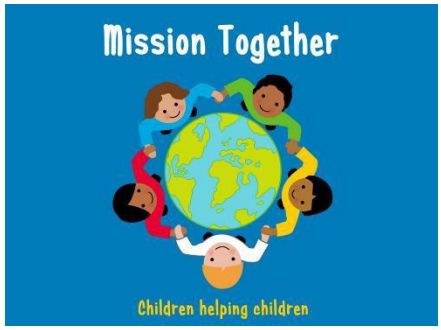
## LEADER'S NOTES

These notes accompany the Together in Cambodia assembly and provide the information you need to present the assembly to children.

This assembly has been prepared by Mission Together, which is the children's branch of Missio – the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. 96% of money raised by children for Mission Together goes towards our work supporting children overseas.

While all projects are supported by the Catholic Church, Mission Together follows Christ's example – helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief.

## SLIDE ONE




Welcome to your Mission Together assembly. This picture is the Mission Together logo.

***Ask the children if they can explain what the logo means.***

Invite suggestions and guide answers to the following:

The logo shows children holding hands around the world. They are wearing different colours to show they are from different places. But even though they live far apart, they can still be friends and work together.

***Ask the children what the word 'mission' means.***

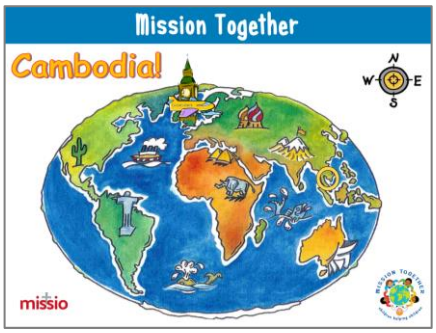
A mission is an important task or job. We all have a special mission from God: to help others and share God's love with them. When we do this, we become missionaries.

'Mission Together' means we can do the special job of being missionaries together, not just as a school but with children everywhere.

Just like the children holding hands in the logo, through Mission Together, children all around the world work together and help other children, no matter how far away they are.

Today we're going to hear about some children many miles away who've been helped by Mission Together.

## SLIDE TWO




Let's begin by finding out where these children live.

***Invite a child to identify where we are on the map.***

***Click once to reveal Big Ben.***

This is Big Ben in London. Let's jump on a plane to discover today's destination.

***Click to start plane animation …***

Cambodia is over 6000 miles away and if we were on a real plane it would take 13 hours to get there!

***Cambodia is a country in which continent? Asia.***

Let's have a closer look at Cambodia.

## SLIDE THREE

Cambodia is larger than England & Wales put together, but its population is only 15 million (compared to 59 million in England & Wales).

That is mainly because more than 3/4 of Cambodia is covered with dense forests or farmland (refer to photo). Rice is the main food, and fish from the many rivers are also an important part of the diet.

***Click to reveal photo of Phnom Penh.***

Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh, is very different! It is a busy place and the roads are often crowded with people and traffic. Because there aren't many jobs in Cambodia's villages, many people move to the city to work in the factories, so that they can support their families.

***Explain that while some people live in lovely apartments in the richer parts of Phnom Penh, poorer people live in tiny concrete rooms where one family share one room. Ask the children if they can imagine what it would be like for all their family to eat, sleep and live in one room?***

Let's meet one of those families now.

## SLIDE FOUR

This is Soriya and Chanlina, two sisters who live in Phnom Penh. Soriya is seven and Chanlina is three.

Their parents moved to the city from the countryside to find work. They are very lucky to have found jobs, but this has also caused some problems for the family. Here is their story...

## SLIDE FIVE

Not long ago, Soriya and Chanlina were left alone at home all day because their parents had to go to work and couldn't afford to pay for the girls to go to school.

Remember that Soriya and Chanlina had moved from the countryside many miles away. This meant that they had no grandparents, aunts, or cousins nearby who could help to look after them.

So whilst their parents were at work the girls had to lock the door and not answer it to anybody. The streets in Phnom Penh are dangerous, so the sisters weren't even allowed to go outside.

***Ask the children how they think the girls felt being locked in on their own?***

It was scary for the girls to have to look after themselves.

## SLIDE SIX

Thankfully, one day a Religious Sister called Sister Eulie, came to visit the family. Here she is on screen.

***Ask the children if they know what a Religious Sister is.***

A Religious Sister is someone who has left her friends and family to live with other Religious Sisters. The sisters pray together and do what they can to help people and bring God's love to everyone.

Sister Eulie told the girls' mum and dad about the Lindalva Centre, a place nearby where children can go to learn and be looked after. The Lindalva Centre is run by Sister Eulie especially for children whose mums and dads can't afford to send them to school, so that the parents can go to work and their children can be safe.

## SLIDE SEVEN

At the Lindalva Centre the children have lessons in Maths, English and in Khmer. Khmer is the language used in Cambodia.

Soriya enjoys all her lessons, but let's see if you can guess her favourite lesson.

***Click to reveal photo of traditional Cambodian dance.***

Soriya loves to learn traditional Cambodian dance. Here you can see some of Soriya's friends taking part in a dance performance. Can you see that they are also wearing traditional Cambodian dress?

Dancing is an important part of Cambodia's culture and helps to keep the children fit, as does eating healthy food. At the Lindalva Centre all the children are given lunch. Can you guess what they are having?

***Click to reveal photo of children eating.***

Rice is Cambodia's main food. It is grown in Cambodia's countryside. At Lindalva, rice is usually served with fish or vegetables. It is important for the children to eat lunch, so that they can concentrate and learn. For many of the children, this will be their only meal of the day.

## SLIDE EIGHT

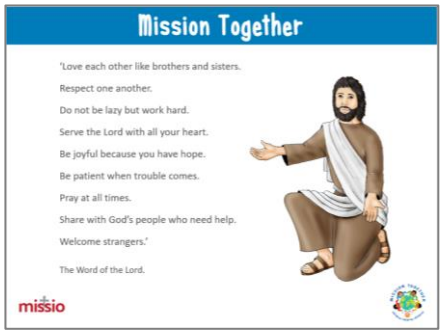
Sister Eulie does her best to make sure the children are happy and healthy, that they learn, make new friends, and are safe.

She also teaches the children about the love God has for all of us, and how we, in turn, can show our love for God through prayer and by loving and serving one another.

Sister Eulie teaches this message of love and service, through the example she sets. From her, the children learn to be caring, kind patient, generous, fair, forgiving and faithful.

She also teaches the message about loving and serving by using readings from the Bible, like the one we will hear now…

## SLIDE NINE




'Love each other like brothers and sisters. Respect one another.
Do not be lazy but work hard. Serve the Lord with all your heart.
Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes.
Pray at all times. Share with God's people who need help.
Welcome strangers.'

Romans 12:10-13 (Adapted from New Jerusalem Bible).

There are lots of important lessons we can learn from this Bible reading.

***Ask the children to identify some of these lessons and why they think they are important.***

The reading encourages us to pray at all times. That is because prayer is a very special way by which we can stay close to God and care for others, even people who live far away and may never meet!

## SLIDE TEN

And so, Mission Together asks children to help other children around the world by praying for them.

That means while we in Europe are praying for children like Soriya and Chanlina in Asia, they are praying for us too!

Isn't this a lovely way to show the world that we belong to God's worldwide family! By joining our hands in prayer and friendship!

There is another way Mission Together asks children to help other children. If you look closely at the photo, you'll see a clue. What is the little boy in the centre of the picture holding? It's the Mission Together box.

In this box we are invited to share what money we have, so that children like Soriya and Chanlina are kept safe, can go to school, stay well, and know that God loves them.

And it doesn't matter if we don't have much money to put into our red box, because whatever we give is added to everyone else's donation, and together this adds up to something special!

If by sharing our money we raise:

**£25.00** we could buy a healthy lunch for all 85 children at the Lindalva Centre.

**£80.00** we could pay the wage of a Lindalva teacher for a week.

**£300** we could pay for the running of the Lindalva Centre for a month.

## SLIDE TWELVE

But even before we share any money, there is something we can do immediately which costs nothing but is incredibly valuable!

***Ask the children if they can remember what this is.***

We can pray!

Let's do that now by saying the Mission Together prayer for all the children at the Lindalva Centre, for children here in our school and for children everywhere!