

day 05

CAMBODIA



FAQS

SIZE

State of Missouri

POPULATION

13,995,904

CAPITAL

Phnom Penh

LANGUAGE

Khmer

RELIGION

Theravada Buddhism

UPG'S

29

POP. IN CHICAGO

3,364

LOCATION

Albany Park, Uptown

VISIT

Cafe Nhu Hoa
1020 W Argyle St
Chicago, IL
773.878.0618

In 1953, Cambodia was granted independence from France. The Khmer Rouge came to power in the 1970's and turned Cambodia into a land of horror. The new regime ordered the evacuation of all cities and towns, sending the entire urban population to the countryside. The regime controlled every aspect of life and got their way through terror. Between 1975 to 1979, it is estimated that 1.7 to 3 million people died under the Khmer Rouge control due to starvation, disease, and executions. In 1993, the Royal Government of Cambodia formed, giving some freedom to Cambodians who had experienced decades of war.

Ninety-five percent of all Cambodians practice Theravada Buddhism. Theravada Buddhism means "Way of the Elders" and is the oldest surviving Buddhist school of thought. This form of Buddhism teaches its followers to refrain from evil and purify their minds by meditation and pursuing knowledge. Buddhists believe that they can reach a state of perfection and enter into nirvana. They also maintain an animistic mixture with a strong belief of influence of spirits on daily life. **Pray for deliverance of fear toward these animistic spirits through acceptance of Jesus as their Deliverer and Healer.**

Most Cambodians came to Chicago as refugees during the Holocaust of the Khmer Rouge and the oppressive Vietnamese Occupation. **Pray for healing and reconciliation with the Vietnamese who are their neighbors in the "Little Vietnam" neighborhood.** With limited education, most Cambodian refugees seek jobs in factories, crafts, and blue-collar service jobs. **Pray for Christian programs that can help meet the extreme poverty that still plagues half of their community.**

PSALM 87:6

"The Lord will record, when He registers the peoples: 'This one was born in Zion.'"

