



Grapevine

A word from the Editor,

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Hello dear readers!

Now who says that forewords are easy to write? I've always read with interest, the forewords of editors from publications such as Readers' Digests (I was going to write Urban in, but somehow I don't think that quite figures as a publication?), trying to figure out how they keep their one-minute of air-time fresh and engaging. One thing's for sure - it's almost always pitched at a personal level.

Here goes - it's a brand new year again! To many of us, the new year probably passed us by as we were buried in hospital work, where time seems to come to a standstill, and weekdays blend into weekends. With each new year, I list a litany of new year's resolution, only to reflect back when one year down the road, on how many unfulfilled one I have left! =(

This year, my resolution is... to not make any new year's resolutions! Or is that already considered breaking my new year's resolution, since I resolved to not make any?? Ok never mind, I'll figure that one out myself... =P

Anyway, I begin this new year by having a change in working environment! New working environment, new colleagues, new bosses, new everything. Sounds daunting. How about you? No matter what lies ahead, I've decided to go about it with a positive spin on things. So let's kick start this new year with a smile on the face, and bring about our positive energy to everyone around us, k? =D

This quarterly issue, we bring you the up-to-dates on events just past Christmas – featuring our annual caroling, and regular community service trips Cambodia. Photos and excerpts are below; full sharing articles can be found on our Doctor's Blog website! In addition, we also bring you excerpts from our regular blog article contributors!

Oh, if one of your resolutions is to be more prolific literarily, we welcome ***all*** contributions! Ahem, no restrictions on length or topic, subject to the 'evil' editor's editing pen of course (although I have yet to strike any articles out at all). By **bolding**, *italicising* and underlining it, I look forward to receiving your contributions! (scroll down to the end to check out our email add).

Have a productive year ahead, and a blessed 2013!

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Christmas

Carolling '12



Our annual CMG-CMS caroling at Dr John Lee's house, continued into its N-th year of tradition, on the 23rd Dec 2012.

This year, our hosts and the students had just came back a few days prior, from their Cambodian mission trip, so we especially are grateful to all those who came down to join in the caroling and fellowship!



The very reason that draws seniors back year after year to these caroling sessions, is the opportunity to catch up with old friends, and meet up with new younger ones.

Especially with work where each of us are stuck in our own individual cluster hospitals, it can be difficult to meet up with friends on such a regular basis – and in such a relaxed atmosphere.



Looking forward to caroling in eleven month's time already!
=)

Mission Srolanth '12:

To Heal the Heart, with a Heart to Heal

Into its 2nd year of conception, students from the Catholic Medical Society journeyed to Battambang Prefecture, Cambodia, to provide medical assistance and health and values education to the congregation.



Peering at the dispensary drugs...

"Srolanh", the name of the mission, means "Love" in Cambodia's native Khmer tongue. Indeed, that very much sums up the spirit of the mission, which was very much more concerned with sharing in the love of Christ with the communities and people we met there, be it in the process of medical work, our conversations, or our mere presence and solidarity with them...

Perhaps the most meaningful part of the trip, though, was the education lessons conducted. These lessons focused on sexuality, values and self-esteem, as well as general health and hygiene information and practices. To that end, the female members of the mission conducted a wonderful day-long programme for the girls at Don Bosco focused on self-esteem and love, which was a tremendously touching experience for all those involved...

As mentioned, this was only the 2nd mission trip to Battambang. Our eyes are slowly being opened to the very many avenues for the Catholic medical community to assist in Battambang, in collaboration with ACTS and other groups that already do so much good work, and it would be a true joy to continue to grow God's mission there with the help of the community here!



* For Gerald's full reflective article and more photos, please click [here](#).

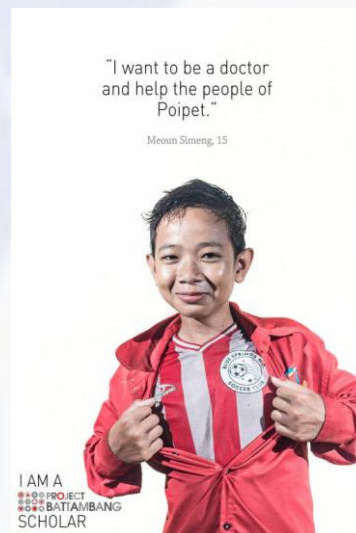
Proj. Battambang '12

Project Battambang is an overseas community project organized by students from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. Every December since 2010, the team of about 25 students has been going on 2-week long missions to the Thai-Cambodian bordering district of Poipet in the Banteay Meanchey province of Cambodia. CMG supports this project by providing mentorship and some of the volunteer doctors.



Located in the northwestern part of the country, Poipet is considered one of the poorest districts in Cambodia and being a border town, the dubious reputation for child trafficking and prostitution.

The team's main focus is to supplement local basic healthcare services by conducting school and community health screenings. Aside from the health screenings, health education sessions are organized mainly on basic and dental hygiene, puberty, home and road safety, benefits of smoking cessation and strong marriages...



"It is a different Poipet in my eyes," said Kristabella Low, a second-year medical student and Project Director of Project Battambang 2012. "It is not the armpit of Cambodia¹ and a land of sprawling fields with uncleared landmines, but a home in my heart where hope is born..."

* For the full reflective article and more photos, please click [here](#).

** Project Battambang is featured on Be an Idea, a newly set up website dedicated to delivering news on social causes, non-profits and volunteerism. Click [here](#) to read on.

† **What's New on Doctor's Blog:**

▪ **“The Lost Art Of...”**

Missing the Christmas season already? Read 2012's annual Christmas reflection piece...

[Full article](#)

▪ **“The Hardest Thing To Say...”**

An inspirational publication in a magazine sparks off a series of reflections...

[Full article](#)

▪ **Mission Srolanth '12**

Full reflection article + photos!

[Full article](#)

▪ **Project Battambang '12**

Full reflection article + photos!

[Full article](#)



If you would like to advertise for your upcoming events; or are seeking assistance in any functions - feel free to email us:

contactus@cmg.org.sg

Send in your Doctor's Blog contributions to

cmg.grapevine@gmail.com



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† **Regular Events:**

1. **BYOB (Bring your own Bible)**

- Time: 7th, 14th, 21st Feb 2013
7.30pm – 9pm

- Venue: 11 Keng Cheow St, #07-06,
The Riverside Piazza
Singapore 059608

Join us for our weekly BYOB sharing and fellowship, held on every Thursday, except the last Thursday of the month!

2. **CMG 2-Monthly Mass**

- Date: 28th Feb 2013

- Time: 7pm – 8pm

- Venue: STs Peter & Paul Church

We're bringing back our regular mass fixture! Join us for mass and fellowship, and also for dinner at the nearby Food for Thought Restaurant after that!

Future mass dates: 27th April, 27th June, 17th August, 19th October.

3. **Outram Campus Weekly Mass**

- Every Wednesday, 12.15pm

- Venue: Medical Alumni Association
Hall, Level 1 (Junction of
College Road & Outram Rd)

More details [here](#)

