



NEWS RELEASE

Cambodian Killing Fields Survivor Ambassador Sichan Siv Will Speak in Richardson January 16

Killing Fields survivor and bestselling author of GOLDEN BONES will tell his extraordinary story at Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church in Richardson, Texas, on Saturday, January 16, 2010, from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Ambassador Sichan Siv and his wife, the former Martha Pattillo, of Pampa, Texas, will be guests of the Multicultural Presbyterian Fellowship and HANDS for Cambodia. Hear his amazing tale of endurance and triumph rising from Pol Pot prisoner to U.S. Ambassadorship inspired by his mother's courageous words, "Never give up hope."

Richardson, TX, October 16, 2009 -- Forced into slave labor in 1975 by the Khmer Rouge and subsisting on meager rations, Siv had to get up before dawn and walk for one hour to join more than 5,000 other workers in leech- and snake-infested waters to build a dam. At 27 years old, educated, and having worked for the Cooperative of American Relief Everywhere (CARE) organization, he was a prime target for Pol Pot's communist guerrilla group that began its genocide by enslaving and killing the educated through its "purification programs." Siv's mother encouraged him to escape, charging him to "Never give up hope." That was the last time he saw his family.

Siv fled across Cambodia but after three weeks was re-captured. He endured incessant threats, hardships, and atrocities, yet continued to feel the guiding, loving presence of his mother. Instead of waiting for death, he fled again and was almost killed while trying to jump from a moving logging truck and wading through a landmine-filled jungle. He eventually reached the Thai border and was sent to a refugee camp. On June 4, 1976, Siv flew to the U.S. where he was resettled as a refugee in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Siv quickly adapted to his new home, earned a master of international affairs from Columbia University, and became a U.S. citizen. He was nominated by President George W. Bush in 2001 and unanimously confirmed by the Senate as a United States ambassador to the United Nations, serving until 2006. Learn more by visiting his website at www.sichansiv.com.

Ambassador Siv is the author of *GOLDEN BONES: An Extraordinary Journey from Hell in Cambodia to a New Life in America*, published by HarperCollins. Purchase your copy through www.GoodShop.com, identify *HANDS for Cambodia* as your charity of choice, and *HANDS* will receive a percentage as a donation. Copies of *GOLDEN BONES* will be available for purchase the night of the event.

Saturday, January 16, 2010, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church
3901 Northstar Road, Richardson, TX 75082

This event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Groups of 8 or more are encouraged to reserve seats by January 6 by calling Mary Hodge of *HANDS for Cambodia* at 972-437-6365.

The Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church Multicultural Presbyterian Fellowship is under the direction of Albert Cheng, a survivor of the *killing fields*. Cheng is vice president of *HANDS for Cambodia*, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that works in Cambodia promoting Health And Neighborhood Development Services, including curative clinics, health education and clean water, to transform *killing fields* into *living fields* (www.handsforcambodia.com).

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