11 May 2015

Dear Brother Josephians,

**SJI OBA FATHERS-AND-SONS MISSION WITH ACTS (PHNOM PENH) 2015**

Since the season of Advent 2006, ACTS – which stands for Advent Cambodia Trips as well as “A Call To Share” have been conducting outreach missions to Cambodia and other countries. To date, some 180 to 400 participants from different parishes in Singapore as well as non-Catholics, have taken part in ACTS mission trips each year.

These missions trips encompass activities such improving infrastructure for the Don Bosco schools, provision of medical and dental care, a food programme for the students, educational and catechetical programmes, setting up computer laboratories, as well as, packing and distribution of love parcels that consist of essentials for the poorest families and gift packages to the students. Beyond these programmes, volunteers and children bond through dance, educational activities and sports, that bridge cultural and language barriers. ACTS’ long-term objective is to establish sustainable projects to alleviate hunger, disease and poverty, but more importantly, to allow children to hope and dream like children elsewhere in the world.

For the first time this year, the SJI OBA will be teaming up with ACTS for SJI alumni fathers and sons to join their mission to Phnom Penh – ACTS has kindly put aside 50 places for our group. Advent is a time for hope and preparation for Christ’s birth; through our actions, we aim to bring hope into the lives of those we encounter. In doing so, we also hope for our fathers and sons to grow in a healthy, life-giving relationship with each other as they learn with and from each other as they do God’s work. The feedback for many past ACTS participants is that these missions have changed their lives and relationships in deep and meaningful ways.

This year, general online applications for ACTS Phnom Penh 2015 will start on 16th May 2015. Places are taken up very quickly; usually within the first 2 weeks. Applications for the SJI OBA fathers-and-sons participants start with immediate effect and will close on 29 May so that any spaces left over may be returned to ACTS for other applicants. Kindly fill in the [online registration form](https://www.acts-singapore.com) if you would like to be a part of this mission. (Please do **NOT** register on the ACTS website as well as this would result in double-counting and confusion.)

SJI alumni whose wives and daughters wish to go may apply online to ACTS at [www.acts-singapore.com](https://www.acts-singapore.com). ACTS requires that all participants be between the ages of **12 to 70 years** at the time of the mission.
The period of the mission will be **13-18 December 2015**. In order to build a common sense of mission and fellowship, all participants will be required to attend **4 compulsory spiritual and briefing sessions** between July to November. Details of dates and venue for these preparatory sessions will be found on the ACTS website but the SJI OBA will also send out details to our successful applicants.

The common contribution for the trip will be **SGD130 per person**. This amount will be used to cover the participants' food and local transportation. Participants will also be required to purchase their own air ticket and travel insurance to arrive in Phnom Penh on either 11 or 12 December 2015 and may depart from 19 December 2015 onwards. As there may be farewell activities by the local people on 19th December, you may wish to stay an extra day. Hotel accommodation will be arranged for you and the cost incurred will be settled when you check out and will cost about USD100 per person for the entire duration of the trip. In all, the entire trip should cost between $600-700 per person.

We believe this will be a truly enriching experience for fathers and sons, the fruits of which will far exceed the relatively low cost of the trip, and will make this one of your most meaningful Advents and Christmases ever.

You can send your enquiries to secretariat@sjioba.org. God bless and keep you all.

In faith,

Dr Gerard Nah  
President  
SJI Old Boys’ Association on behalf of the Organising Committee  
SJI OBA Fathers-and-Sons Mission Trip 2015