

Dear Friends,

"Let me tell you why you are here. You are here to be salt seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth."
Matthew 5:13 (The Message)



This is a photograph of Keat and Sally Kove, and their daughter Hannah. To the left is Jim Weber, the bi-vocational director of the Global Connection International work in CAMBODIA.

The Kove family visited Colorado in September. Keat is the director of our "Salt of the Earth" project. He and his staff help us distribute thousands of bags of iodized salt through a network of over 2,100 churches.

You may remember my first trip to Cambodia in 2001. As an endocrinologist I was amazed at the frequency of enlarged thyroid glands I found in my Cambodian patients. Women in their childbearing years were as likely as not to have at least a small goiter, and in many the glands were huge. I soon learned that most cases were due to iodine deficiency in the local diet. Cambodia's soil is deficient in iodine. Iodized salt is the means to correct the deficiency. This humble substance has eradicated iodine deficiency disorder (IDD) not only in our country but in many of the poorest countries of the world. Cambodia's turbulent history explains why the iodized salt program has been slow to develop.

The damage from IDD is horrendous, primarily from its effects on brain development in the fetus. On average, children of iodine deficient mothers suffer a 10 - 15% decrease in IQ. This decrease is permanent and irreversible.

*Happily, it is also totally preventable through the use of iodized salt. That is why we established **THE SALT OF THE EARTH PROJECT**. Here is how it works: Under the auspices of Global Connection International, Keat Kove in Cambodia and I here in Colorado have formed an excellent working relationship whereby I raise funds and he makes bulk purchases of iodized salt in Cambodia. His team packages the salt in zip-lock bags of one kg each. On one side of the bag is printed in Khmer the salt of the earth passage I have printed out at the beginning of this letter. On the other is a message which ends by stating, **"Use this special salt. It makes kid stronger and smarter."***

We estimate that one kilo of iodized salt will last a family about one year. Keat gives each family two (2) of the 1kg bags. One bag for the Christian family, the other bag for a non-believing neighbor in the village.



This is one of the doctors examining a Cambodian lady with a severe goiter.

The Salt of the Earth project is entering its ninth year and the needs are as great as ever. Our goal for 2010 is \$10,000.00. The Salt of the Earth project is very well received in Cambodia. Last year it supplied over thirty-five thousand families. This year we would like to top that!

And the price is right! Bought in bulk in Cambodia, one kg of iodized salt costs 30 cents. Just think \$1 dollar will supply three families with iodized salt for a year.

Global Connection International is carrying out many great projects in Cambodia. I am happy and proud to be part of their team and contribute my time and talent to help make a difference in people's lives and health.

I have asked the GCI Office to prepare a response form that you will find enclosed with this letter.

Whatever you decide to do will make a difference – and I thank you so very much for your support.

Blessings,

*Keith M. Mc Donald M.D.
Salt of the Earth Project Director*

Year end - 2009

PS Jim Weber, the GCI Bi-vocational Associate will be traveling to Cambodia in January. We would like to send "Salt of the Earth" funds with him.