



## **Press Release**

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### **Four Aussie guys volunteering in Cambodia discover the real meaning of Christmas**

#### **'Christmas out of the Box' – Premieres Christmas Day on Seven**

'Christmas out of the Box', CTA's Christmas Day program for the Seven Network, follows four Aussie guys as they experience Cambodia for the first time.

"They volunteered to spend a week in Cambodia, building water filters with Samaritan's Purse and Cambodia Global Aid," said Producer/Director of the program and CTA's CEO, Martin Johnson

"We followed them with our cameras to see how they reacted to the culture and history of Cambodia and as they spent three days working in a Cambodian village mixing cement and building bio-sand filter," Martin said.

The four guys all live in Sydney's Sutherland Shire and are in middle or senior management.

"I've always wanted to do this," said Sean Johns, a founding partner of Resurg, a business benchmarking and coaching company. "You always think you'll contribute [to the community] because of what you've been able to do in business, but you can wait forever so I decided to do something now," Sean said.

Jason Ezzy is a school principal. "My wife has already been to Cambodia and she loved the experience," he said. "The opportunity to get my hands dirty and help in a practical way was something I was keen to do," Jason said.

Joining Sean and Jason were Eric Hunter, Group OH&S Manager for ISIS Building Group and Matt Soames, General Manager, Finance, Crown Lift Trucks.

The program shows the guys learning about Cambodia's history at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Killing Fields. After a brief stop at an Orphanage, the team heads for central Cambodia to spend three nights in the village of Don Toy where they get to help build water filters for the village.

"Each of the guys come away with a far different view of Cambodia than when they first arrived," said Martin. "They all thought they were coming to help and whilst they did get 'stuck in', they got far more out of the journey than they expected," he said. "The program has some very revealing moments as each of the guys opens up to what they see and hear," said Martin.

At the end of the week, the team helps distribute Operation Christmas Child boxes to families who are part of a Teen Challenge project.

“It’s a real joy to watch the children receive their boxes but to also see the reaction of the guys as they get involved with the Christmas spirit in an unexpected way,” Martin said.

The program was produced in association with Samaritan’s Purse Australia and will air nationally on the Seven Network after midday on Christmas Day. (Please check local guides for exact time.)

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*Pictures:*

(L – R) Matt Soames, Eric Hunter, Sean Johns, Jason Ezzy.  
(Pic montage by Martin Johnson)

The team in a Cambodian Village and at the Angkor Wat Temple complex