

# **‘DAUGHTERS’ ON THE MOVE**

In September 2020 the Trustees received a proposal from our partner organisation, ‘Daughters of Cambodia’ for funding for the coming year. MSAVLC has been helping to fund the Health and Wellness project at Daughters since 2015 and the proposal was to continue their vital work for a further twelve months.

Daughters of Cambodia’s mission is to empower girls and young women and men, who have been trafficked in the sex industry, to set themselves free from sexual exploitation and build sustainable and healthy new lives for themselves.

Daughters was established in 2007 by British psychologist Ruth Elliot. It is a Christian-based, non-profit, non-governmental organisation which works with survivors of sex trafficking. It works with sex workers who have elected to leave the sex industry and enables them to build new lives for themselves. It provides dignified paid employment in one of its social enterprises whilst providing health, education and social support services.

Clients join Daughters with little or no skill, in a state of psychological trauma, along with having multiple health problems. For the first 12 months, activities are focused on stabilizing them; providing medical treatment to recover health, providing counselling to treat psychological trauma and symptoms of distress, and providing social support services to address some of the domestic challenges to clients and their children.

Daughter’s enterprises do not cover the costs of health, social work, day-care, supplementary programs or

supervision, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic, which wiped out most of their income from their businesses and closed much of the business activity. In order to provide these services, external financial assistance is sought from charities such as MSAVLC.

Recovery is provided through the activities of the medical, counselling, and social work departments. These departments provide a critical service, as the clients have many serious health needs and serious problems in their domestic lives. Daughters’ medical clinic treats basic conditions, provides health prevention education, and makes referrals to external specialist partners for medical treatment. The counselling team provides counselling to reduce trauma and psychological distress, and

supports clients in learning problem-solving skills. Social work interventions are provided in the form of domestic violence counselling, measures to protect children who are being abused, and referrals, for re-housing, legal services and risk prevention measures.

In addition to the medical and counselling support, the Operation Centre provides free day-care and health services for clients’ children who are under five years old.

The Trustees of MSAVLC have established an excellent working relationship with Director, Ruth Elliot and her staff. We were aware of the ongoing difficulties that Daughters were having with their accommodation needs, exacerbated particularly by the Covid-19 pandemic. So, we were delighted to receive the latest



*Daughters of Cambodia’s new Visitors Centre in Phnom Penh.*

Newsletter from Daughters which arrived in November 2020. Much of the following is taken directly from that publication.

*“We mentioned in our last report that we were hoping to rent a new building to combine our Visitor Centre with our Operations centre. This we have done! It was a huge amount of hard work! We mentioned that we had found a suitable building; we were able to rent one half of the overall space that would be required for all our operations together, so we rented that half and then prepared to move our shop and spa into that space, with half of our production in the upper levels of the building. Renovations and building preparation took several months, with many challenges and hiccups (as things do in Cambodia) - but thankfully we opened this in September. It is a beautiful space!*

*We were blessed to have a talented furniture designer volunteering with us during this time, Ben from New Zealand, who designed our stylish shop furniture. Our new location is in the Russian market area, a bustling shopping district where many foreigners who have remained in Cambodia are living. This gives us a customer base for the time being, albeit a small one.*

*We only have half the space that we need for our cafe and for the remaining half of our production, but we do not plan to open the cafe until the tourists return which will be many months at the soonest. So, for the interim we rented an additional space very close by for the Operations Centre. In August we moved our ops centre from the building where we spent the last 8 years. Below you can read about this story. It was a battle! Thank you for standing with us in prayer over this.*

*After a lot of hard work and countless delays, we finally opened our new Visitor Centre in mid-September. Praise God! From the first day, we had customers coming to browse, and our sales have been small, but we are thankful to have a steady trickle. In our new Visitor Centre, customers are also able to walk around our building and look at our 2 production rooms (screen printing and sewing), and we have the Daughters' video showing in our dedicated presentation room. We have made a huge saving on rent by this move - in every way, a great outcome at a very challenging time.*



Daughters at work in one of the new Production Rooms

*We eventually moved our Operations Centre in August. In June we gave notice to leave our old centre, despite the rental contract not being finished. Covid-19 actually provided the opportunity for us to be able to terminate our contract under a clause nullifying the contract in situations pandemic. Having given notice, a battle with the landlord commenced, involving lawyers, the police and the local government. He fought to make us stay, threatened court action, locked the front gate so we could not remove our belongings, physically snatched our belongings out of our hands, and threatened us. At each stage, the various authorities involved took our side, trying to persuade him that our offer of compensation was generous. Finally, he reluctantly accepted our offer, and an agreement was signed, ending the contract. The local Government chief warned us to move out within one week, because he knew already how volatile and changeable our landlord was.*

*So began our exodus, a rushed, hectic, and chaotic move. We had to move everything into our new building before the space was ready,*

*so the shelving would not fit up the stairs, the water supply wouldn't work, the electric supply didn't have enough amps, and many other challenges. Added to this, the old landlord on 3 consecutive days locked the main gate and did not allow us to move our things out, which meant more battles with him. Finally, we handed back the keys to the old building. Many, many thanks for praying for us during this process, your prayers made all the difference.”*

The Trustees are delighted that Daughters' move to new premises has finally been completed and that they are able to continue their vital work.

The proposal to fund their Health and Wellness Project was agreed unanimously at the last meeting of the Trustees in November 2020.

A wide range of goods including facemasks, aprons, bags, scarves and jewellery made by Daughters of Cambodia is available by mail order from ;

**Daughtersstore.com**

Mail orders will be particularly welcome in these challenging times.

#### **DATA PROTECTION.**

MSAVLC is committed to making sure that our communications with you are secure, considered and welcomed. We promise to respect any personal data that you share with us, we will keep it safe, and we will not share it with third parties. If you no longer want to receive the Bulletin and want to be removed from our

mailing list, please contact:  
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# MONSANTO, BAYER AND TWO WARS

Nadya Williams is a freelance journalist and an active member of the San Francisco chapter of Veterans for Peace. She is also a keen supporter of MSAVLC.

Nadya wrote recently to us enclosing the latest edition of 'The Veteran' the newspaper of 'Vietnam Veterans Against the War'. One of the many fascinating articles in 'The Veteran' is written by Nadya, where she highlights the recent merger between Monsanto – the chemical giant responsible for the production of Agent Orange, and Bayer - the German pharmaceutical corporation.

Nadya writes:

*“Recent incendiary exposés of Monsanto products, scientifically proven in court to cause cancers in workers and homeowners who have used them, have caused stocks to plunge, and new owner, German pharmaceutical corporation Bayer, to no longer want to use the Monsanto brand name. As of June, 2020 Bayer, has agreed to pay nearly \$11 Billion to settle 100,000 pending lawsuits filed against Monsanto for illnesses allegedly caused by the weed killer Roundup. As with Monsanto, Bayer has admitted to no wrong-doing, and their products will continue to have no warning labels. However, three lawsuits in California alone, which ruled in favour of the plaintiffs, resulted in multi-million-dollar settlements in 2018 and 2019, which Bayer has challenged and will continue to challenge.*

*All this is quite a corporate burden for Bayer to acquire, along with the \$62.5 billion price tag paid in June of 2018 to merge the two chemical giants. However, both these giants have major war crimes, from World War II to Vietnam, hidden in their pasts.*

## **Sacrificing Vietnam for Monsanto Profits**

*Monsanto Agrochemical's vastly profitable role in the wars on South East Asia of 50 years ago is why Veterans For Peace held an "Expose Monsanto Vigil" in downtown San Francisco on August 10th, 2019, the*

*annual International Agent Orange Day.*

*America's war on Indochina was one of the largest chemical poisonings of entire countries in the history of the world, the use of the defoliant Agent Orange on the jungles and food crops of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. And the damage to humans and the ecosystem continues today.*

*The herbicide called Agent Orange was sprayed for 10 years (1961-1971) to the tune of at least 20 million gallons. It contained Dioxin, the most toxic substance known to science. But Dioxin was not a necessary ingredient in Agent Orange, manufactured by Monsanto, Dow and 36 other companies. Higher temperatures, which were used to shorten the reaction time, produced the Dioxin; a longer processing time at a lower temperature, would have kept it out. However, that would have cost a small amount of the profits, so the contaminant was left in and Dioxin's gene-warping destruction went on to create havoc in humans and animals.*

*Tens of thousands of American veterans and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have died from Agent Orange poisoning in the decades since, according to the International Red Cross. In 1984, a class action suit by 20,000 American veterans was settled against the US chemical corporations, with an award of \$180 million, on the condition that: no wrong-doing was admitted and no future legal action would be allowed.*

*However, since Dioxin is an Epigenetic substance, severe birth defects, cancers and many other illnesses are now passing to the fourth generation since the war's end, with an estimated four million Vietnamese affected today, including new-born babies. The Vietnamese victims have never been acknowledged nor compensated.*

## **Bayer's Bargain for Human Lives**

*Yet another damning piece of history, this one from World War II of 75 years ago, exposes yet another mass chemical poisoning. It concerns the*

*German-owned Bayer, Monsanto's new merger partner, and its collaboration with Nazi death camps, as documented and verified in the Nuremberg, Germany, War Crimes Tribunals.*

*The following is taken word for word from documented testimony at a Nuremberg Tribunal: "During the war, Bayer wrote to the commander of Auschwitz concentration camp to inquire about 'purchasing' 150 women for experiments with sleep-inducing drugs."*

*After compromising on the price, the actual letter from Bayer said: 'We received your reply. Select 150 women in the best possible state of health, and as soon as you inform us that you are ready, we will fetch them ...'. And later: 'Despite their emaciated condition they were acceptable ... We will keep you informed on the progress of the experiments.' And again later: 'The experiments were concluded. All persons died. We will soon get in touch with you regarding a new shipment'."*

Nadya's article goes on to tell of Lee Johnson, a 46-year-old groundsman who successfully sued Monsanto after being diagnosed with terminal lymphoma which was directly attributable to his using Roundup in his job.

However, despite the lawsuits, there are still no warnings on the labels of Roundup containers, and Bayer continue to insist that it is safe.

As Nadya says, "Exactly like Agent Orange/Dioxin was 'safe' to use in South East Asia on our military and their civilians."

She concludes, "All in all the hidden histories of both of these corporate giants in at least two wars of the last century, and their criminal actions today, should alert the world as to their roles and products now."

# HANOI AFTER THE WAR

**A beautiful hard-backed book of unique photographs and essays of life in post-war Hanoi.**

John Ramsden was the Deputy Head of the British Embassy in Hanoi from 1980 to 1982, a time of hardship, poverty, and endurance. Reunification of the country had been gained after a long struggle and the USA had withdrawn from the war, but in retaliation the West maintained an embargo on food and goods.

During his time in Vietnam John took over a thousand black and white photographs which show glimpses of these times, not only of life in Hanoi but also in the surrounding countryside. Most of the photographs are of everyday activities in the lives of ordinary people, in a country that at the time was largely cut off from the outside world. They show scenes of brave and resilient people, an ancient culture and of wistful beauty amidst the austerity. Images of the period are rare, and John's photos are a unique visual record of the time.

John has shared many of these photos with us, and also his personal memories of the time, in his hard-backed book, 'Hanoi After the War'. He writes of his experiences and those of the Vietnamese people whose life was hard and a daily battle for survival. He describes the dignity, resilience, and ingenuity of the people as they struggled to obtain food and essentials, amid rationing and black-market trading.

Distinguished Vietnamese writers and scholars have contributed to the book, some of whom lived through this extraordinary period, and they describe their lives during this time in essays full of vivid and nostalgic memories.

John writes "This is a journey back in time, to a city exhausted by forty years of conflict. The people whose lives are pictured here fought through the war and endured the hardships that followed. Though

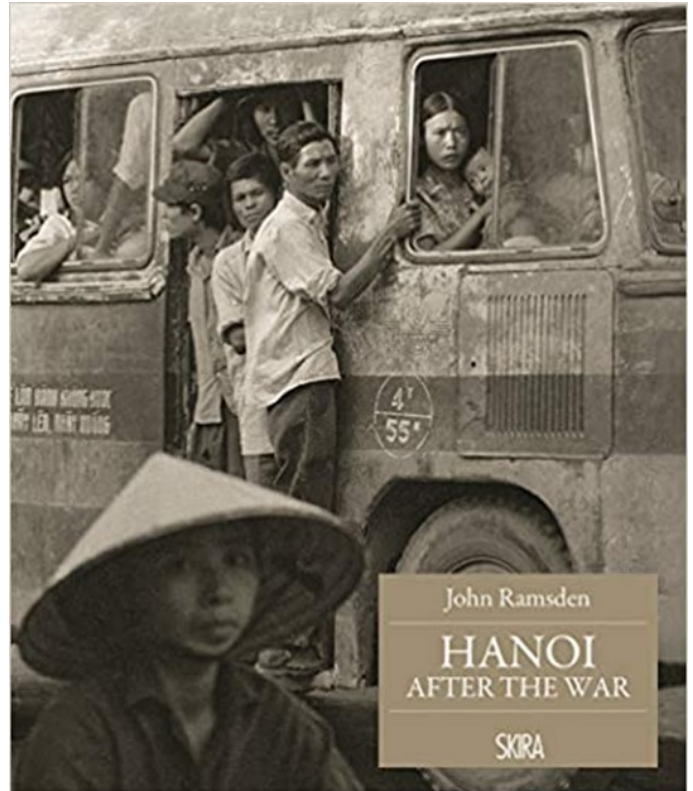
I could observe their daily life, any meaningful contact with the local people was forbidden in those Cold War days.

The stories told in these pages take us into the inner world of the Vietnamese: bitter-sweet memories of a time which now seems vanishingly distant".

John has very generously donated a limited number of his books to MSAVLC, to raise funds for our charity.

You can obtain a copy of this unique, fascinating and absorbing book from us, by sending a cheque made out to MSAVLC for £30.00 to:

Peter Lidgard,  
Chairman MSAVLC  
Anchor Cottage,  
3, Horsefair Street,  
Charlton Kings,  
CHELTENHAM,  
Glos. GL53 8JF.



The cover price of the book is £30.00, but you can donate more if you would like to. We will bear the cost of postage and packing.

Please complete Part 1 of the enclosed Donation Form, and if you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the Gift Aid box before returning it to Peter.

*Mary Lidgard*

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

South East Asia continues to show the world how to contain Covid-19; by maintaining strict control of their borders and quarantining all new arrivals.

Latest information from John Hopkins University is that Vietnam has recorded only 1,551 cases of Covid-19, with only 35 deaths. Cambodia has had 460 cases with no deaths and Laos has had 44 cases and no deaths.

## Facebook



News and pictures of the charity's activities can be found on our website: [www.msavlc.org](http://www.msavlc.org) and on the

MSAVLC Facebook page.

Keep up with all the charity's news, and don't forget to 'like' our new posts or 'share' them with your Facebook friends.

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