

A day in the life of Sister Ann Catherine
Cambodian Refugee Camp ~ Nong Samet ~ 1980

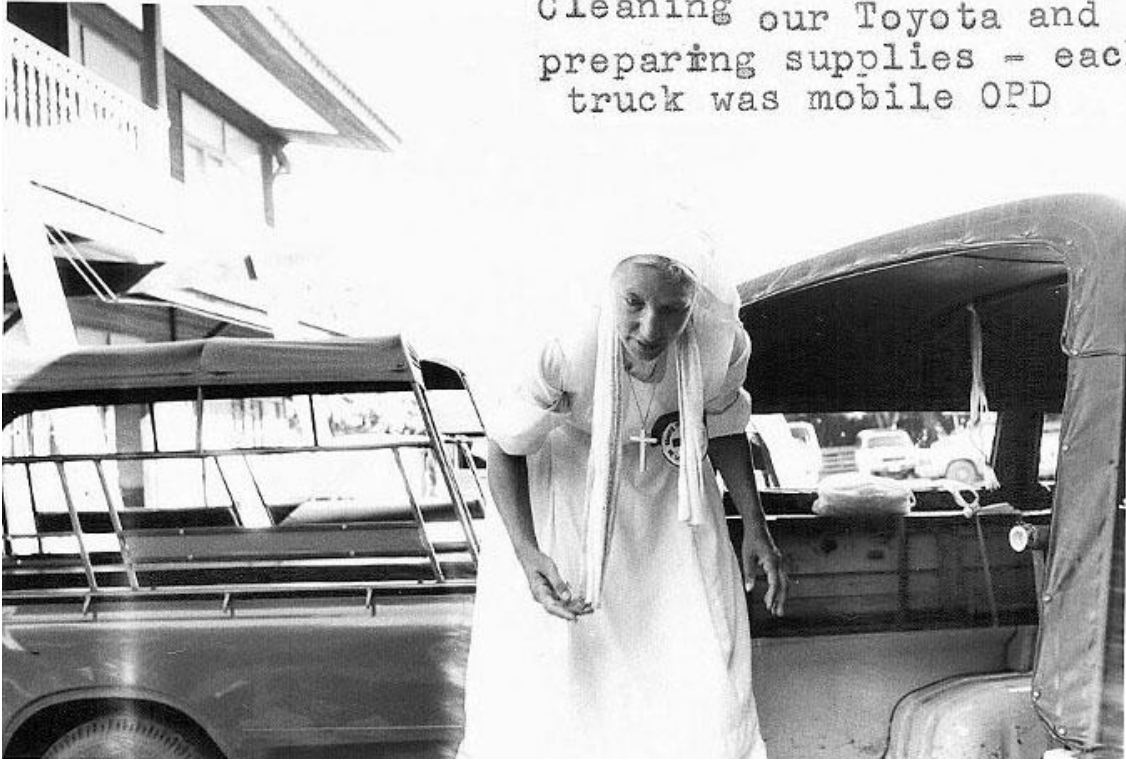
Naoki of Japan took the following photos -
Typical day at Camp Samet



Discussing the day with
Donna workman, Canada,
took over my job of D.O.N

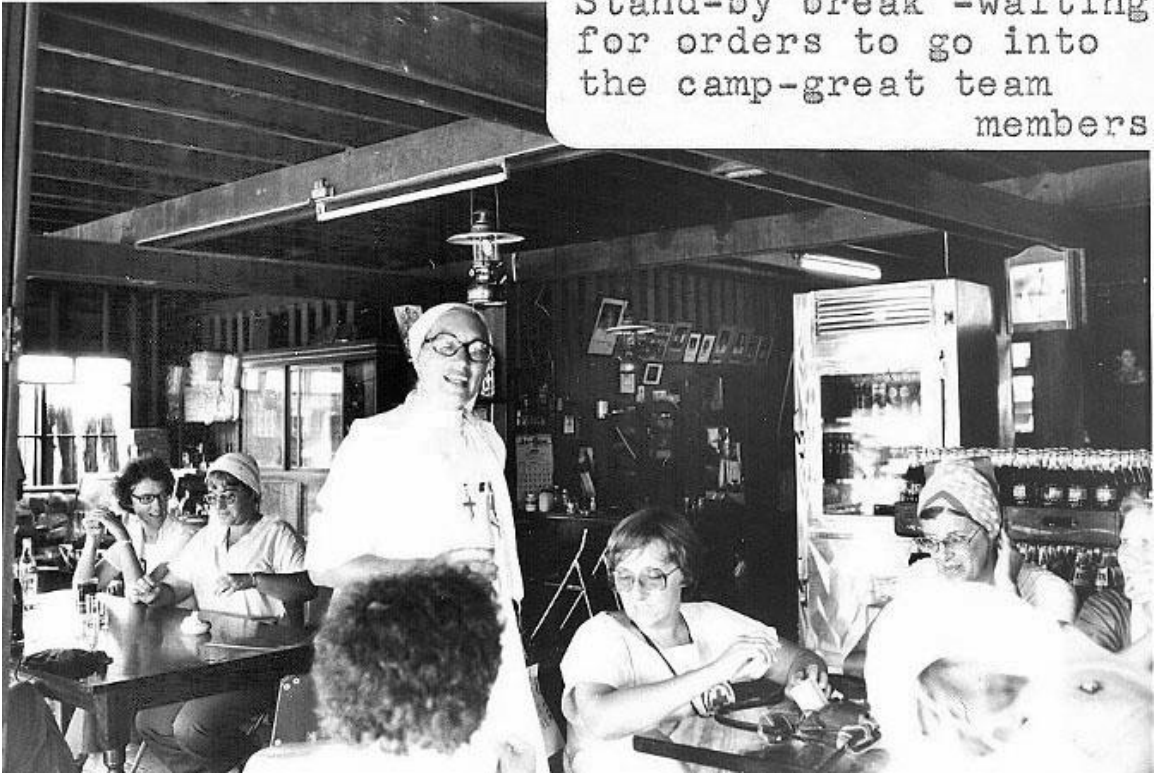


Cleaning our Toyota and
preparing supplies - each
truck was mobile OPD



Providing water was our staple for the day ~ often too hot to eat for us.

Stand-by break -waiting
for orders to go into
the camp-great team
members

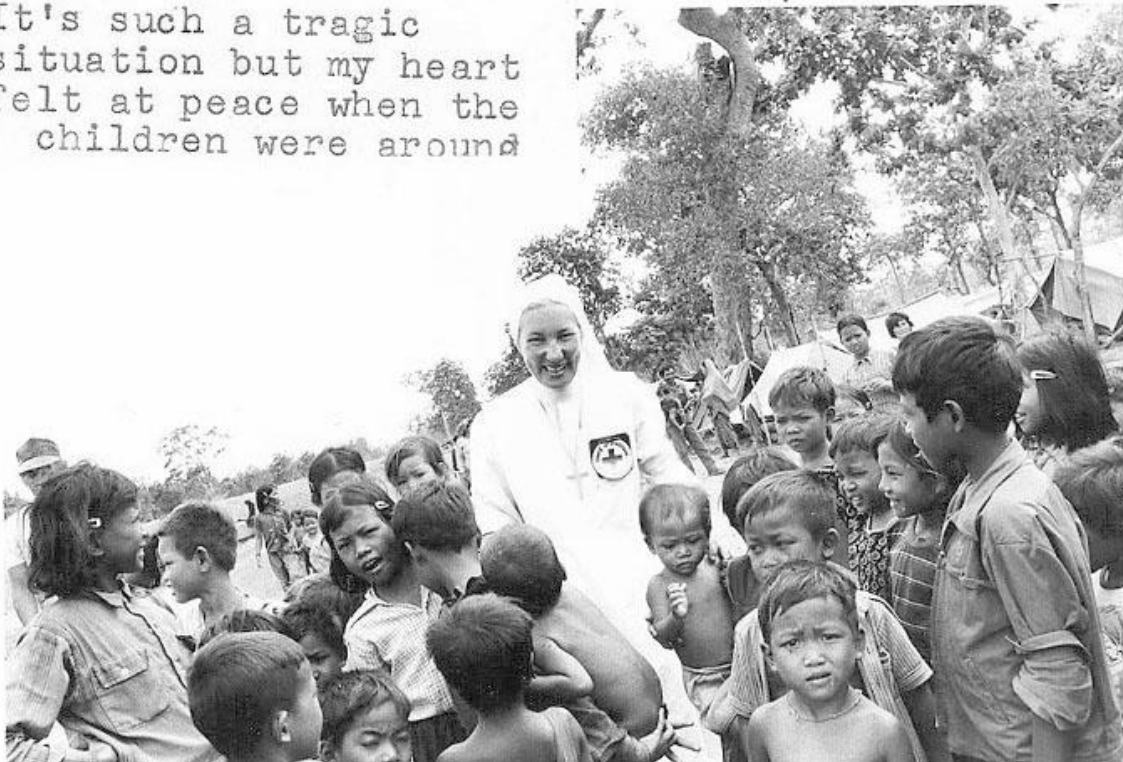


*Each day was a new day ~ we never knew what to expect.
It was a great gift to work with nurses from all over the world.*

Entering the camp-
typical housing-barely
enough for shelter.
People sleep on bamboo



It's such a tragic
situation but my heart
felt at peace when the
children were around

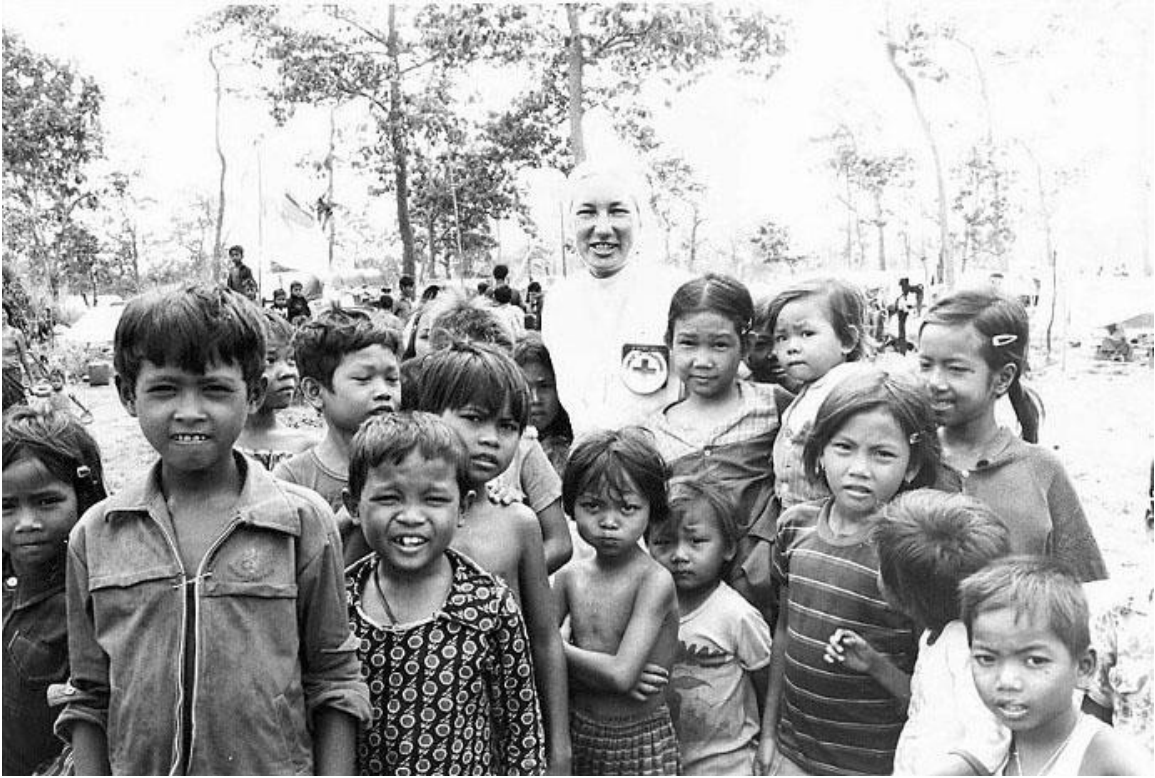




One of our main roles was the gift of presence that we cared.



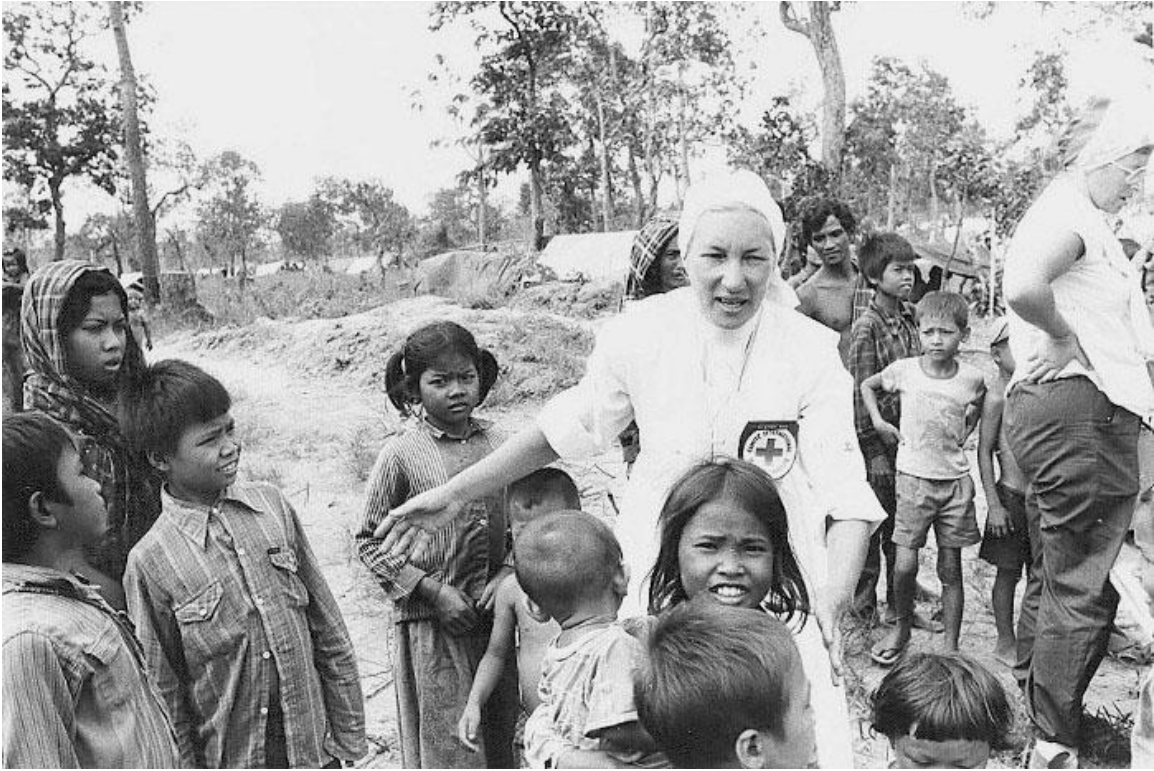
Sister Ann Catherine with child



What was going on in the minds of these beautiful children?



*We were trying to keep track of the children who ate ~
but there were 100's of children at each meal!
Menu: rice, a little vegetables and chicken if we had some available.*



No matter how many children came, there was enough food.



This bowl of rice was the main meal for the day.



Where is this beautiful little girl today?

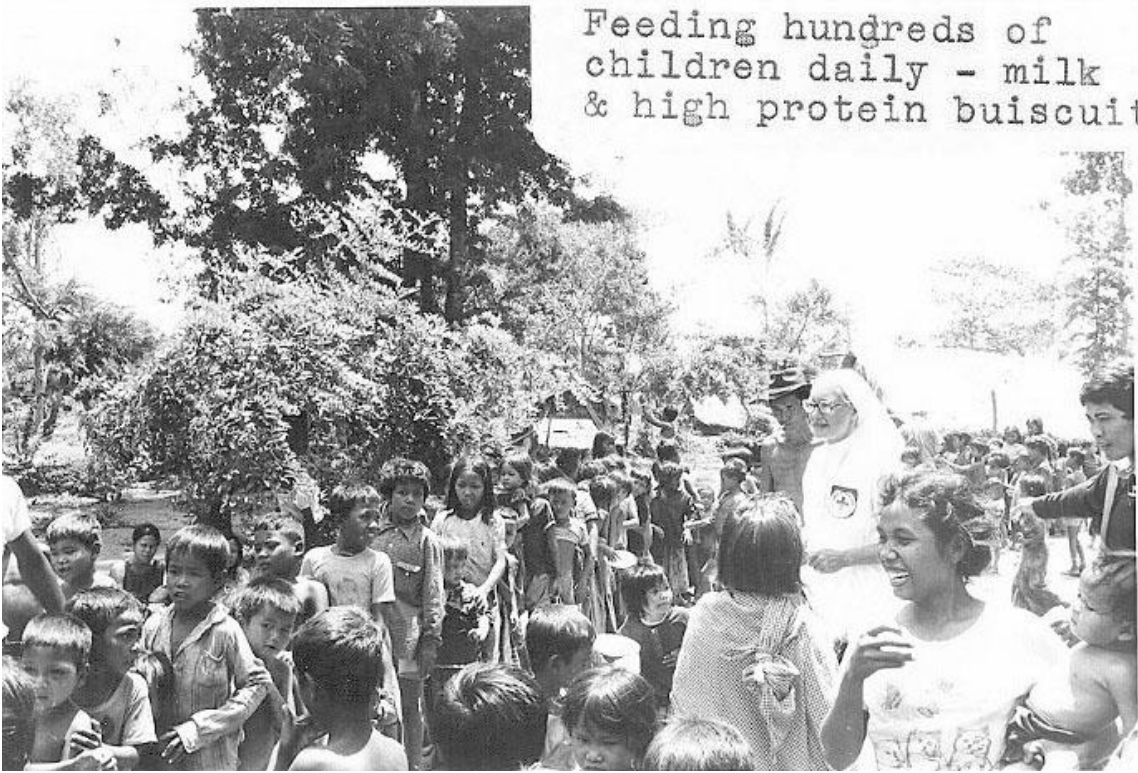
Some of our Khmer
workers - so faithful
in serving their people

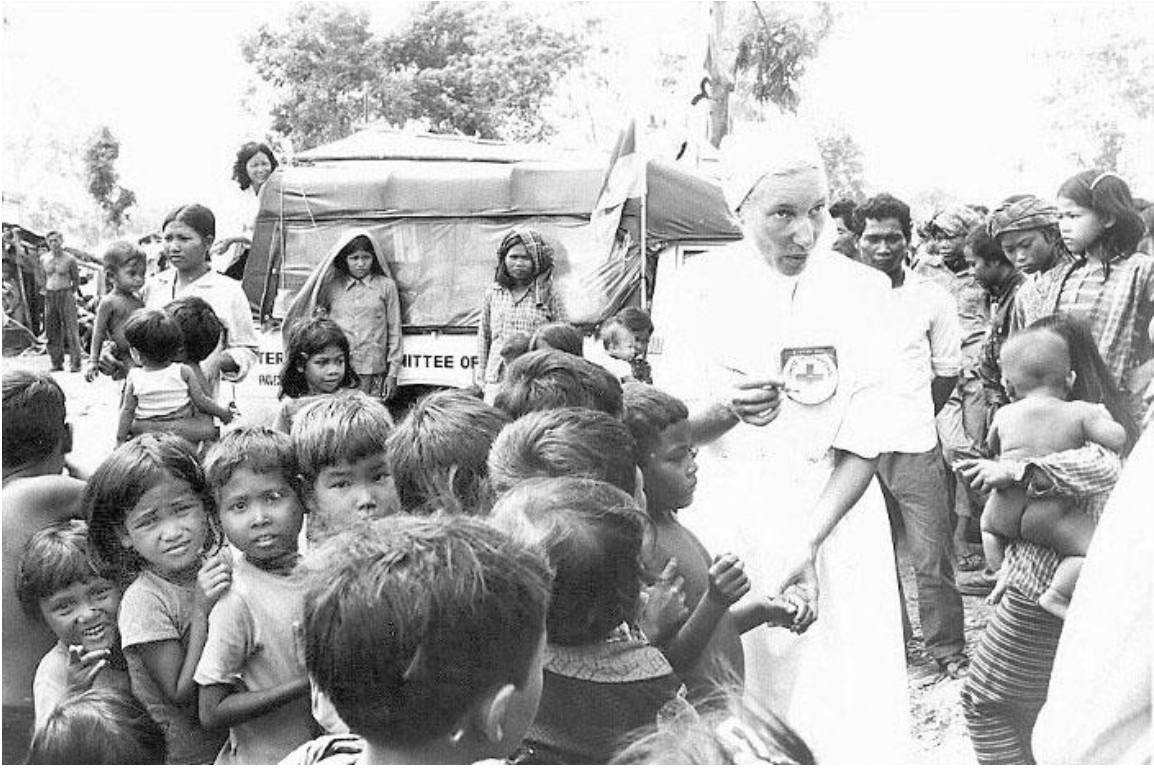


Clinic & feeding center
from back of truck



Feeding hundreds of
children daily - milk
& high protein biscuit

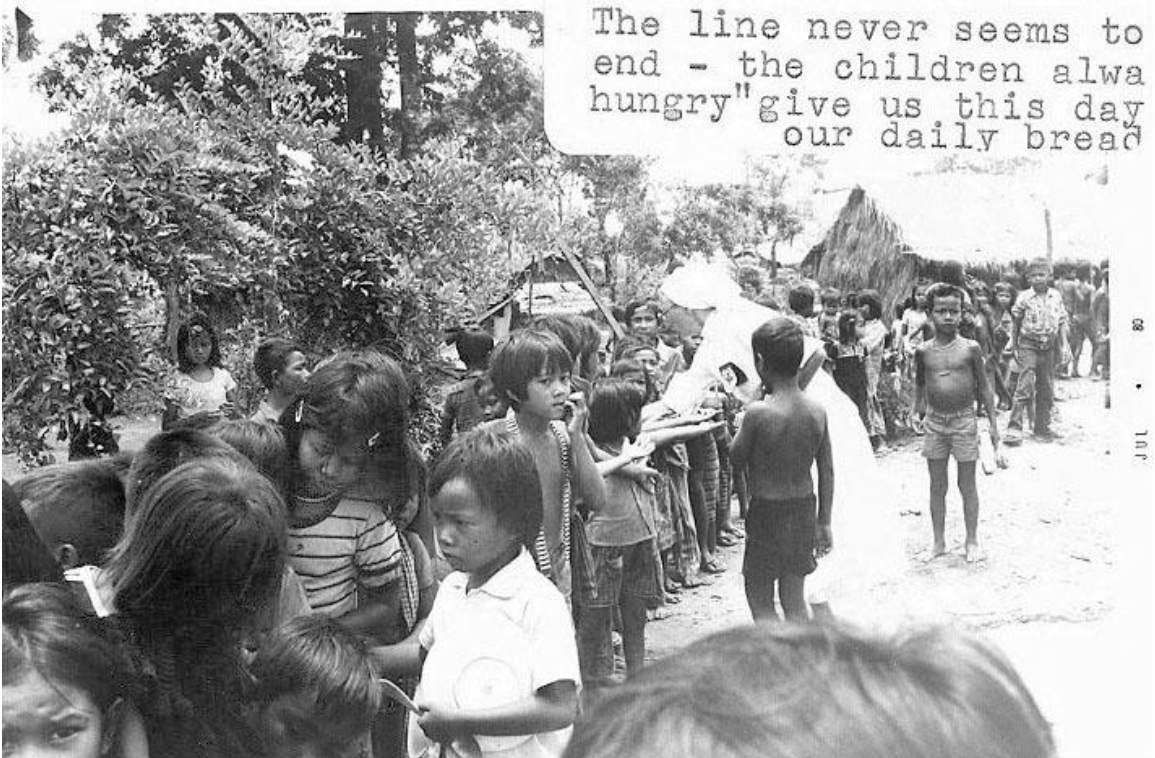
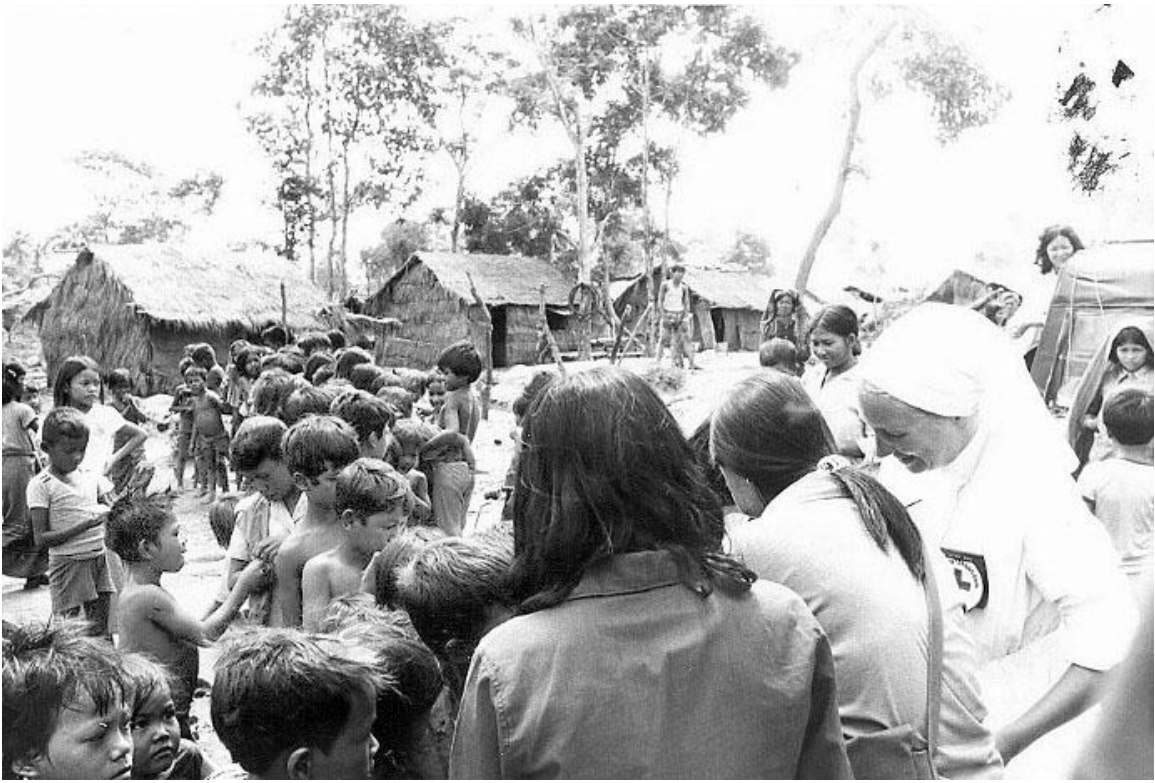


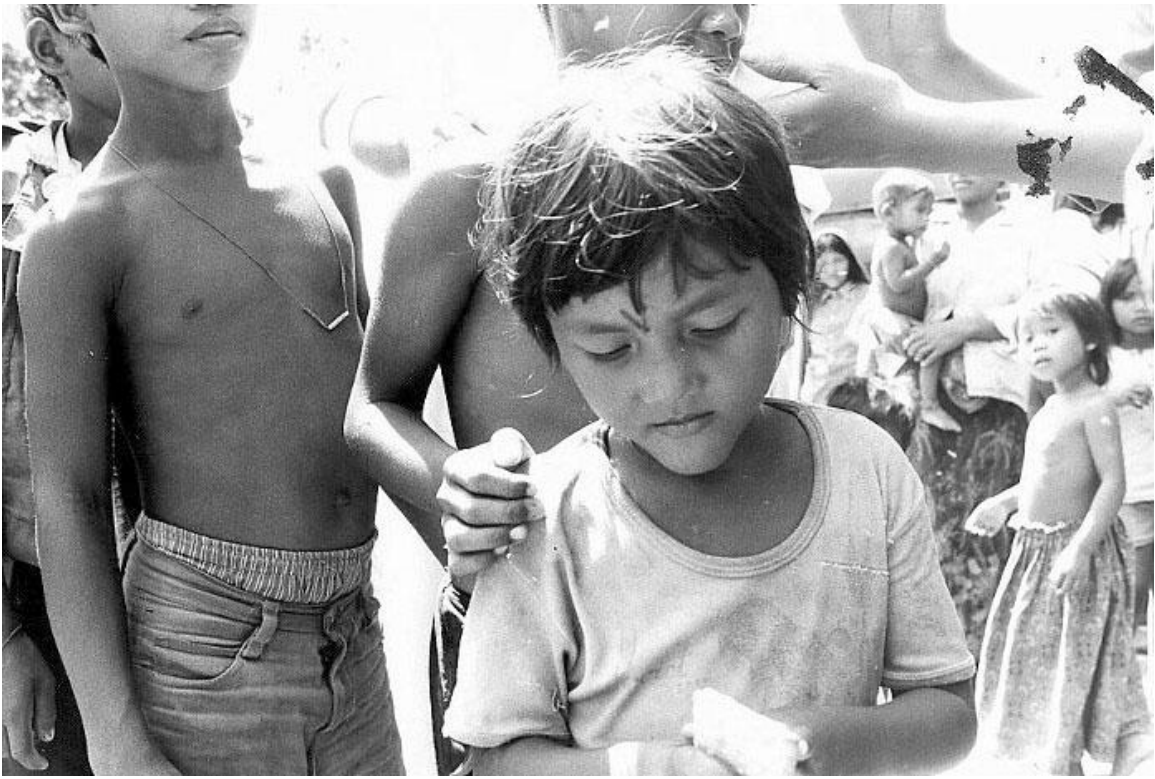


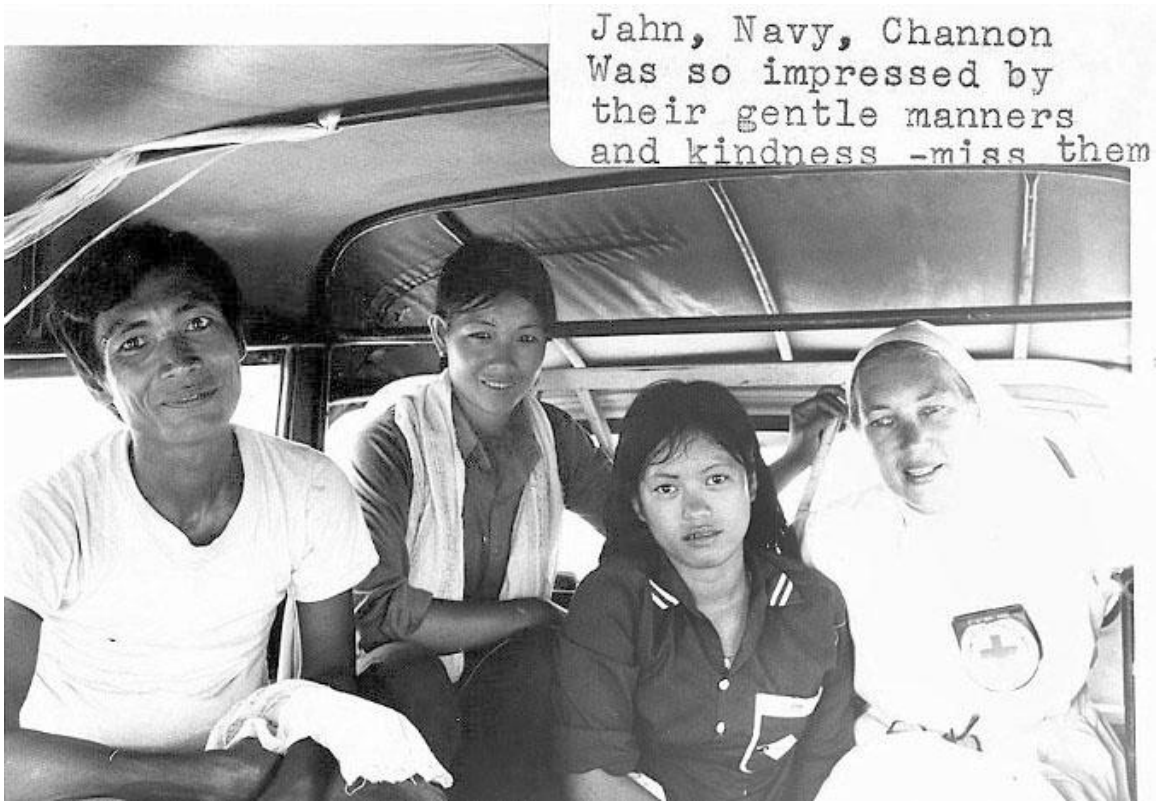
Some of our nutrition challenges ~ malnutrition, diarrhea, fever, general weakness



In the end, what counted is that we cared.







Wounded carried to clinic
on stretcher



An important job -
hugging the beautiful
little babies- Hideko
of Japan is with me





Who could ever forget
the Children-Your hand
is upon them, Lord





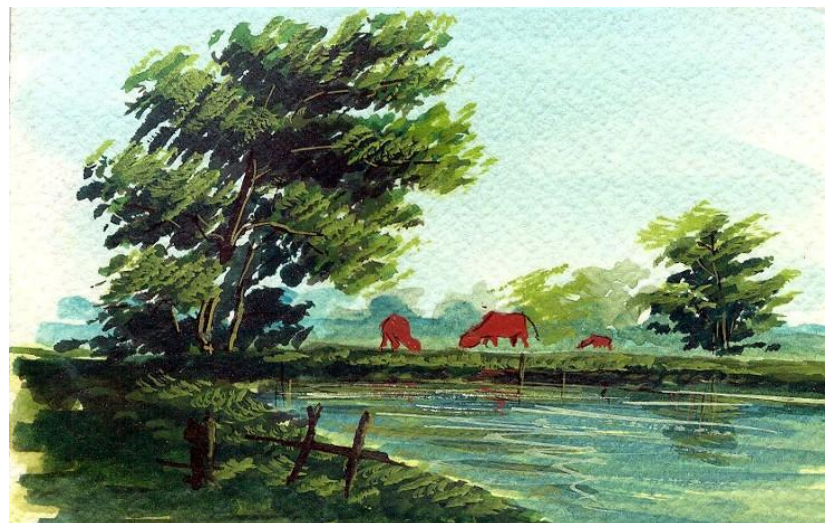
Getting ready to go
home - tomorrow we
begin anew.
Raija, Shinji, Chris

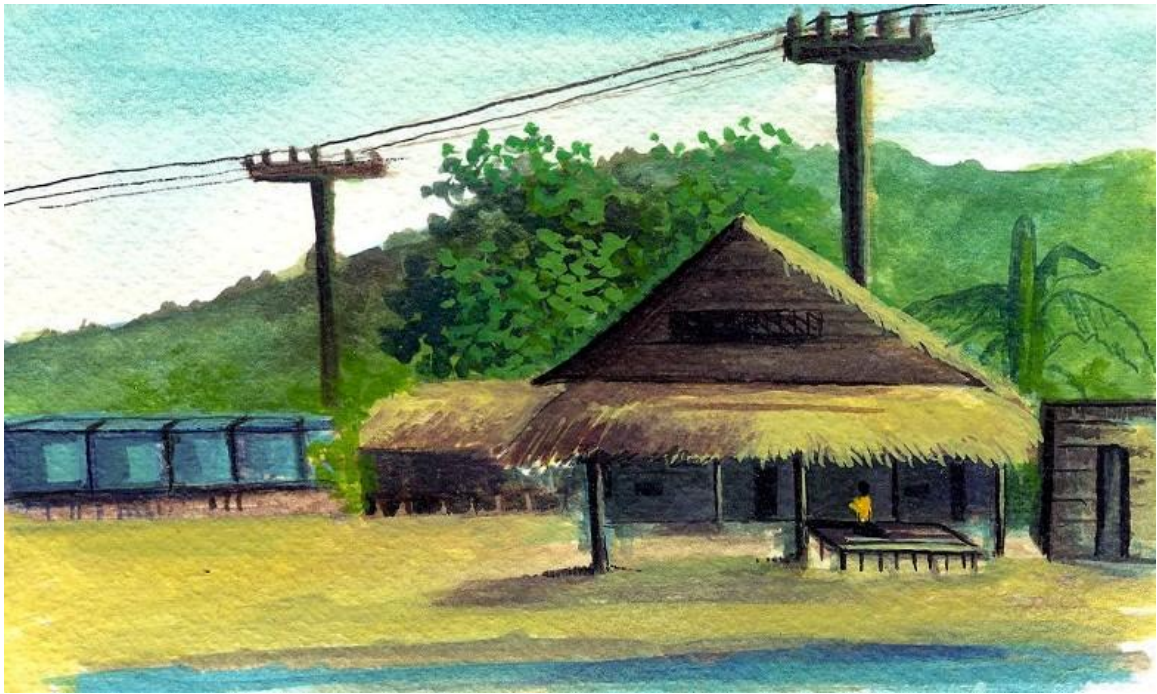
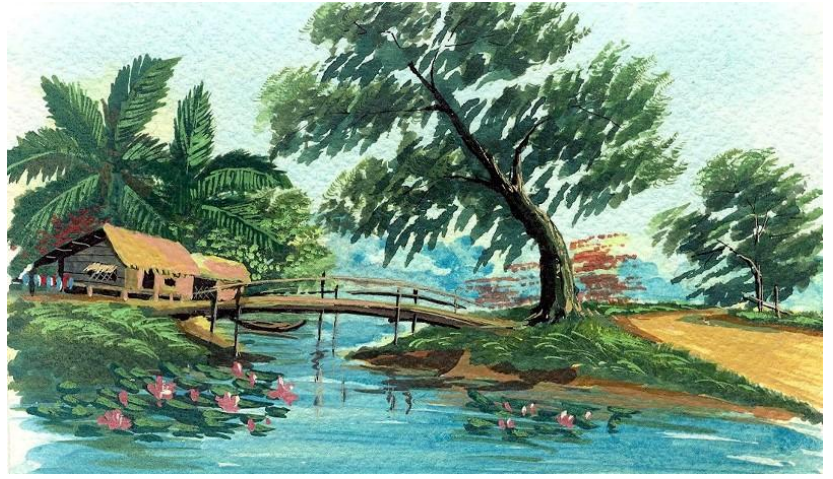


Home, Sweet home.
Tired but every moment
so enriching.
Thanks Lord!



*I am a simple man - longing for peace in our Cambodian Country.
Words of the painter, a refugee and one of our volunteers.
In candle light, in the dark stillness of night, he painted his dream!*





Acknowledgments

My brothers Jerry and Bob Veierstahler - After 30 years the photos needed to be touched up and the diary edited. They patiently spent countless hours on putting this photo journal together, laying out the pages and carefully bringing out the richness of each photo. Every photo has a story and tells a story.

Photos were taken by Ted Mazza, Irish nurses, Naoki-Japanese photographer, me and others. All photos were taken while I was in the camp. Some photos were given to me and I do not know the exact photographer. I apologize if I missed any photographers.

Allan Frank Veierstahler, Robert Joseph Veierstahler, John Richard Veierstahler, Joseph Louis Veierstahler and John Horvath, my brothers and nephews who have served our Country in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines and who have inspired me to also serve our Country. All Veterans at our Milwaukee VA Hospital are part of my family.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida - Our Community was started in 1799 when our founder, St. Joan Antida, started to serve the refugees of the French Revolution. For more than 200 years, my sisters have continued their mission in war zones and in our military hospitals. Today we serve in 28 Countries of the world, promoting peace.

Veterans, who like me, never truly leave the war zone, and may continue to suffer in many ways. They have taught me hope and healing. Their sense of brotherhood and sisterhood has provided support and strength to our present returning Veterans. They are a wonderful community of compassionate caring men and women who continue to serve people in need. Many have shared their inspiring stories with me

Refugees who have touched my life so deeply. More than 30 years ago a group of us who served as nurses in the refugee camp said there would never be war again. War brings so much suffering and there are never winners in war. We now know there are 100's of refugee camps throughout our world. A special thank you goes to all our refugees who have shown so much strength and courage to continue to live and face the many challenges of life. The people of Cambodia are remarkable survivors ~ great inspiration!

My sisters, Carol Lynn Veierstahler and the late Rita Mary Veierstahler, who have inspired me by their sisterhood. My sisters, Mother Pia and Sister Anne McDonald.

Finally to my mother, Katherine Hipp Veierstahler, and to all mothers. I can't imagine how they must feel sending their children off to war. I saw firsthand the refugee mothers and their deep, caring love for their families despite their own personal suffering.

I have had the privilege of hearing the "war" stories of 100's of people. There is one common denominator ~ they want to be part of a world filled with peace. So do I.

Together we can make a difference. This journal is an effort to make us aware of the tragedies of war so that together we can all work for peace.