

Medellin to Sihanoukville

them, living precisely on the other side of the planet (Cambodia is 12 hours time difference from Colombia), to gradually draw their attention. Many of them had more than one tattoo on their bodies and now they wanted their names in Khmer!

After the cultural section on Cambodia and many questions from my 'parces', we came to the communication workshop. I explained to them that we cannot not communicate. Everything in our society means communication and every community develops its own codes of information.

Then I explained what I managed in Cambodia in our social communication and journalism section.

What must we, as young people, communicate?

There are four elements we, as young people,

must communicate in order to improve our standard of life, make peace and exchange our gangs for video cameras, the Internet and the like.

1. Hope: We should communicate hope for our society with our values and talents. As young citizens, we should show our cities to the world.

2. Development: We talked about improving our standard of life as everybody's right.

3. Tenderness: Tenderness means beauty and aesthetics. The transformation of Medellín is a good example over the last two decades. We have built great parks, libraries and tourist compounds in poor and marginal places that made the city more attractive and international.

4. Tolerance: We should communicate tolerance. It is respect for the other as he or she is. We give importance to humanity.

We love everybody because every person is a son or daughter of God, so everybody is my brother and my sister.

To end the workshop, we created a video. The Parceros of Medellín sent messages and questions to their Cambodian peers in Sihanoukville. They talked about their city and their own traditions. In April, once I crossed three continents once more, back to Cambodia, I filmed the Cambodian youth answering and sharing with their Medellín friends.

We hope that these experiences of communication with young people will bring good results to our societies. I offered the municipality of Medellín the possibility of a youth program like this with something else in mind. The social communication and journalism section's aim is to create leaders in communication to multiply the experience. It would be a dream to create a Don Bosco Parce social communication section in Medellín if we get the required support. Don Bosco dreams all the time... all the time... 

