Australia | September - December 2025

BILLIONS

People

Called to Joy and Pain in Cambodia

"Change my Father, then I'll Believe"

Less of Our Plans, More of His Plans

Places

Jesus Village Church: Today's Youth

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Cambodia – See the Potential

"My Small Job"

Mobilizing and Teaching for Mission



Cambodia

A floating church in Tonle Sap

Heart for Asia. Hope for Billions.

We are OMF International, founded by James Hudson Taylor in 1865 as the China Inland Mission. We share the good news of Jesus in all its fullness to East Asia's peoples. Our mission magazine, *Billions*, is published three times a year and is available digitally for free at **omf.org/au/resources/billions**

編者的話

A Harvest of Hope in Cambodia

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

I'll never forget the day that began with a sunrise over Angkor Wat and ended with a sunset over a church seemingly floating on the waters of Tonle Sap. It was a day that revealed to me the layers of Cambodia's story, from ancient beauty to scars that linger.

Decades ago, I had learned about the Killing Fields, but nothing prepared me for the haunting reality of the mass graves and genocide museum in Phnom Penh. The Khmer Rouge era (1975–1979) devastated Cambodia. A revival that had been stirring in the years prior to 1975 was violently cut short; nearly 90% of Christians perished.

And yet, from that faithful remnant — those who, as Don Cormack wrote in *Killing Fields, Living Fields*, stayed behind and sowed seeds in tears — has come a new harvest. The gospel cannot be extinguished, even in the darkest of times.

What moved me most was not just the memory of what was lost, but the glimpse of what's being restored: young Cambodian Christians sharing Christ on university campuses, missionaries serving among the Khmer and ethnic minorities and local churches rising again — both physically and spiritually.

Cambodia's story reminds me that while revival might be delayed, it cannot be denied. God's kingdom is advancing, one surrendered life at a time.

As OMF missionary Chern Chern, who has served alongside her husband Yew On for over 30 years in Cambodia, said, "Many in this world live as though they are the living on the way to dying. But God's Word makes it very clear that we are the dying on the way to living. When we face trials, we sorrow — but we sorrow not as those who have no hope."

This is the kind of hope that now rises again in Cambodia.

Scott Brown
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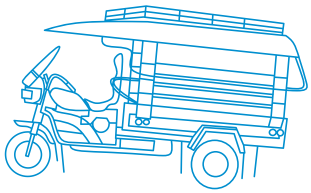
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A NEW THING IN *the fourth generation*

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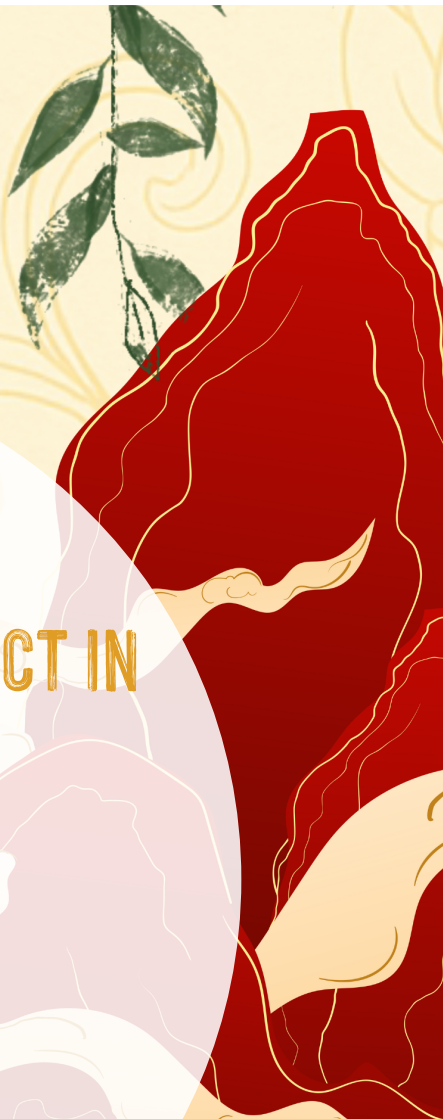
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GOD GIVES *the Faith and the Growth*

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LASTING IMPACT IN *East Asia*

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Cambodia
– SEE THE POTENTIAL



Real estate agent signs are a common sight in my neighborhood. There are the ones for new developments—duplexes with prices to match the billboards declaring their luxury, style and size. Then there are the older homes—the ones that were part of the suburb when it was first built, rather tired, in need of work and described with slogans like, "See the Potential!"

When I survey the mission fields and spiritual needs of East and Southeast Asia, this strikes me as an apt catch cry for Cambodia: See the Potential! Cambodia has a long and checkered history, marked more recently by the atrocities committed by the Pol Pot regime in the 1970s. The wounds of the past run deep but potential for the future is real.

The gospel seeds sown over many decades have a chance today to grow into a plentiful harvest.

HEARTS ARE OPENED TO THE GOSPEL AFTER YEARS OF *trust-building and relationship*

Seeds of hope and opportunity

For OMF in Cambodia, these seeds of hope can be seen in many ways. The church group OMF has planted, Fellowship Churches of Cambodia (FCC), is generally healthy and mission-minded. Many national leaders have been raised up through FCC to work in groups like Langham Preaching and Kairos. Churches are being planted in rural areas among the majority Khmer people group as well as minorities such as the Krung, Brao and Vietnamese.

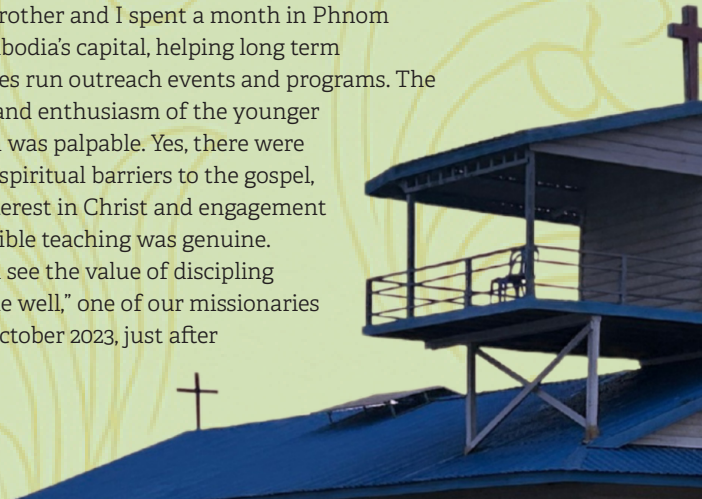
There are open doors into professional ministries like teaching at university, seminary and Bible schools, and IT education for high school and university students. There are opportunities to practice and teach dentistry, medicine and other health care skills, as well as to mentor and coach Cambodian counsellors. OMF works with university students in partnership with SONOKO (Cambodian International Fellowship of Evangelical Students).

A foundation for the future

Many of these ministries are the fruit of decades of building relationships and trust through faithful, diligent, loving gospel ministry. Christ has been proclaimed and disciples made. In 2024, OMF celebrated 50 years of service in Cambodia. OMF Cambodia Field Director Yuzo Imamura, notes, "Hearts are opened to the gospel after years of trust-building and relationship development."

I saw this myself on a short-term mission trip in 2005. My brother and I spent a month in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital, helping long term missionaries run outreach events and programs. The openness and enthusiasm of the younger generation was palpable. Yes, there were social and spiritual barriers to the gospel, but the interest in Christ and engagement with the Bible teaching was genuine.

"We can see the value of discipling local people well," one of our missionaries wrote in October 2023, just after





attending a conference. "We knew some of the Cambodian pastors at the conference through Langham Preaching. Some were converted or discipled by OMF missionaries and now not only lead churches but also country-wide organizations."

Earlier this year Simon and Ange Porter (Australian OMF workers in Cambodia) shared how they travelled to Da Hok village "where it was exciting to see Ny continuing to 'sow the seed' faithfully, ten years after we left." Praise God! Much work has been done and gospel fruit realized, but this work has but laid a foundation for the future. See the potential!

Longevity and effectiveness are also achieved through less visible work behind the scenes. Yuzo writes, "Praise God that our legal compliance is well-established after persistent work and dedication. Maintaining compliance as a registered INGO in Cambodia enables us to serve legally and sustainably, but it requires many works."

Realizing the potential

So what about you? Are there ways that you could get involved? Are you a medical professional, a trained accountant or theologically equipped to make disciples and plant churches long-term in a remote and challenging context? Cambodia is also looking for a new finance manager, guest home manager and other support workers to allow this gospel work to flourish.

It is not easy work, but we are not promised comfort as disciples of Jesus. We are given a great commission to make disciples and there is an eternal harvest is to be reaped. Let us not shy away or "shrink back" (Hebrews 10:39) from this noble call, but boldly and willingly ask ourselves the question, "How can I serve Lord, no matter the cost?" And let us pray for Cambodia and our dear brothers and sisters faithfully serving there.

- Pray for spiritual breakthrough in our focus areas – that people would come to faith in Christ with bold hearts.
- Pray for new leaders for OMF Cambodia within the next five years.
- Pray for discernment and open doors for potential platforms beyond an NGO.
- Pray for peace and protection over the ongoing border conflict.

Paul Jessop
OMF Australia National Director

Praying for Cambodia

Prayer is powerful and effective and achieves much in this spiritual battle. We have Cambodia prayer groups actively praying for this precious nation.

Would you consider joining one or signing up to a missionary's prayer letter? Contact **au.prayer@omfmail.com** to find out more.



Feature

BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM AMONG STUDENTS:

A Vision for Cambodia



ក្រសួងនិស្សិត SONOKO សៀមរាប

Rachana came to faith through the ministry of SONOKO, a Christian fellowship group for university students. Today, she is one of its ministry leaders.

How did you come to faith in Christ and become involved in SONOKO?

From joining Sunday morning class through a teacher who lives near my house. She gave me the Bible and I started reading and knowing more about Jesus. I became involved in Sonoko's ministry through another graduate student.

Please share a highlight from your ministry with SONOKO so far.

Graduates Christian fellowship in Siem Reap is a great joy. We are very encouraged by the graduates who have taken initiative and joined this ministry, and for their commitment to study God's Word and live as witnesses of Jesus to their family and communities. Another highlight is a small group at Build Bright University, where we can gather with other students for Bible study and prayer.

What's one thing that God has shown you about Himself?

He is faithful and enables us to serve by His grace. He has shown me His love by forgiving when I sin and make mistakes.

How can we pray for you and SONOKO?

Pray for more students to join SONOKO's ministry in Siem Reap, and for God's Kingdom to be established in the campuses. Pray for more student leaders and a new place to meet for fellowship.

Rachana
SONOKO Student Leader







Feature

CALLED TO *Joy and Pain* IN CAMBODIA

Cambodian pastor Vachna confesses his most painful loss—and the plethora of ways you can pray for his nation, his church and his family.

My favorite book is one that keeps me walking in this calling to pastoral ministry, *The Call to Joy and Pain* by Ajith Fernando. It was the book I first picked up when I joined the pastoral ministry in 2013. I wish that it would be translated into Khmer! It's helped me a lot. It's prepared me for suffering.

Three years ago, our family lost our daughter. In these last few years after our daughter went to be with the Lord, I've learned a lot about life, about how to be a Cambodian Christian and about the Buddhist mindset. It helped me to understand more about how people often interpret and understand the Bible through a Buddhist worldview.

I've seen that those of us from a Buddhist background often avoid suffering. We see denying ourselves as inflicting more suffering, not seeking peace and hope in the Lord. We see suffering as a part of sin so when it happens, we doubt if we are forgiven and wonder if we have sinned. I wish other pastors and missionaries would also understand this.

For years, one of the things our church has been doing is mission. We have been fully financially supporting a local missionary, Ny, for several years. I see that there are indeed blessings for churches who send missionaries. God has been providing for our needs. But this does not mean that we do not suffer.

One thing I can thank God for my suffering is that it can help the church to stand firm. Church members often see pastors as the holiest, the most committed, and they think, "Of course he will be most blessed. His family will be good. And we'll never be there, we'll never be as blessed, because we cannot be like him. We cannot be as good."

Suffering came to my family, and everyone saw that just like everyone else, pastors have nothing to convince God to bless us. I'm glad they've learned that as Christians we don't trust in our strength to please God, we just trust in the Lord. The gospel is not about who is closer to the Lord getting blessings. Everything is from the Lord.



Now our church knows about suffering and expects it. Our ministry, our faithfulness, our services to the Lord—none of this will prevent suffering. When our church saw suffering in our family, they knew that it would come to their families as well. And after they saw this, they chose to grow deeper in faith, and love for our family.

While my family and I still grieve, there is no better place to live other than in the hands of the Lord. This is how I can find hope and joy with the Lord again. We share the message and hope that because we walk with the Lord, we will be together again with our daughter one day, and it's very special. This is how I'm living.

How you can pray

Neak Loeung Church
We thank God for our church of about 10 to 15 families. We are financially independent, which doesn't happen often in Cambodia, where many churches rely on income from missionaries or outside organizations. Pray that are our church understand God's mission, and as we go out and preach in various places about 20-30 minutes away.

Rainbow kindergarten and teacher training
Pray for Rainbow School, connected with our church's ministry. Pray for my wife Seyla as she runs it. Pray for an online class for all our teachers. Pray as they take on this heavy load of daily training and assignments for 3 months. Pray for provision and wisdom as we look to implement digital forms of teaching, and as Bible classes start in October.

Connecting with youth
Pray for our youth and God's provision. When our children at church grow up and become teenagers, it's become really hard for us to gather them. I'm teaching English and music, but I communicate with older people way better than young people! Pray for the Lord to send the right person to serve with us who has a heart for young people.

Church leadership and structure
Pray for the challenges we face as church leaders, and that the Lord will give me wisdom and peace. Pray as we look for a good way to structure responsibilities and accountability, and that we will support each other in our respective ministry roles. Pray for God's protection and humble hearts for our church.

Contextualizing Cambodian faith
Pray for my further studies. I want to research churches in Cambodia—the real essential church of Cambodia—and how Cambodians can understand God's grace fully in the Cambodian way. It's going to take several years to research and write. Pray this will result in deeper and biblically faithful Cambodian theology and practice among our churches.

Partnerships with other organizations
At the beginning of this year, our church started partnering with a Christian hospital, Mercy Clinic. When people in our community need good quality hospital treatment, we give recommendations to help them access care. Pray for our church as we balance this community help with other ministries.



Gospel growth

I thank God that the church in Cambodia is growing, compared to 20 years ago. Today, there are less charity-based organizations and more Christian organizations focused on the gospel and the Bible. Pray for Christian organizations to find favor with Cambodia's people as they share the gospel, and in any specific work God has for each of them.



Mission mobilization with Kairos and the Fellowship of Cambodian Churches (FCC)

I do things that are really on my heart: sharing the gospel, helping people learn how to preach, and doing mission mobilization. This is what I'm doing outside of church in my involvement with Kairos*, Langham Preaching** and the FCC. My province has never experienced mission mobilization. Pray for more people to be mobilizers.

Leadership of FCC

The Fellowship of Cambodian Churches was formed by a group of churches planted by OMF. I've been involved for almost 20 years, including as chairman for about six years. I took a break and am currently on a committee supporting a new chairman, who is also a friend. Pray for the Lord's leading and wisdom for FCC's leadership and members.

Preaching clubs

I was sent to Chiang Mai to train for Langham Preaching in 2006-2008. Praise God that we now have preaching clubs run by Cambodians, which help pastors share and learn together. Our church has its own club of five preachers. Pray for confidence, wisdom and clarity as they learn and practice preaching the Bible over the coming months.

Facilitators for preaching clubs

Other young pastors have asked me to help them start a preaching club. I'm glad that they want to learn preaching because it's also my passion! Pray for God's provision of more people to help them set up and run their clubs as we encourage them to run these within their churches.

A training booklet for pastors

This year I plan to publish a booklet to help pastors find illustrations. In our preaching clubs and classes, pastors always ask me, "Pastor, how do you find example illustrations easily?" We have a Langham training for preachers in January 2026. Pray that I can finish the booklet by then, and that it will be a helpful resource for Cambodia's current and future preachers.

Pastor Vachna with Trix Wilkins

*Kairos – a short course on global Christian mission
**Langham Preaching – equips pastors and Christian leaders to preach the Bible

Feature

"Change my father, then I'll believe"





Cambodian missionary Ny shares how the Lord brought her to faith in Jesus—and why she is now serving alongside OMF members in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

I heard about Jesus through my older sister, who had accepted Him while working in Phnom Penh. She would share the gospel with us whenever she returned home to visit our family, but we didn't believe—thinking Christianity was a foreign religion.

But my sister persevered. She brought members from her church in Pochentong to visit our family, and sometimes they showed videos about Jesus.

Even though we heard the gospel for many years, we still didn't believe. We thought it was about a foreign god, not a god for our people. My father drank heavily and often beat us. I can't remember ever experiencing happiness, warmth, or healthy relationships in our family.

"Is it true that Jesus has great power?"

I remember my sister sharing that Jesus is God and has great power. She said that whoever asks Him will receive, because He truly has the power to answer.

I thought to myself, "Oh! Is it true that this God has great power?" I wanted God to change my father, who was addicted to drinking and hurt our family. I longed to experience happiness and love in our home.

So I decided to test God through prayer. I thought, if Jesus really is powerful, then He can change my father and help him to believe in Jesus. If my father stopped drinking and smoking and came to faith, then I, too, would believe.

Every night before I went to sleep, I prayed and asked God to help my father believe.

A life transformed

My sister gave a Bible to my father. At first, he didn't read it. Instead, he tore out the pages and rolled them into cigarettes to smoke. I don't remember if this went on for days or weeks, as I was quite small then.

One day, he stopped smoking and started reading the Bible. As he read more and more, he grew curious. He asked my sister to bring her church friends to explain more about Jesus. She did—and after learning, my father accepted Jesus Christ into his life.

In our village, everyone knew that no one could ever change my father's mind. But God did. I saw his life transformed—to a new person who loved and related to us with warmth and care.

Full of great power

Seeing my father's transformation, I came to the conclusion that Jesus truly is the one true God, full of great power. That's when I decided to believe in Him. He is truly the Savior of the world.



Now I know that Jesus Christ is not a foreign god, but the God of the whole world, for God declared in His Word that He is the Creator of heaven and earth. The very place where I stand here in Cambodia belongs to Him who made all things. Indeed, He is the Lord of this nation. It has been twenty years now since I came to faith in Christ.

"I believed I couldn't serve"

One day, my church was holding its mission moth focused on World Mission. At the end of the service, the speaker invited all who felt called to serve the Lord—whether as a local or overseas missionary—to stand and come to the front for prayer. I saw many hands raised. After the prayer ended and I opened my eyes, I was surprised to find myself standing on the stage. I couldn't remember when I had gone up to be prayed for—to serve in God's ministry.

After that, I still wasn't clear about God's plan for my life, so I continued going to church to worship Him but hadn't begun serving in any ministry. Although many leaders encouraged me to serve, I was reluctant because I was very shy, not good at communicating with others, and fearful. I believed I couldn't serve. But I was eager to learn more about God and His Word so that if anyone asked me, I could answer them.

One day, I broke my leg. Since I couldn't go to work, I had time to pray and seek the Lord. As I was praying and reading the Bible, I heard God whisper Romans 10:10 to my heart, 'For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved'.

At that moment, I remembered how the Lord had chosen me—through my sister who shared the gospel with our family, through the visits from church members, and through watching the Jesus film. It was then that I came to know Jesus Christ is truly God.

Preparing to serve the Lord

If any of you, brothers and sisters, desire to serve the Lord and share the gospel, prepare yourselves by spending time with God—reading His Word and listening to His voice. Pray and seek to know His will for your life.

You may feel afraid to serve, as I once did—but know that the Lord is with you. Be bold, for our God is great and mighty. Though we may feel small, God is great. Wherever we go, He goes with us. Do not worry, for God will always provide everything we need at all times.

How you can pray for Siem Reap in Cambodia

I would like to ask for your prayers for my ministry in Siem Reap province—that God will use me according to His will, not my own. Pray that His word will reach the people there and bear fruit. Pray also for strength, good health, and safe travels. Pray for the communities I visit—that God would choose them, touch their hearts, lead them to receive Jesus Christ, and open their eyes to see Him as the one true Lord and Savior, who alone can save them.

Ny

Khmer missionary serving alongside OMF members in Cambodia

Interview and English translation courtesy of Yew On Choo, OMF Cambodia Assistant Field Director

Watch Ny's Instagram Reel

Feature

Jesus Village Church: TODAY'S YOUTH



Twenty five years ago...

Toul Sang Kei was one of the most dangerous villages in Phnom Penh. Christians who tried entering the village to teach kids were often chased out with knives and sticks, and prostitutes would try to grab them on the streets. It was known as a criminal hub.

A group of new OMF missionaries persevered in reaching out to students and neighbors, and in time planted Jesus Village Church (JVC). The earliest believers were teenagers, and their changed lives led several of their parents to the Lord.

Today...

Many of JVC's leaders and elders today were those same teenagers—including Sat Mony Roat, now a pastor at the church. Toul Sang Kei—known today as Jesus Village—is now the safest place in town.

JVC's ministries now include hostels for university students, church plants and outreaches in nine locations, two preschools, and groups for children, youth, university students and adults. These help meet the needs of many students who move to Phnom Penh to work and study.

"The youth are still going strong. I see them every week at Bible study," OMF missionary Sunny Wong says.

JVC's youth are involved in an outreach project to translate Discipleship Explored, a Bible study based on Philippians, into Khmer—including a handbook and video scripts. The book will be printed locally, and a digital copy made available on the Christianity Explored website.

"We hope that the book will be used in the wider Khmer community," Sunny says. "We pray that both the translators and the youth will grow through the project."

Teens coming to faith

Votey, a dental student who had appeared uninterested and disengaged at church, one day came smiling and filled with joy confessing her new-found faith in Christ.

Noy, a youth who had been attending church for 6 years, shared that he was 'ready' to become a Christian.

Last March, many celebrated the baptisms of four of JVC's youth—including Lven, a student at National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia (NPIC).

"At first I did not believe in Christ," Lven confesses. "When I was young, there was a missionary who came to preach the gospel in our village. I heard about Jesus, but I did not believe in Him. When I was in Grade 12, I came to believe in Him.

"When I come to church, it gives me joy. I learn from the Bible, we pray together, we meet new people. And we have joy when we meet and study the Bible together. We can also each serve in different ways such as learning music and doing teen and kids ministry."

At JVC, Lven helps to prepare church publications such as a monthly booklet for daily devotions, scriptures for children's ministry and slides for the weekly sermon.

The praise of children

The International Christian School of Cambodia (ICSC) is another of the church's ministries, where



many children come from nearby low-income families.

Yumin Kim teaches grades 1-5 at the ICSC, spending one hour with each class twice a week, including music classes.

"The school provides not only education but also a warm and encouraging space where they can grow in joy and confidence," says Yumin.

How you can pray

"Join me in praying that children will grow into joyful worshipers of God, living out the truth of Isaiah 43:21, 'the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.'" Yumin says. "May music continue to be a bridge for learning, healing and heartfelt connection."

"Pray for Cambodia's churches to have ministers and evangelists in every place and everywhere—that all may know His name and receive Jesus as the Lord who created heaven and earth," Lven asks. "May Cambodia have more and more believers in God."

Compiled and edited by Trix Wilkins

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CAMBODIA





Feature

A Burning Body LEADS TO LIFE



OMF Cambodia center staff Sreang and Bo have served with OMF for 26 and 20 years respectively, helping with office support work, security, cleaning and cooking. They share how they came to faith in Christ through a dream and the ministry of an OMF missionary, and how you might pray for their country.

How did you come to faith in Christ?

Sreang: I first heard the gospel of Jesus Christ through OMF missionary Louise Barker, whom I met in a refugee camp in Thailand. One day, she saw me in front of the post office and invited me to work with OMF Cambodia. I went to church with her, though I had not yet believed in or surrendered my life to Jesus.

Then, I experienced a serious accident that left part of my body burned.

One night, I had a dream—Jesus was standing beside my bed while I slept. When I woke up, no one was there, and I felt a quiet fear.

The very next day, Louise visited me and explained the meaning of the dream. That conversation marked the turning point of my life. From that day, I believed in Jesus and began to follow Him. I have walked with Him ever since over the last 25 years.

Bo: I came to know and believe in Jesus through the sharing by Louise and my brother-in-law. At first, I didn't believe. One day, my husband was involved in an accident and suffered burns on his hand. This incident reminded me of that only God could truly help. From that time on, I chose to put my trust in Him.

Please share a favorite Bible verse that you have found helpful or encouraging.

Bo: My favorite Bible passage is Psalm 23:1-6. When I read this psalm, it feels like I am praying and seeking after God. He knows and understands the longing in my heart, and I use the words of the Psalm to sing praises to Him.

Sreang: My favorite verse was given to me by the doctor who treated my burns. He gave me a Bible and shared Proverbs 3:5–6 with me, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

How would you like readers to pray for Cambodia?

Pray for the children and orphans in Cambodia. Pray that OMF will continue to serve for many more years in Cambodia so that the gospel can be shared in various places across the country, and that our leaders will grow in their love and care for our people.

Interview and English translation courtesy of Yew On Choo, OMF Cambodia Assistant Field Director

Not by Accident

Being a Christian in Cambodia is a true blessing. Back in 2006, I was just a kid who went to church every Sunday for fun and to receive gifts. I didn't realize then that I was opening my heart to God.

Over time, I've seen God's light shine in my life and my family. He shows us how great He is, through the love and support I've witnessed from my mom, my sister and many members of our church. Their example has helped me understand what it means to live with faith.



God has done many miracles in my life, especially for my family. Sharing the good news with people in my village and learning to forgive—something that's often difficult for many in my community—have become important parts of my journey.

I always remember: I'm never alone. God is always with me, helping and holding me through every struggle.

Something important for God

I did not join OMF Cambodia by accident. I believe God gave me a special chance to work with Christian people who have the same heart for mission. I prayed many times and felt in my heart I wanted to join something important for God.

When I learned about OMF's vision and values, I felt peace and certainty that this is the place God wants me. He opened the way through talks with people, encouragement and new work in the finance team.

I am happy I can use my finance skills to help with finance work and support our missionaries. I like working with a team who has the same heart to serve and grow. I feel encouraged when I see God work in relationships as I help team members, meet local people or just be with my team on normal days.

My work with OMF shows me that even small things we do for God can make a big difference. My journey has taught me to trust God, and I thank Him for still guiding me today.

Beloved reader, here's how you can pray

I would like to invite all my beloved readers to pray for OMF Cambodia, especially for all our missionaries. May God guide their journey and open the way for them to serve according to His plan—especially in sharing the good news with Cambodians, bringing faith, love and the hope of salvation.

Sreyphim
OMF Cambodia staff

SNAPSHOTS FROM CAMBODIA

"It was two weeks well spent," Sydney pastor Joel Chong says of his recent Serve Asia trip to Cambodia. "The time was filled with enjoyable and appreciated work, all while experiencing the joy of fellowship in the global church."

I was ordained as the pastor of my home church in 2024, and we had never sent anyone into global mission in an organized way. Doing so was a prayer and a dream for our team leaders, Jonno and Jo Choo. We're stoked at how God knit this team together. We ran the kids' program at OMF Cambodia's field conference and connected with ministries missionaries Simon and Angeline Porter have been involved in—including two village churches, Fount of Wisdom publishing house and Phnom Penh Bible School.

Open Doors in Da Hok village

We visited Da Hok village outside Siem Reap, where Angeline and Simon did pioneering mission work years ago. At one point in time, a local man was experiencing trouble with evil spirits. He spent time staying at the village temple but only became worse. Some local Christian workers and missionaries prayed for him for several weeks, and he was completely delivered!

We tagged along with Abraham Warren and Ny, missionaries who visit the village weekly, and once a month on a Sunday. They were able to gather people because of one matriarch who welcomes them to the village, a person of peace. Ny shared a Bible story, and the laughter of the kids was magnificent. I don't think I've heard that kind of pure, raucous laughter in a group of kids for years!

Cambodia Field Conference in Siem Reap

Over the week of the conference, we taught four Bible stories including the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8), Zacchaeus' repentance (Luke 19), the woman at the well (John 4) and the thief on the cross (Luke 23).

I was responsible for the group of teens, and they might have taught me as much as I taught them! I was encouraged by the way they could fluently switch between cultures, and be Christ-led in both worlds.

Reaching Rural Cambodia from Phnom Penh Bible College

We met with Son Vuthy, principal of Phnom Penh Bible College, who had studied at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. Raising local leaders in Cambodia is challenging, with most students studying part-time, balancing work, study and other commitments. The number of people to be reached with the gospel in rural areas is vast. Pray for leaders such as Son Vuthy as they strive to equip gospel workers.

God's Deliverance for a Christian Family

We enjoyed learning Khmer with Teacher Tha and Teacher David at the OMF guesthouse. His family has multiple generations of Christians. David had grown up during the time of the Khmer Rouge. David says that some local village relationships meant they were spared on a few occasions. We were encouraged by David's joy, taking God's protection and deliverance to heart.

Return to Cambodia

We praise God for this opportunity to experience Cambodia. It's a country where Christian faith faces real pressure from an active spirit world. Pray that our church—and others like us—may learn how to serve and be inspired to connect with God's global work, using our gifts where God leads.

Joel Chong

Read more of Joel's story







GOD'S LEADING THROUGH FRIENDSHIPS

At the age of seven, I decided to follow Jesus. It was 1983, the year my parents founded the Evangelical Chinese Church to reach out to migrant southeast Asian families. While I was at university, I was involved in prayer and fellowship groups. At university and beyond, I grew strong friendships with Angeline Porter and Sunny Wong. Sunny and I graduated from dental school in the same year. I journeyed with each of them before they were on the field, when they went to Cambodia with OMF, and had their own families. It was such a joy to finally be in Cambodia alongside them, even as a short-termer!

The Ma family joined our church upon moving to Sydney upon Calvin's appointment as OMF Australia's National Director. They have been such good friends, mentors, prayer warriors and support to me and our church. This has developed over many years. Joanne (their daughter) and I have developed a very deep friendship over twenty years. Life, family, ministry and mission—all contribute to the shape of our friendship! What a blessing it was to travel and serve together. I am also thankful for the indispensable support of my husband and kids, and for our church who sent us, prayed for, cared and supported our team. Perhaps there will be a story to tell in the future!

Jeanne Chong
OMF Serve Asia worker, Cambodia

Read more of Jeanne's story

Read more about Fount of Wisdom on **page 34**
Read Ny's story on **page 9**







A NEW THING IN *the fourth generation*



OMF media intern Lorenzo Ortega spent twelve days in Cambodia and Thailand to find out what missionaries and local Christians are up to—and gather content to help others discover the same. He shares insights into ministry in Siem Reap and Chiang Mai—and ways you too might serve.

A strong Christian community in Chiang Mai



Ministry is progressing in Thailand and Cambodia quite differently. In Chiang Mai, Thailand, there's a lot of Christian presence, with a lot of mission organizations who are based there. In terms of resources, if you're a new Christian or a new missionary figuring out your way in a new country, you'd be very well-supported in Chiang Mai by mission organizations, and the community of fellow Christians. There are heaps of people, a lot of resources, and more missionaries coming from different parts of the world.

Challenges facing Christians in Siem Reap

In Siem Reap, Cambodia, ministry is still very much developing. There are less people, yet you can also see how people are keeping resilient and doing their absolute best to develop the country.

Although Siem Reap is less resourced compared to Chiang Mai, Christians there are really doubling their efforts and trying to reach out to their community. It's humbling and encouraging to see how, with what little they have, they can expand it all in so many ways as they juggle different tasks.

Missionaries seeking to empower local Christians

It's encouraging from both countries to see how missionaries from Australia—or anywhere around the world—don't just go there saying and thinking, "I'm the one who knows biblical theology and comes from a rich country. You have to listen and accept." They empower people to read the Bible for themselves, understand it in their cultural context, and train them to teach it to their fellow people—not just coming in with all knowledge but actually living with them, listening to their stories, and taking it all in. It's what incarnational ministry is all about.

God is turning pain and hate into love and forgiveness

I'm amazed how God is working through a country with so much pain and hate. In Cambodia, it would





be easy to reject God or a foreign missionary because the country has been ruled by different countries and different regimes. It would be easy to be distrustful of foreigners or "a foreign God," when people might describe Christianity as a Western religion. Christianity would not be successful if I just think on these factors with my earthly mind. Yet God works through these unfavorable circumstances. Despite the pain and the suffering, there are still Christians there who choose to unconditionally love, and Cambodians see Christ manifested in how they live.

Sometimes it's how we live our lives that best show and manifest Christ to people around us as we build relationships and turn that hate story into love instead—and point them back to Jesus' love, the perfect example of what love is.

The idea of forgiveness—forgiving perpetrators, the people who hate you—is also powerful. For me, it was amazing to see how people who were part of Cambodia's violent history have turned to Christ, and people who were the victims of that violent history chose to forgive their captors. It's an amazing transformation. It's really humbling.

As we look at our own present contexts, we can take inspiration from Cambodia's Christians on how we can better love others. We often have many more resources—how can we use even what little we have for God's glory?

Four generations on from the Khmer Rouge era

Generations down, there are now faithful Christians who are using their youth to share the gospel with the university ministries that they are involved with. While they didn't live through that time, they have relatives who experienced it. I've been especially encouraged by the women who lead SONOKO, a Christian fellowship group for university students. Despite all the other tasks that they have to do—part-time jobs and studies—they make it a priority to share the gospel and build each other up.

In a strongly patriarchal society, God has been using these women. I'm encouraged that they have confidence to share the gospel despite their gender—because they know that they're representing Christ. There are five to six women in the SONOKO team, and they are not overwhelmed, but keep sharing and praying. One of the things they pray for is more male local Khmer leaders to help with evangelism in universities around Siem Reap who can reach other men.

DESPITE THE PAIN AND THE SUFFERING, THERE ARE STILL CHRISTIANS THERE WHO CHOOSE *to unconditionally love...*

Exploring current opportunities to serve in Cambodia

In some respects, it's easy to go to Cambodia. For example, people have a lot of respect for professional skills—and if you want to use your business to serve the country, there are opportunities to be based in Cambodia. In both these things, you'll already have a group of people who you can mentor and share the gospel with —as well as the skills and professional opportunities that you can share.

If you're considering serving in Cambodia long-term, really explore how you can intentionally serve Cambodia's people. People value relationship, seeing how we live our lives. Walk alongside them, bear their pains—and be with them in their joys.

Lorenzo Ortega
OMF Australia communications intern

GOD GIVES *the Faith and the Growth*

"We are truly grateful to the Lord, that despite our lack of experience, knowledge, network and language skills, He allowed us to be part of Yumiko's faith journey," OMF short-term workers Alex and Nora write, giving all glory to God for orchestrating a profound experience during a short-term trip to Japan.*

Unbeknownst to us, despite our lack of knowledge, connections and language skills, God had a special plan for us. He allowed us to partake in the beginnings of a young Japanese's lady faith journey. This not due to us, but all glory be to God who gives the faith and the growth.

Yumiko* is a Japanese lady who had spent a considerable number of years living abroad. She was part of an international student fellowship, but had lost touch with her friends and hosts after returning to Japan.

During a mission conference, some of Yumiko's old friends happened to be visiting, and bumped into her after a long time apart. They invited her to meet, asking her to join them at the conference, to which she surprisingly agreed.

As we were preparing for the plenary session, we were sitting at the very back seat. We saw that Yumiko was sitting by herself in the back corner of the room. We thought she must've felt out-of-place in a gathering of Christians, so we decided to sit next to her (we had met her earlier that afternoon).

A pastor soon spoke from the front about having a "true" friend who could inspire, encourage and build you up in faith. He asked the audience to ask each other, "Do you have such a friend"? Because we were sitting next to Yumiko, we talked to her about this question.

We told Yumiko that we have such friends, being part of a church. Yumiko said she had no such friends, and we immediately sensed her feelings and experience of loneliness. So I (Alex) told her, "You should consider being part of a church." She simply smiled and nodded.

During worship, we saw and felt that Yumiko experienced the joy and fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

She looked at peace and was smiling, even laughing at times. We sensed that she had an open and willing spirit, ready to begin a relationship with the Lord.

When the pastor gave an altar call, we noticed that Yumiko prayed. Then, when he asked for those who had accepted Christ to raise their hands and come forward, we noticed Yumiko's hesitancy—so we prayed for the Holy Spirit to give her good friends, and we raised our hands.

And praise God—she was encouraged after seeing us, and also raised her hand! I said, "Let's go to the front together." So we did, though getting to the front was difficult as there were a lot of people responding (praise the Lord!).

At the front, we could find no-one to pray for Yumiko, as everyone was very occupied laughing, embracing and crying tears of repentance and joy. But no one came to Yumiko. So I prayed in my heart, "God, would you please send someone to minister to Yumiko?"

Out of nowhere, I saw a Christian friend, Ai, standing in front of us. We asked her to pray, and Ai was initially confused why we—being part of the short-term mission team—were standing at the front. Soon she realized that we were there for Yumiko.

Ai immediately connected with and started praying for Yumiko. A pastor of a Japanese church in Brisbane also came to pray for her. Nora managed to attract the attention of Yumi—a friend the same age as Yumiko who had been attending Tokyo Baptist Church—who was on the other side of the room. Yumi came to pray for Yumiko, and we prayed that they might be friends.

Just before we parted ways, we gave Yumiko a hand-written note of encouragement, along with a box of Bible verses in Japanese. We still keep in touch with her, encouraging her to grow in her faith and to attend church with Yumi. May Yumiko become a strong woman of faith who draws others to the Lord!

Alex and Nora
OMF Serve Asia workers, Japan

*Name changed for privacy

Serve Asia

THIS SPECIAL *Treasure*



"We praise God for a fruitful, meaningful and eventful two solid weeks," short-term team leader Lydia* says of a recent Serve Asia trip to Southeast Asia.

One of the ways in which the team served alongside local missionaries and churches was at a kids' summer program organized by a local pastor in a city. Lydia said, "The kids bonded very well with the team and adored the older boys!"

They also helped at a kids' program in a mountainous rural area, where most families are now Christians after the gospel was first brought to the area in the 1970s. "Through years of wars and challenges, they have survived," Lydia said.

Many of the families now consist of grandparents and grandkids, as other adults have gone to the city to work or study. The pastor who cares for the church supplements his income through farming. He asked Lydia to pray for his church and their ongoing relationship with Jesus.

Another ministry the team got involved in was an "English corner," an evening event for professionals working in the city. One of the topics discussed was happiness, which turned into a conversation between Lydia and an engineer who told her he didn't believe in life after death.

"I shared a fair bit about God's purpose in each of our lives and its meaning," Lydia said.

Afterwards, the engineer's Christian friend asked Lydia, "What did you say to my friend? He said he felt his burden has been lifted and felt peace after talking to you!" Lydia rejoiced in her heart for God's purpose and plan for the young engineer evidently coming to fruition.

The two friends came for dinner, and the team gave the engineer a bilingual Bible. Just before they returned to Australia, a local Christian reported the young man had said he was "so happy to meet us and earnestly reading this special treasure and finding the true meaning in life."

Lydia can't resist adding one more highlight—this time regarding an encounter with a university student, Grace. Grace had brought the mission team to her university campus for a prayer walk, after joining them to serve at a church kids summer camp.

Grace shared with the team how the Lord led her to study in the city, and how with very limited resources, she learnt to trust in God to provide. She saw God provide for her and grow her faith—and now her deep desire is to see many come to know and love Jesus.

Trix Wilkins
OMF Australia Content Writer and Editor



BOUND NOT BY BLOOD, BUT BY FAITH

At a university ministry conference, I first heard about places in the world where less than 2% of people are Christians—and many may never meet one. Later, in a newsletter, I read about the church in southeast Asia whose faith under pressure deeply challenged me.

During our two-week mission trip, we had personal, eye-opening conversations with pastors and missionaries, seeing the challenges Christians faced: family pressures, government scrutiny and modern temptations pulling young people away from the church.

When we asked how we could help, they didn't say funds. They said, "Please pray for us." That reminded me not to rely so much on process and sheer willpower, but to pray.

Josiah*
Serve Asia Worker Southeast Asia, July 2025

Read more of Josiah's story

How can you pray?

- Pray that southeast Asians may know and be part of the true family of Christ: a family bound by faith—and marked by love, truth, grace and unity in the gospel.
- Pray for more workers. Pray for God's protection and power for His people who are already faithfully sharing the gospel in their communities.
- Pray for university students seeking to share the gospel on their campuses. May encouraging, God-given friendships be built, and many come to faith in Christ.

BEYOND THE WOES OF THE WORLD IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Nothing short of spectacular, our vision trip was eye opening and heart gripping. For two weeks, I was shown how sharing the love of Christ can come in so many different shapes and sizes.

We met university students who have been fervently meeting and reading God's Word. Despite there being so few Christians on their campus and the hardships and persecution they face, these young people are keen to know more about God and want to grow in their faith.

People's openness and willingness to learn stunned me. We met a man who loved to play the guitar, and said he knew how to play "the old rugged cross"! He was keen to learn the meaning of the song, and seemed to understand with such ease, despite knowing so little about God.

Reflecting on the trip has put a big burden on my heart. There are millions of unreached people in this nation. How amazing it is that He invites us into His plan for the world.

Ed Charles
OMF Australia Serve Asia Worker, July 2025

Read more of Ed's story



*Names changed for privacy and security purposes

LASTING IMPACT IN *East Asia*

All four of us faced different travel challenges—flight delays, cancelled tickets, lost luggage, back and foot pain. It was a small but tangible reminder that we were very much part of a spiritual battle. But by God's grace and through prayer, we all made it safely and despite coming from three different countries, our team clicked right away.

We were followed and asked questions, like something out of a movie. It was a small yet serious taste of the pressure many Christians face. It made me realize how hard it is to reach people who may see you as a foreigner, outsider—and even a threat. We need wisdom—when to take a stand, when to retreat. Like Jesus, who sometimes slipped away from crowds or authorities to avoid confrontation—and at other times, boldly spoke the truth.

I was also reminded of our great and powerful God, who can work in big but also small and quiet ways. Sometimes, they're ways which we cannot or might not see immediately, or think are inefficient. But we are to have faith in our big God and do our part.

Like the man we met who started a small local business. When he fell ill, it was on the local news. Looking back, he now sees how God used that hardship to publicize his business. People saw how his business helped the community. Relationships could then be built, and the gospel shared.

Returning to Australia, I was reassured by the story of Gideon in Judges 6-7. It was an impossible task for the Israelites to fight the Midianites, whose numbers were as "thick as locusts," and God defeated them with only 300 men. We have a God with whom all things are possible (Mark 10:27).

Jesse with Trix Wilkins

Read more of Jesse's Story



RETREAT FOR *East Asian Teens*

I've always kind of seen my testimony as a bit boring. I was born into a missionary family, being taught about God since day zero. Then I saw a video of a person talking about boring testimonies, where he said, "That's such a blessing, that God has sustained the faith throughout the generations." And it is. My mom's grandma was the first Christian in her family, faith was passed down, and now I'm doing the same.

I wasn't looking for a mission trip. Someone from OMF reached out to me and said, "Hey, we're running this camp for Third Culture Kids (TCKs) in East Asia who need extra support. We need more female leaders..." I thought, "Well, why not?" I felt it was really special to be able to contribute to that ministry.

This was the second year the retreat was run, and it's now being planned for every year. It was initially set up to complement a virtual mentoring system that is due to start in spring. The retreat has now been extended to families serving in other places, because they heard about it and wanted to join!

On one of the evenings, I shared about how I realized that when I was younger, my definition of home was where my parents were. As an adult, I've struggled a lot with that definition. One of the girls told me, "Thank you for going before me." Knowing that someone has gone before her was really encouraging for her.

Isabel with Trix Wilkins

Read more of Isabel's Story

A Third Culture Kid is one who spends a significant part of their childhood in a country and culture not of their passport. They grow up being partly of each culture and partly of the gaps between those cultures.

Tips for those considering ministry with TCKs

You don't know what God will dig back up. In boarding school, I had a few Korean friends so I knew bits and pieces—and God was able to use that to help me connect with kids when I served later on.

Everyone has things in common with TCKs. For any adult reading this (whether young or old), you've gone through changes in your life too, had massive transitions, so yes you can relate to TCKs!

Stay on the pivot point. A picture I have always had of God and life is a bicycle wheel. God is the pivot point. The bike tire goes around but you're still connected to God, the ultimate source of stability.

How can you pray?

- Pray for the virtual mentoring program to be set up alongside the annual teen retreat for TCKs. Pray for enough leaders to serve as mentors.
- Pray for adult TCKs who are considering serving through the mentoring program. Pray that they may continue to mature in Christ and see His clear leading and provision.
- Pray for families and TCKs across East Asia who are struggling. Pray for timely and effective support and encouragement to enable each one to thrive in life and ministry.



Mobilizing and teaching for mission

**Bec Grace*

I am an OMF baby—born into the organization and raised my entire childhood in the country my family served in.

I absolutely loved this country—the landscapes, the food, the people—but I could see how so many of the people around me didn't know Jesus and the lasting hope only He can bring.

I could see how those who knew and loved Jesus had a great sense of peace. They no longer lived each day in fear, but trusted that God is greatest, and that He is in control.

I wanted to trust God like this, and recognized my personal need for Jesus when I was twelve.

When my family first moved back to Australia, my time of transition was really difficult. God used this to grow me and bring me to the understanding that our lives are to bring glory to Him. I began to want to serve Him in whatever way I could, wherever He might lead.

After completing a teaching degree and several years of teaching, God led me to Bible College, where I learned so much about His Word and His mission to all nations. I longed to be involved in mission, and God very clearly opened the doors for me to come back to OMF.

My role at OMF

I'll be working at the OMF Australia office as a mobilizer, walking alongside people who are exploring what mission might look like for them. I'll also develop resources and training to facilitate this. I've been so encouraged to be able to use some of my previous experiences and skills, and am keen to learn more about mission through my interactions with other OMF workers.

I'm also prayerfully considering whether supporting missionaries by teaching at a school for missionary kids is something God might have me do.

*Name changed for privacy and security purposes

Pray for Bec

- Pray for wisdom regarding whether to teach at a school for missionaries; for clarity as to whether God is leading me towards this work.
- Pray for a smooth transition into my mobilization role at the OMF Australia office, serving alongside the NSW team.
- Pray that God would use me effectively, and that I would be of help and encouragement both to those considering and those already involved in mission.



Less of Our Plans, More of His Plans

Jonathan and Rebecca
East Asia

We've just completed our first term in East Asia, where we were learning Language and Culture for the past 3 years.

Our path to the East Asia was quite unusual, to say the least! We originally planned to depart Australia in 2020, but due to the pandemic were delayed to 2022. Then we thought we could head to a different country for language learning, but that fell through at the last minute, so we began our Orientation Course (OC) without actually knowing where we would go.

God had His plan of course, and three months later we were on a plane to Southeast Asia. We weren't going to our final destination, but we could begin language and culture learning. Another year later, we were finally able to move into the region we had hoped to serve in.

For us to arrive in East Asia was humbling, because it was clearly not of our own efforts, but rather of God's sovereign guidance. It was a real highlight to visit a local mosque that we had only seen in pictures – in fact, it was a picture of that very mosque that God used to call us to that region, and to see it in the flesh after so many years was a confirmation to us that we were exactly where He wanted us to be. It gave us a renewed sense of vision to bless East Asia's Muslims.

One of the big lessons we've learned is to be less rigid about our own plans, and to learn to truly trust that God will work out His plan in His timing. We are familiar with Proverbs 19:21 and 3:5-6, but to submit in everything was pretty hard for us as professionals who had been self-sufficient for many years. But He knew that we needed to learn it by experience! It's been true again and again: to trust that He will help us to learn such a difficult language; to trust that He will bring us friends and contacts; to trust that He will provide visas and finances and protection. And He has been faithful!

If you're considering serving in East Asia, we would strongly recommend you prepare well before departing: maintain spiritual discipline, physical and emotional health, and build a good support network around you. It's harder once you get to the field, and it can be isolating too. Keep persevering: it's a hard location to get to, but the needs are so great, and the opportunities are there!

Pray for Jonathan, Rebecca and their family

- Pray for Jonathan as he balances full-time medical work with deputation work.
- Pray that Rebecca and our children can adapt well to homeschooling during home assignment.
- Pray for good periods of rest, refreshment and readiness for their next season of ministry.
- Pray that God would provide visas for the family's return to East Asia.

Welcomes and farewells

WELCOME

From evangelistic radio to missionary kids

Jan Bayliss,
OMF Australia TCK Coordinator

I am blessed to have grown up in a mission-minded family and I felt God call me to cross-cultural ministry when I was at university. Eventually, my family served in Asia with Far East Broadcasting Company for twenty years. For the last decade, I've worked in the international aid and development sector, where I've tried to bridge the understanding and expectations between our various partners in Asia, Africa and Australia. I've long known of OMF through dear friends—so when I retired last year, I volunteered to serve. I was offered the role of TCK* Advisor, supporting missionary families as they navigate the challenges of their mobile lives.

Read more of Jan's story

*A TCK (or Third Culture Kid) is one who spends a significant part of their childhood in a country and culture not of their passport. They grow up being partly of each culture and partly of the gaps between those cultures. They experience a lot of blessings, but also a lot partings and a lot of loss.

WELCOME

Watering the mustard seed



Hannah Stanfield,
OMF Australia Serve Asia Coordinator

I've had a vague interest in missions for a long time. I said yes to any and all lunches with missionaries and mission conferences! God brought this opportunity to serve at just the right time of need for my husband Spencer and I, and OMF Australia. As a Serve Asia Coordinator, I help organize short term trips for people who are exploring mission long term. Day-to-day, that means I write a lot of emails and have a lot of video calls—all done with the aim of discipling people for mission, and strengthening mission partnerships around the globe.

Read more of Hannah's story



WELCOME

"My Small Job"

Richard Thamm,
OMF Victoria Mission Mobilizer

I am one of the many people through whom God speaks to someone on their missionary journey. The next conversation I have might be the start of someone's journey! My official job title is Mission Mobilizer (i.e. I do whatever might help someone consider serving God cross-culturally.) This can look like visiting Bible colleges, speaking to pastors, running events, running training for university students... You might be wondering why I do this. I could list stats about the deep need for God's name to go out in East Asia. Each of those people need to be reached by someone. My small job is to help raise up workers to reach them.

Read more of Richard's story

FAREWELL

"God can use anyone for His mission"



David McGowen,
former OMF Australia accounts receivable officer

One thing that God has taught me during my time at OMF is that God can use anyone for His mission. Being at OMF has helped me see in greater detail how this is the case. I've learned that the need is great for people skilled in finance or accounting! There's a lot to know and be aware of. It's also helped me to know that we need people skilled in finance in our field offices, where there are often different finance and accounting laws. You may be "behind the scenes" keeping the cogs turning, but your work is no less important than an overseas missionary. You can use your gifts so that others can use theirs for God's glory.

Read more of David's story

WELCOME

God's perfect timing

Gabriel Cheung
OMF Australia Office Administrator

Earlier this year, I was praying for a job which would closely align with my beliefs and values. God led me to OMF through Ruth Li. I happened to be looking for a job at the same time Ruth was vacating this role. My role can look different on different days—which is what makes it exciting. From being the first point of contact to managing the office and making sure there's enough stock to meet peoples needs. I also manage OMF's bookshop and mailing day and serve at North Side Chinese Alliance Church in youth and music ministry.

Read more of Gabriel's story

NATURALLY, DEEPLY, MEANINGFULLY: *Talking About Jesus in Taiwan*





Ten years of ministry in Taiwan has taught Vivian beautiful truths about her worth in Christ—and given her joy as she's seen "even small steps" among the working-class Taiwanese towards faith and deeper insight into God's Word.

After two years of language and culture learning, I joined a church planting team in Taiwan. I served primarily alongside local church leaders and engaged in street evangelism. Today, I serve in Kaohsiung, a bustling city in southern Taiwan, and am involved in Bible study groups, outreach events, a nature-walkers group, one-to-one discipleship, home visitations and ministries to the elderly and families. Our church focuses on those who are often overlooked in our community, including families dealing with addictions. We also teach, disciple and care for a rural church and reach marginalized families living nearby.

Lessons God's taught

Before coming to Taiwan, I knew the constant need to cope with change—particularly learning the language—would be my biggest challenge.

Ten years later, it still is.

I struggle with connecting through storytelling, and doing so in Mandarin feels especially difficult – leaving me feel foolish, small and painfully inadequate at times.

The Lord continues to remind me that my worth lies in my identity in Christ. When I keep in mind that I'm already unconditionally loved by God (John 10:11-31; Romans 8:31-39), I can cope with limitations, setbacks and failures without losing my identity.

Working-class ministry requires perseverance—it's hard and often slow. That's why it brings me great joy whenever I see a Taiwanese person take even one small step closer to knowing God, or when His Word penetrates deeply into their life. And as trust grows, talking about Jesus doesn't feel forced at all. It just flows—naturally, deeply, and meaningfully.

Read more of Vivian's story

Pray for Vivian and Taiwan

- Pray for our church, which is involved in many ministry areas. Pray for our team to have perseverance and wisdom as we do life together and share Christ with others.
- Pray that I would love the Lord more than my reputation, find joy in serving Him, and be renewed by Him daily. Pray for encouragements to outweigh the challenges.
- Pray for local churches and Christians in Taiwan to proclaim and teach the Bible faithfully, so that many more can come to know Jesus.









OUR LITTLE FOR HIS GLORY: *20 years with OMF*

You may be familiar with the story of the boy with the 5 loaves and 2 fish, who, because of his willingness to give of his little, was able to be a part of the work of Jesus feeding the multitude. Looking back on 20 years of ministry, I've often felt like my contributions are insignificant. Yet I am also amazed and encouraged by the times God has used my "little" for His glory.

Beyond expectation

My missionary story has contained many unexpected twists and turns over the years.

I thought I'd be teaching English in East Asia, but I ended up as the principal of a residential and vocational training center for disabled teens. I thought I'd live and work in East Asia until retirement, but I only spent four years there before needing to remain in Australia for health reasons.

I expected to be on the 'front line,' but I have spent the majority of my time supporting others who are.

God has gifted me in particular ways for His purposes, and He's shown me that He can use even unexpected gifts or passions in His ministry.

While I was in East Asia, I had the opportunity to use my love of craft to run evangelistic parties in the lead up to Christmas. Each Saturday, we'd meet to create a variety of crafts around a theme, and explain the significance of this for us at Christmas as Christians.

God is faithful, and no matter where we are in the world or what role we are in, He can use us if we are willing to make ourselves available to Him.

Learning my identity in Christ

A lesson that I have learned—and am still learning—is that as Christians, before we are called to "do" we are called to "be."

When I returned from East Asia burnt out and suffering from PTSD, I was unable to do anything for a time. I was forced to retreat, to withdraw, and take time to heal. It was very difficult. I felt that I had lost my sense of worth because I wasn't being productive.

I had to rediscover God's grace in calling me to be His child. Mark 3:13-14 talks about how Jesus "called to him those he wanted," and he appointed them "that they might be with him and that he might send them out". Before we are sent, we are called to be with Jesus.

Kym Thompson
OMF Australia Personnel Director

Read more of Kym's Story

Pray for Kym

- Pray that Kym would walk closely with Jesus, spending time with and growing more like Him.
- Pray for God's equipping, wisdom and discernment for Kym in her ministry and family life.
- Pray that Kym will grow in her understanding at a heart level of God's love for her.

新消息

News Updates



CONFERENCES

Mission Impossible: Bold Witness in God's Power

We praise God for His faithfulness and answers to prayer for our recent state conferences around the theme Mission Impossible: Bold Witness in God's Power. OMF Global Ambassador Patrick Fung served as keynote speaker at both.

Queensland

Just over 80 people attended on August 2, with over a third being young adults in their twenties and thirties. Many of these young adults were also involved in reading the Bible, doing a book review, taking photos, vacuuming, selling books, and helping out in the kitchen.

OMF alumni who came along "were thrilled with the attendance of the young adults," QLD State Ministry Leader Nic Crook said, with one older alumni saying, "Lovely to see so many young people. An answer to prayer—thank you Lord." One young attendee said, "Love the vibes, like a family. Really enjoyed meeting people and would appreciate more opportunities like this to attend in the future."

Western Australia

"We really praise the Lord for a most encouraging conference, with a large proportion of young adults," WA State Ministry Leader David Liaw said, with 122 registered to attend on August 9. The many blessings included an amazing team of volunteers who enabled the conference to run smoothly.

"I was encouraged and blessed by the talk and honest sharing," one attendee said. "It reminded me of the importance of creativity and wisdom in missions and rekindled my love for the lost." Some enjoyed it so much they asked for more time together, including a longer conference in future! "There were many stories of God working," David said. "He continues to be nudging people along their missions journey, and we can already see more workers hoping to head out in short-term mission as a result of the conference. Pray for faithful follow up on the conversations we have had with enquirers, and for the seeds sown to bear a harvest of righteousness."

> *"All the sessions were incredible. I personally enjoyed seeing the fellowship between so many mission-focused saints, something that's not so easily seen."*
> ***—QLD Attendee***

> *"I really appreciated the conference and getting to learn more about OMF. I love hearing about what God is doing and how we can be praying and supporting those on the field."*
> ***—WA Attendee***

CONFERENCE

Q&A with Steve and Anna Griffiths



We're excited to welcome Steve and Anna Griffiths as our keynote speakers at our next OMF National Conference in Sydney! Steve and Anna work alongside Brazilian churches, Bible Colleges and mission agencies to mobilize prayer and people to reach East Asians for Jesus. They have served in various roles with OMF, including in international leadership as Assistant General Directors.

As you've met and served alongside the Brazilian church, what's been encouraging?

Stories of transformation brought about by the gospel within a generation that we have heard from people we have met have been encouraging and moving. The heavily muscled and tattooed former crime boss and brothel owner who now pastors a growing church in his city. A Brazilian missionary from a violent, chaotic and abusive home giving thanks for his own family life as a sanctuary of peace. The former Olympic athlete and wealthy businessman who poured out his heart to us for three hours, of how he cried out to Jesus for salvation when facing death at the hands of kidnappers.

There is a passion and zeal to make Jesus known by the Brazilian church which we have found very encouraging; the heart-warming way that so many churches reach out naturally with the message of the gospel and engage with their community's needs. God has really been growing the church in Brazil over recent decades.

Are there connections between churches in Brazil and churches in East Asia? How would you like to see these grow into the future?

Despite the growth of the evangelical church here, that has not been matched by a corresponding growth in the Brazilian missionary movement. Less than 6% of Brazilian churches are involved in cross-cultural missions. A key factor identified was the lack of good quality, attractive and accessible information being made available to Brazilian Christians and churches. So this is what we have been working towards in partnership with like-minded Brazilian mission agencies.

There are some connections between churches in East Asia and Brazil. For example, the biggest evangelical seminary in Brazil was set up and is still run by a network of Taiwanese churches here in São Paulo. We'd love to see these links strengthened and developed intentionality to reach East Asia's peoples with the good news of Jesus in all its fulness!

Save the date April 24-26 and meet Steve and Anna at OMF Australia National Conference.

Read more of Steve and Anna's Q&A

BYTES OF ASIA

We've launched a new **YouTube channel** sharing powerful missionary stories, exploring vibrant East Asia culture, and everyday moments of life and faith - **designed to inspire, equip, and invite others into the movement of multiplying disciples where Jesus is least known**. youtube.com/@BytesOfAsia

NEWS

International and intergenerational, yet unified in Christ

General Director Joseph Chang and Global Ambassador Patrick Fung reflect on God's faithfulness over 160 years of OMF's history—and expectation of His continuing to make the impossible possible.

Why is OMF still needed and how do we continue to stay relevant for the next 160 years?

Joseph: We are still here because the task of sharing the fullness of the gospel to, from, and with East Asia's peoples remains unfinished. So many in this region have yet to know the Lord, and many churches are striving to serve Him faithfully.

Patrick: When China Inland Mission (CIM) was established by Hudson Taylor 160 years ago, it was a completely unknown organization with no strong church support.

Taylor was physically weak, considered not especially intelligent, and ordinary. Yet, he had one sole focus all his life: that the gospel would reach the inlands of China.

With all the challenges that faced him, it was a passion for the impossible. Yet, starting in 1866 with only 18 missionaries, CIM grew to nearly 1000 active missionaries by 1900.

What was impossible, God made possible.

As we celebrate the 160th anniversary of the China Inland Mission, we believe in the same God who can make possible what is impossible.

Just as Hudson Taylor was passionately focused on seeing the gospel reach the inlands of China 160 years ago, OMF today is committed to reaching the hearts of East Asia's unreached peoples. God will raise up a new generation of ordinary servants to serve His extraordinary purpose: making His name known.

What are you thankful for from OMF's past and how do we carry that forward?

Joseph: I am deeply thankful for the Lord's faithfulness and for the countless men and women of God who have served before us. Their courage and sacrifice laid a strong foundation for the gospel in East Asia. We honor their legacy by serving with the same devotion, sharing Christ's love with open hands and open hearts, so that all may hear and know the glory of God.

Patrick: We are thankful to the Lord for the diversity in unity in Jesus Christ that is found in OMF. What started off as a British mission to China has grown to become a truly international organization with brothers and sisters from different nations, regions, and ethnic backgrounds.

We pray that the Lord will bless and preserve our diversity in unity, not just multi-culturally, but also inter-generationally. We aim to see brothers and sisters from both the Western world and the majority world in OMF to join hands in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in all its fullness with East Asia's peoples.

Celebrating the life of Jennifer Gates 1997-2025

Jennifer Gates went home to be with her Lord on May 30, 2025. We extend to Ian our heartfelt condolences. We are so thankful for Ian and Jen's service with OMF at our mission home in Chiang Mai from Jun 1997-Oct 1999 and thank God for the ways He has used them as a couple.





"THESE BOOKS ARE *the Grace of God*"

Just over twenty years ago in 2004, Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA) worker Stephen Westergren helped start Cambodian publishing house Fount of Wisdom (FOW). OMF Literature (Philippines) went on to support Fount of Wisdom with training during their early years and OMF Cambodia missionary Simon Porter serves on Fount of Wisdom's Board today.

"Fount of Wisdom has been the single most significant provider of Christian literature to the Khmer church for many years, and I'm always encouraged by their efforts to produce resources according to the needs of local believers," Simon says. "The range of children's books not only helps to develop Khmer authors, but fills a gaping hole in the market for locally-written children's material with biblical values. It seems that these books are being appreciated by Christians and non-Christians alike."

"Myself and many other missionaries were challenged to think about missions through reading books during our early and teen years," OMF missionary Christine Dillon says. She went on to serve in Taiwan for twenty years. "Books can open our eyes to God's world and its need for the salvation He offers."

One of the unique things about FOW is the training workshops it provides for local authors. Among its current best-selling titles are children's books by local authors. FOW Executive Director Chim Titmakara (also known as Tim) sees these as God's gifts for his nation. "These books are the grace of God, because children learn about love, patience, struggle, confession, faith, truth and so on."

In the coming years, FOW is seeking to publish locally written Christian books for pre-teens, families and women, as well as academic titles and on leadership topics. "We thank God for OMF—praying, encouraging and supporting from the past until now, and we hope in the future as well," Tim says. "Pray for publishing grants so that we may develop in skill and experience in checking translations, designing book covers and promoting books."

Links

Fount of Wisdom https://www.fountofwisdomph.com/about-us/

OMF Billions Jan 2021 article https://omf.org/uk/billions/articles/fount-of-wisdom/

OMF Cambodia is seeking to complete a revision of *Pray for Cambodia*, updated to reflect today's realities, for publication before Christmas. "Prayer is one of the simplest—and yet most powerful and challenging ways to help expand the Kingdom of God in Cambodia," Director Yuzo Imamura says, asking for prayer for Cambodia, the OMF team and this project.

20 NATIONAL 26 CONFERENCE

24–26 April

Mt Carmel Retreat
247 St Andrews Road
Varroville NSW



Keynote Speakers

Stephen & Anna Griffiths
OMF New Horizons

omf.org/au/event/omfconference2026