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People

A Theological Educator in Indonesia

Not Just Teachers in Indonesia

The Qualification of Willingness



Places

Hope in Hard Places

To See and Love Christ More

From Learning to Leading



Participate

Connecting with Indonesians Abroad

Wanted in Indonesia

3 Things to Pray for Indonesia

Indonesia

Hope in Hard Places:
The Gospel at Work in Indonesia





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

From the Editor

Our 17,000 Island Next Door Neighbor

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." — Luke 10:36-37

My first experience of Indonesian culture was through one of the coolest teachers at my school, whom I often played table tennis with at lunch. (I also remember the wonderful smells drifting down the corridor when his class cooked Indonesian food...)

Indonesia is one of our closest neighbors—in some places, less than 500 km from the nearest beach.* Many of us in Australia know only about holidays in Bali. But beyond Bali lies a vast and vibrant nation on our doorstep.

Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan reframes questions we might ask ourselves as to who our neighbor might be. He challenges us towards mercy instead of asking, "Who qualifies?" or "Who are we obligated to?"

At OMF, we are finding new ways to build relationships and engage with our neighbors in Indonesia—through education, community initiatives and digital platforms. We're looking to grow in understanding, listen well and reflect the love of Christ.

As you read stories of our neighbor of 17,000 islands, may the Lord show you how He might be calling you to love your neighbor.

Scott Brown

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*Pew Research Center; 5 Facts about Muslims and Christians in Indonesia: <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/03/28/5-facts-about-muslims-and-christians-in-indonesia/>

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HOPE IN HARD PLACES

The Gospel at Work in Indonesia

Out of a country's cultural and spiritual complexities come a mosaic of stories. OMF Australia's National Director Paul Jessop shares some of the ways Indonesia's Christians navigate layers of culture, geography and tradition as they follow Jesus.

What comes to mind when you read the word Indonesia? An idyllic holiday in Bali, Nasi Goreng, or compulsory language learning at school? (The latter was my personal experience.) After learning more about Indonesia from friends, what fascinates me most now is its diversity.

Indonesia is a nation of immense cultural and spiritual complexity. Spread across more than 17,000 islands, it is one of the most diverse and geographically fragmented countries on earth. It is home to more Muslims than any other nation—about 87%¹ of the population—and yet it also reportedly contains one of Asia's largest Christian communities of 29-30 million people². (Interestingly, the Joshua Project's estimates of evangelical Christians in Indonesia are much lower, at about 9 million³.)

Indonesia's government officially recognizes six religions: Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism. This religious pluralism is both a gift and a challenge. While Indonesia's constitution guarantees freedom of worship, local regulations, blasphemy provisions

and strict permit requirements remain challenges for many.

Across the archipelago, people of various faiths often live side by side. A single ridge, river, or stretch of coastline can separate a village with generations of Christians from another that has never heard the gospel. The contrast is striking—and it reflects a deeper truth. Discipleship here is costly. Christians navigate layers of culture, geography and tradition as they follow Jesus.

Any faithful Christian engagement in Indonesia begins with honoring the people and their cultures.

Indonesia's story is not uniform—it is a mosaic. Christians who listen well, learn patiently and demonstrate sincere respect often find that trust grows—and with it the opportunity to make the good news both audible and credible.

Catching the vision

Many years ago, David*

was teaching in a theological college alongside local staff, encouraging students in their calling. This involved patience, conversations and years of trust-building. He invited students to consider crossing cultural and religious boundaries—many of whom had started study anticipating serving in pastoral roles in well-established churches, including their own.

Most theological students feel that mission is a calling for others, not themselves. That is why Reu's story is such a remarkable encouragement. Reu,*

**ANY FAITHFUL
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*with honoring the people
and their cultures*

now a local lecturer, had been one of David's students. Years earlier, he had taken to heart David's challenges about those who did not yet know Christ—challenges many others heard, but did not truly absorb. He responded not only with interest, but with action.

Today, Reu oversees several teams of workers serving on different islands. He also sends his students on placements with these teams, exposing them to the work firsthand. Many students find their hearts opened to new possibilities as they meet people, hear stories and experience life among communities with little access to the gospel.

As a local Christian with deep cultural understanding and the ability to communicate in ways that resonate, Reu is a far more effective mobilizer than David ever could have been. And that is precisely the point. The future of the church in Indonesia depends ultimately on people like Reu who catch the vision for making Christ known, and take it further than any outsider could.

Powerful prayers

Christ continues to work powerfully in Indonesia in response to prayer.

An elderly man over seventy had been bedridden for two months after a stroke left his right side paralyzed. Neglected by his family due to years of broken relationships, he was found in a dirty storage room, when a small team of Christians came to help. Each day they prayed for him, gave him tea, and massaged him with oil. Every prayer moved him to tears as deep emotional wounds surfaced.

As the team prayed and fasted, God worked powerfully. Within ten days, he was able to walk again. This astonished his village, and drew others to seek prayer. In time, he acknowledged that Jesus had healed him, and came to joyfully receive Him as Lord. He began sharing his testimony with others, encouraging them to join him in placing their faith in Jesus.

May we see more faithful prayers for Indonesia—and may the Lord's faithful love be joyfully received by many.

Paul Jessop

OMF Australia National Director

¹ World Population Review <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/muslim-population-by-country>

² Indonesia's Ministry of Religious Affairs <https://satudata.kemenag.go.id/dataset/detail/jumlah-penduduk-menurut-agama>

³ Joshua Project <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/id>

*Names changed for privacy and security purposes

PRAY

- Pray for Christian lecturers serving in several theological colleges across Indonesia. Pray for more students like Reu—local leaders with passion, humility and a heart for Christ to be known.
- Pray for Indonesia's Christians. May they be inspired and equipped to share the good news in places that are still waiting to hear, and know Christ's miraculous provision, protection and care.
- Pray for our various teams of workers serving in Indonesia. Pray for close working relationships across culture and language. May their unity in Christ be a blessing to the communities of Indonesia.





CONNECTING WITH INDONESIANS ABROAD

Millions of Indonesians live outside their home country in places where the church has a unique opportunity to show the love of Christ. As God moves Indonesians to our neighborhoods, may He move our hearts, cross-cultural worker Kenan writes.*

Imagine a nation of almost 280 million people—nearly ten times the population of Australia—where only 10% of the population considers themselves as followers of Jesus. This nation is not on the other side of the world. It sits just north of Australia. It is Indonesia.

Today, an estimated nine million Indonesians live

outside their home country in more than 87 nations. They are students, domestic workers, professionals, business owners and families.

They are Indonesians whom God, in His sovereignty, has scattered among the nations.

And this changes everything. Away from familiar social pressures, family expectations, and religious boundaries, people often begin asking deeper questions about life, identity, and faith. Loneliness, cultural shock and isolation are common experiences.

In these moments, the church has a unique opportunity to show the love of Christ.

Christian fellowships can offer friendship, counselling, shelter and hope—like a network of several local churches in Singapore reaching out to Indonesian domestic workers. Some had come from abusive family situations; others experienced workplace exploitation. In these churches, they were received with dignity, patience and love. Many returned home with faith and hope.

**WHAT IF MORE
INDONESIANS
RETURNED HOME
NOT ONLY WITH
DEGREES, *but*
*with a living,
rooted faith in
Christ?***

A renewed vision

When Indonesian Christians return home, they bring more than skills or experience. They bring new faith, renewed vision and quiet courage. Some begin Bible studies. Some witness within their families and workplaces. Others help plant churches or serve in mission.

History reminds us that overseas graduates often shape a nation's future. What if more Indonesians returned home not only with degrees, but with a living, rooted faith in Christ?

Eunice* came to Australia to complete her university degrees. Despite holding permanent residency, she returned to Indonesia to continue her family's business—not just with professional skills, but with a deep, resilient faith. Today, under her leadership, her business employs thousands of artisans and exports art and crafts worldwide. Her faith shapes decisions and relationships in profound ways.

Stories like this are not rare. God is at work.

A local opportunity with global impact

Here in Australia, opportunities to connect with our Indonesian neighbors abound.

In one city alone, there are around 35,000 Indonesians—including 7,000–8,000 students and 5,000 working holiday visa holders. Many are far from home, searching for community, stability and meaning.

There are ample opportunities for churches. One church, on Indonesia's Independence Day, hosts a cultural bazaar with food, dancing and celebration. For many who attend, it's their first time to enter a

church. Pray that God will use these small steps.

We can meet Indonesians next door, in our cities, in our churches. God is already moving Indonesians to us. May He now move our hearts.

When Jesus saw the crowds, He was not overwhelmed—He was moved with compassion. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37–38) This remains our prayer today.

Kenan*

Returnee Focus Ministry Worker

*Name changed for privacy and security purposes

PRAY

- Pray for intercessors who will pray faithfully for Indonesians—both at home and abroad
- Pray for workers to be mobilized—men, women and children who love Jesus and will welcome, disciple, teach and walk alongside Indonesians wherever God has placed them
- Pray for provision of resources that will enable training, outreach, pastoral care and sending to not only continue, but multiply



THEOLOGY IS MISSION

It's not glamorous and often misunderstood. Progress is slow. Results are not always measurable. The ultimate goal is to become unnecessary. But the quiet, faithful work of theology lecturers and students shapes generations.

One humid afternoon on Sulawesi island, I sat in a small classroom with a group of church leaders. The whiteboard was worn, the chairs mismatched, and the electricity flickered on and off. Yet the questions coming from the room were sharp and urgent.

"How do we preach Christ faithfully here?"

"How do we read the Bible responsibly without falling into prosperity teaching?"

"How do we shepherd people who face pressure from family and society?"

What struck me most was not their lack of passion—but their lack of access to theological education. These leaders were hungry for Scripture, eager to serve, and desperate for solid theological grounding. And yet, for many, formal education beyond basic training was out of reach.

That afternoon reminded me of a truth we often forget: the future of the church depends not only on evangelism, but on theological depth.



Advancing under pressure

Indonesia is home to nearly 285 million people, spread across more than 17,000 islands with thousands of people groups and immense cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.

The gospel is advancing here, but often under



pressure. Many pastors and church workers serve with perseverance; nevertheless, they face challenges. Training in teaching God's Word accurately, discipling others deeply and engaging their culture wisely is valuable for Indonesia's Christian workers.

This is where theological education becomes mission.

A theological educator in Indonesia

When Caleb* went to Indonesia to live on a Bible college campus for a few weeks, he was in for an awakening. "Many students—leaders of the church!—were terrified of evil spirits and trying to appease them," he said. "The Lord opened my eyes as to what could happen if students understood the gospel and poured out their lives for the sake of the kingdom."

He returned to Australia with a "new desire to see Indonesians Christians grasp the beauty of the gospel, and be equipped and sent to share the good news." He went on to complete a PhD, and for the last ten years has been serving in a theological college in Indonesia.

"We consider it a privilege to cheer [Indonesian Christians] on as they take the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth," Caleb says. "We give thanks for the many the Lord has sent."

Go—don't just study

When we think of mission, we often picture evangelists or church planters. It's easy to forget that behind every healthy missionary movement is a foundation of biblically faithful theological education. It is not a luxury. It is essential to the long-term health of the church.

You may ask—why not simply send Indonesians overseas for training? Cost, language barriers, family responsibilities and visa restrictions make it untenable for many gifted leaders to leave the country for years of study. Who then will teach the church leaders of Indonesia?

Perhaps God is stirring a desire in you to study Scripture more deeply—not for personal achievement, but for His church. Perhaps He is calling you to teach, to train pastors, to write resources, or to strengthen institutions that will outlast you.

Pursuing higher theological education may be your missionary calling. What if God might be calling you to study theology deeply not so that you can be comfortable, but to serve the global church? There are currently only a handful of OMF workers engaged in higher theological education in Indonesia.

Teaching theology overseas is not glamorous. Much of the work happens in classrooms and libraries, through meetings and long conversations. Progress is slow. Results are not always measurable. Your ultimate goal is to train local leaders and make yourself unnecessary.

But this quiet, faithful work shapes generations.

Shape the church for centuries

Studying a higher degree such as a master's or PhD is difficult. Serving often involves support-raising, cultural adjustment, learning new languages and living far from family. Your role may be misunderstood by churches and supporters.

The good news is—you'd be in the best company. The apostle Paul spent years teaching, reasoning, writing and mentoring leaders. His work was not always dramatic, but its fruit has lasted millennia. In the same way, yours would be an investment in the future church.

Indonesia needs the faithfulness and endurance of people who love Jesus, His word and His kingdom. The harvest is vast. The need for theologically trained servants—humble, prayerful and mission-minded—has never been greater.

Might you be willing to say, "Here am I. Send me—to learn, to teach, and to serve."

Kenan*

Returnee Focus Ministry Worker

*Name changed for privacy and security purposes

A THEOLOGICAL EDUCATOR IN INDONESIA

“What if everyone experiences and sees that Christians are the most generous and most caring employers out there?” theology lecturer Titus muses. In this Q&A, he gives glimpses into theological education in Indonesia today and ways we can pray.*

How did you come to faith in Christ?

My family was involved in Bible translation with OMF in the Philippines, but I didn't come to faith until I was about 12. We were in England at the time and part of a strong local church faithfully teaching the Bible. I became part of a youth group, where I realized, “I'm actually not yet following Christ, I need to do that!” I experienced a faithful church community, and that encouraged me to turn to Jesus in faith.

How long have you been working in Indonesia, and how did the Lord lead you to your current work?

I've been in Indonesia for about four years. I had a background in theology in England, and had been interested in working in a Muslim majority situation. My understanding was you couldn't go to such a place with a theology degree, so I became an accountant.

Then I heard from two people who had visited teams who were involved in theological education in Indonesia and realized I could actually do that! Since

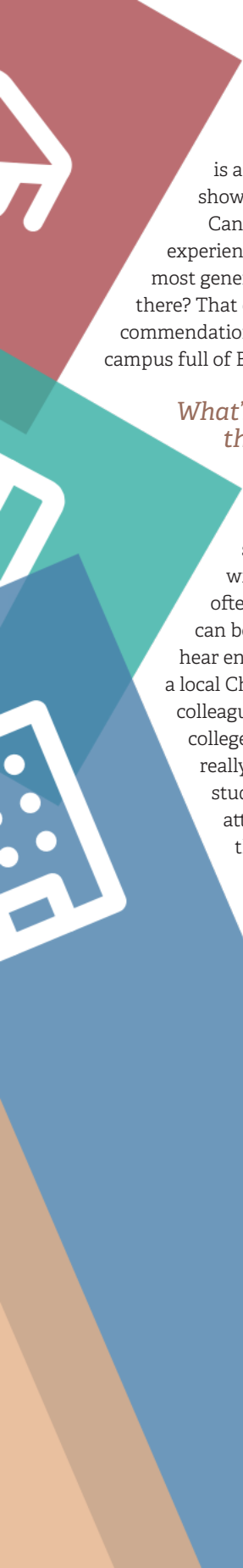
I started serving here, I met Christians involved in business as mission who sometimes ask me to take a look at their accounts, so God used those skills too.

I teach the Old and New Testament at undergraduate and master's levels. I hope to help my students grasp that studying the Bible is not just about things to know for one's own walk with God, but so that all nations are drawn to Himself. I'm also doing some English teaching, which has given me time to interact with students.

Do you have a favorite story or illustration that you like sharing with your students?

When talking about the Bible, there's something I come back to quite regularly as it is quite heavy on my heart—the divide here between people. People of different ethnic groups, economic groups, people of various status. From the stories I've heard, there is also a lot of injustice between employers and employees.

In my classes, I talk quite regularly about the book of James, and the themes of favoritism, equality and fairness. As Christians, are we using what we've been given to treat others, including our employees, fairly and equally? I feel this



is a major opportunity for Christians to show the goodness of the gospel.

Can you imagine—what if everyone experiences and sees that Christians are the most generous and most caring employers out there? That could be a far more widespread commendation of the gospel than even a whole campus full of Bible students.

What's encouraged you about theological education in Indonesia?

By the time students marry, have families and work off their scholarship debt to their churches with a few years of service, mission is often at the back of their minds. That can be disappointing. But occasionally, I hear encouraging stories. Last year, I visited a local Christian who was taught by a former colleague. He's now graduated, teaching at a college, and trying to send others. That's really encouraging. Pray that more students might take on that kind of attitude, and grasp the true purpose of theological colleges.

Your top tips for people who are considering serving in a similar way

There are several Bible colleges here, most of which are quite small. (Where I teach, there are 40 undergraduates. It is similar in others.) Be prepared for a different experience if you've come from a large college at home, and make the most of the unique opportunity you'll have here to invest time in a smaller group of people.

Know that there might be other things to do other than lecturing. You'll have opportunities to network and do guest lectures at other colleges, or be asked to teach English. You might also come as a counsellor or as a discipler at a college on a religious ministry visa (which, incidentally, is easier to get than an academic visa).

Be open to doing something 'less traditional.' If your gifts or experience lie in other areas, consider that. You might serve by mobilizing churches, setting up a business, engaging in environmental projects, addressing social needs, or teaching in other settings outside Bible colleges. Pray and explore beyond your first idea.

How you can pray for Indonesia's theological colleges

Pray for theological books in Indonesian. There is not a strong book publishing culture here, and in theological colleges there are many more books in English than in Indonesian. (In the meantime, I recommend reading *Bandit Saints of Java*. This will help you learn about Indonesia's cultural mindset, and see how Islam here might be different from Islam elsewhere.)

Many students come from areas often isolated from non-Christian neighbors, but we're not here to avoid non-Christians. That's part of what it is to follow Jesus: to go to people who do not yet know Him. Pray for growth in vision in Bible college students for ministry among non-Christians, even if it's outside one's comfort zone. This vision is growing; I just long for it to grow faster!

Titus*

*Name changed for privacy and security purposes

ENGAGING THE CONNECTED GENERATION *in Southeast Asia*

The world has changed. We now measure reachability by digital connectedness, and remote communities in impenetrable places can meet Christians online. Mark shares how God is building His church in southeast Asia—one click at a time.*

I've been serving in southeast Asia for 15 years. Once in a while, I'd drive outside our city, past open countryside, where isolated houses rest on mountains surrounded by rice fields. Until today's

generation, the people who live in these houses led a completely insular lifestyle.

I'd think to myself, "Lord, who will bring the gospel to these people?" The question nagged at me because I knew the answer. No one. No Christian—whether local or foreign—in the history of the world had ever brought the hope of Jesus to these communities.

Yet the world has changed in the last 15 years. Today, we have a new metric to measure reachability: not geographical isolation, but digital connectedness. Communities living on a mountainside or deep in a jungle can now meet Christians online.

This is not just wishful thinking, but a current reality happening every single day. There is a digital harvest to be brought in. Today's "connected generation" is seeking global sources of information and media unavailable a generation ago. Will Christians be there to meet them?

The average southeast Asian spends around 7.5 hours a day on screens—even in remote jungle villages. In obedience to the Pauline mandate to become "all things to all people" (1 Cor 9:22), we as the church must inhabit the spaces where many spend most of their waking hours.

We must meet the unreached where they reside—online—to present the beauty of Christ and the truth of the gospel in ways that are relevant to their connected lifestyle. Will we respond to this call—or will we miss this timely opportunity?

A strategic partnership

Today, mission teams are partnering with local Christians to engage hundreds of thousands in online conversations. The Lord is raising workers among the southeast Asian church, who are



intentionally sowing the gospel across entire provinces online—to find the one lost sheep prepared by the Holy Spirit. They hold roles previously unknown in the mission space: Digital Filterers, Social Media Influencers, Content Developers. Yet without them, southeast Asians living in remote areas, eyes fixed on their phones, might never meet a Christian.

This strategic initiative known as Media to Movements starts with the heart and practical, real-life issues. We create content with open ended questions that engages those scrolling their social media feeds, such as, “How can you experience true forgiveness?”

Enter a Digital Filterer, who engages in a conversation with the seeker to better understand them. For those living in an honor-shame context, this digital environment offers a unique safe space to explore new understandings of the nature of God or how to deal with life’s challenges.

Having a safe space to unload one’s burdens often leads to an opportunity for the Digital Filterer to share about the certain hope that is found in Christ. Often, seekers express a desire to grow in knowing more about the forgiveness and new life they can experience in Jesus.

Fruit from the digital harvest

As friendships are built, local Christians may invite digital seekers to meet face-to-face. Digital seeds sown online bear real, relational, in-person fruit. One team—who hadn’t seen anyone come to faith in years of ministry—saw 11 people turn to Christ in this past year!

Last December, these new Christians met and learned how they too could share the good news of Jesus with family and friends. At the conclusion of their time together, two went home and were able to share the gospel with their family.

By God’s grace, we are witnessing stories of transformation happening weekly. God is building His church one click at a time. Engaging online doesn’t replace the way the gospel is shared—but enhances it, so that by all possible means, Christ might be proclaimed.

**Mark*

**Name changed for privacy and security purposes*



WANTED IN *Indonesia*

"Differences can be barriers between people in a diverse nation," says cross-cultural worker Kirjath. "You can help bridge the divide by living and loving the people here, and invite others to join you." Here are six ways you might consider...*



Fisheries and Coastal Livehoods Businesses

Are you keen to pioneer new work? Do you have technical expertise in fish farming, or an academic research interest in mangroves, grouper farming or cold storage facilities? "In the last 13 years, I have been blessed to see the

Lord's faithfulness in providing the right workers at the right time, allowing us to form new teams," Kirjath* says. Join a team to equip local Christians to transform their coastal communities.



Theological Lecturer

Do you hold a Master's or Doctorate in Theology? Teach at a Bible seminary to mentor, train and disciple future church leaders in Indonesia and beyond. "These students are crucial for the future of the church in this diverse and beautiful country,"

Kirjath says. Encourage and equip your students to be a blessing to their communities and future workplaces.



University and College Student and Lecturer

Study where most of your neighbors have never met a follower of Jesus, and serve with a team that has a heart for seeing university students thrive. "University days are crucial times for so many young people," Kirjath says. "You can study a master's and get involved in campus ministry. If you'd like to continue on with a PhD and teach, university lecturers are well respected here."

*Name changed for security purposes



Sports Coach for Football, Futsal, Basketball or Badminton

As more young people come to the city to work and study, they eagerly seek new friends. Coach local kids and teens in sports in the afternoons and evenings each day, modeling how to be a team player and caring for your community. Bring your coaching experience as a member of a pioneering team, and help others to learn more about Jesus in creative and courageous ways.



Student Ministry

Christian students have great potential to transform the lives of many. "Differences in nationality, culture and even lifestyle can be barriers between people in a diverse nation such as Indonesia," says Kirjath. "You can help bridge the divide by living and loving the people here, and invite others to join you." As a student, teacher or researcher, join and engage with your university community.



Science and Language Teachers

There's a great need for teachers of Chemistry, Biology and Science as well as languages such as English and Chinese. "Having a Christian teacher could be the only opportunity students ever have to see a Christian live out their faith in daily life," Kirjath says. Put your teaching certification and experience to use to live and work in Indonesia, and bless the various communities in this southeast Asian archipelago.

SEEING THE INVISIBLE INDONESIANS IN DONGGANG

The majority of the thousands of migrant workers living in this port town of Taiwan are from Indonesia, yet often invisible to others in their community. Donggang's churches have a great opportunity to welcome and bless them, Aaron Koh writes.

Are there many foreigners in Donggang, the medium-sized fishing port town in southern Taiwan where I live? Most Taiwanese would say, “No.”

Yet migrant workers actually make up just under ten percent of Donggang's population. They are present everywhere but often remain largely invisible.

The majority of these thousands of migrant workers are from Indonesia. Many spend long demanding hours on fishing boats or in factories with little opportunity to interact with the wider community. Few have access to labor or health insurance, or to the minimum wage. (For example, deep-sea long-line fishermen earn around \$USD550 per month—about two-thirds of Taiwan's minimum wage.)

When we moved to Donggang eleven years ago, I became aware of Indonesian workers around town. As I scooter around, I see them enjoying snacks at the night markets or resting beside the fishing boats.

One day, while visiting a friend's bike shop, a group of Indonesians walked in. Using a mix of Taiwanese and charades they eventually explained the bicycle part they needed. That day, I learnt the

word *sepeda* – ‘bicycle’ in Indonesian. (I wished I could chat with them, but to this day I still cannot speak Indonesian. Finding a way to begin learning the language has become an important prayer point!)

A meaningful way I've begun getting to know Indonesians is by visiting a restaurant near the docks. Recently, I made a simple vlog about the owners—a Taiwanese husband and his Indonesian wife. Throughout lunch and dinner, a steady stream of Indonesian workers passes through for a taste of home.

**OUR HOPE AND PRAYER
IS THAT CHURCHES WILL
TAKE THE INITIATIVE**
*to understand, welcome
and bless the 300,000+
Indonesians in Taiwan*

Donggang has an Indonesian Christian fellowship hosted by Taiwanese Christians. An Indonesian pastor based in the city of Kaohsiung travels down once a week to minister to these fishermen. Our hope and prayer is that churches will take the initiative to understand, welcome and bless the 300,000+

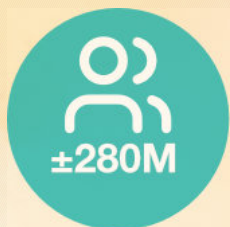
Indonesians in Taiwan.

Recently, I have been involved in running a course helping Taiwanese churches to bless their Indonesian neighbors. Pray for Taiwanese churches to invest in the language and cultural learning needed. Pray too for connections between these churches and Christians in Indonesia to mobilize workers for Taiwan.

Aaron Koh
OMF Taiwan

3 THINGS TO PRAY FOR INDONESIA

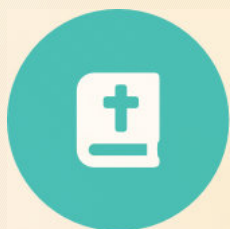
Cross-cultural worker Kenan shares three things you can pray for Indonesia's Christian millions—that each one may stand firm in their faith, grow in biblical understanding and living, and engage well in conversations seasoned with salt.*



Pray for Indonesia's Christian millions

Thirty to thirty-five million Indonesians reported that they were Christians living in Indonesia in 1990.¹ The Joshua Project's estimates of evangelical Christians are much lower at about 3% of Indonesia's population, or 9 million.²

"It's really hard to tell how many are Christians," returnee focus worker Kenan* admits. "We cannot really get what the number is." Pray for Indonesia's Christians—that they may be encouraged and spur each other on in their faith. May each stand firm in the Lord, mature in Christ and fully assured of His salvation and faithfulness (Colossians 4:12).

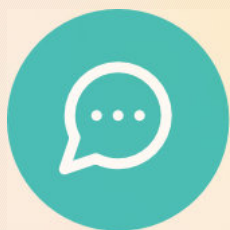


Pray for accurate biblical understanding and living

Every Indonesian is required to specify on their identity card which of six government-recognized religions they belong to: Islam, Protestant, Catholic, Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism. In reality, many hold to a mix of beliefs.

"People are nominal in many ways, no matter what they believe in—including Christians," Kenan says. "There are lots of things added such as animist beliefs and mysticism. When someone says they want to accept Christ, He is often added on."

Kenan* reports that this is partly because of the widespread idea that becoming a Christian will make one rich and healthy. Many young people are currently attracted to promises of prosperity. Pray they may be drawn to Jesus Himself.



Pray for conversations seasoned with salt

"It's really easy to talk about religion and spirituality—people are ready to talk about it!" Kenan says. He adds that many Muslims have questions about Christianity. Pray for Christians to listen and engage well in these conversations in a manner worthy of Christ.

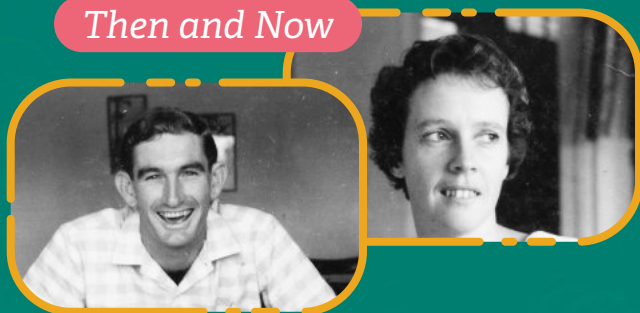
Pray for Christians who live and work in Indonesia. Pray for deep understanding and love for the people they meet, and the communities they live in. May each conversation be seasoned with salt, and point to the beauty of Christ as "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6)

¹ *East Asia's Millions*, April/June 1990, p. 33

² Joshua Project <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/id>

*Name changed for privacy and security purposes

Then and Now



NOT JUST TEACHERS IN INDONESIA

OMF alumni Robert Benn reflects on eight years of life and work in Indonesia in the late 1960s—and the ways he's seen God at work since then. "It's been a beautiful, beautiful adventure for God," he writes.

It's been sixty years of marriage for Robert and Laurel Benn—and Robert can clearly recall their eight years of training teachers together in Indonesia. It was the late sixties, post-communist coup d'état, and the government had just declared religious education compulsory for all schools, public and religious.

Robert wrote urgently in *East Asia's Millions* in 1970 of the vast opportunities for Christians to serve in Indonesia. "Curriculum planning, teacher training, classroom teaching, training in guidance and counseling, Bible courses for teachers—all these and more!"¹

So, in the Christian schools, thousands of children were being taught from God's Word for three teaching periods a week.² Principals saw that teachers were "not just school teacher, but catechist, preacher and counsellor."³ Robert wrote, "These teachers are also church workers!"⁴

Robert and Laurel's prayer was that through training Indonesia's Christian teachers to teach God's

Word well, children would be "drawn to the truth of God's love in Christ."⁵ After eight years, they returned to Australia for health reasons.

Yet God had His plans, and more for them to do connected to their years in Indonesia. When Robert started serving at Hurstville Presbyterian in Sydney, Indonesians in the area heard about the rare minister who had lived in their country for the best part of a decade, and started attending.

"If you're in another culture for five years or so, you come to the point where you can sit and listen to people's stories, tell a joke and people will laugh," Robert says. "And as that happens, you form relationships. You begin to build into the community."

Therefore, back in Australia it wasn't long before the Hurstville church had an Indonesian congregation. "They call me the founding father of that congregation and that's a lovely label to wear," Robert says. He met regularly with the elders to work and learn with them, and pray with them. This year, the church celebrated their 30th anniversary!

"I love the fact that the Lord gave us these adventures as a couple ... and indeed as a family," Robert says. "A decade overseas, back to Australian church ministries, directing the church's national missionary program—therefore in and out of many countries—and serving the committees of the church. It's been a beautiful, beautiful adventure for God."

"Of course the ongoing teaching of scriptures continues in Indonesia. Well-informed and dedicated Christian folk forge ahead in building the church of our Lord Jesus," says Robert. He's encouraged by the church's growth. Though he admits exact numbers are hard to come by, he muses, "You don't grow from about three million to tens of millions without there being a fair commitment to evangelism."

Notes

¹October 1970, *East Asia's Millions*

²May 1969, *Indonesia News*

³April 1970, *Indonesia News*

⁴May 1972, *Indonesia News*

⁵February 1974, *Indonesia News*

THE QUALIFICATION OF WILLINGNESS

After 22 years of service in southeast Asia, Ana reflects on what qualifies people for mission. She's seen hundreds of short and long-term workers and has found one requirement: God can and does use anyone who is willing.*

More than 2,000 years ago, Jesus said that the harvest was plentiful, but the workers were few (Matthew 9:37, Luke 10:2). He urged His disciples to pray that God would send out workers into His harvest field.

The need remains. You may read this and pray that He will send workers. You might pray, and also go. Or you may feel that going—particularly overseas—is not for you. I wonder—what qualities or qualifications do you believe you need to serve in His harvest field?

Reflecting on my own journey and on the example of hundreds of short and longer-term workers we've hosted in our tiny corner of southeast Asia, I believe that the number one requirement is willingness. God can and does use anyone who is willing.

How the Lord Brings in His Harvest

Apart from willingness, what qualities should you have? Do you need to be young, physically strong, extroverted, scholarly, adventurous, courageous, confident, linguistically gifted (or all of the above)?

No. Just willing. Of course, God can use any of the abilities He has given you, but you don't have to be particularly young, strong, brave or gifted. You need only have confidence in God's faithfulness and sufficiency, not in yourself.

In our small corner, you can be adventurous, but it isn't essential. Every personality type is needed here. Different workers will connect with different local team members, students and others you'll meet. And as His worker, you can expect to be part of God's doing the impossible in big and small ways.

Yet there is no place for heroes or holiday makers. Willing servants who accept being part of a team will thrive; those unwilling simply will not. For the willing, in Him, you will do more than you could ever imagine—making, teaching and baptizing disciples of Jesus.

You will be stretched and do things you never expected. You won't do a job with office hours. You will do whatever it takes to invest in making disciples. It's a life, not a job. You will experience His joy as people meet Christ then grow up, strong and able to serve Him.

A lot of your work is done by example, particularly in a context where words are just information, and information has very little value. You'll find it immensely rewarding when 'the lights go on,' and words travel from the head to the heart, and move hands to serve likewise.

You'll find that the Lord is in charge of the results—and the rewards are great. You'll rely on God more. You'll face fear and realize that God is in control. You'll learn what grace is—in your own life, and as you extend it to those you are sharing life with. God will equip you to do what it takes to bring in His harvest.

For over 22 years, I've worked closely with perhaps a hundred local Christians, who are able to share Jesus in meaningful ways because they've studied and worked with us. Many hundreds of young people

have experienced Christian community through our summer residential Bible schools.

Thousands of local people have studied English with teachers who know their names, care about and nurture them—perhaps the first Christians they've ever met. Across all this, it's a team effort. All aspects of our missional business have worked together, in the Lord's grace, to bring in His harvest.

Ana*

Retiring OMF worker in southeast Asia

*Names changed for privacy and security purposes

**A LOT OF YOUR WORK
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PARTICULARLY IN A
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and information has
very little value.**

STORY

Daniel's Story*

Daniel grew up in a village, where a young lady had met Jesus through our ministry (that's another story). On her first trip home, she shared what she knew so far about Jesus. When Daniel came to faith, he was threatened with violence and thrown out of home. So he tried 'not to believe'—but his father could tell; Jesus had changed him. Daniel came to live with our team to finish high school, and after graduation he joined our team and was baptized. Now, he teaches Sunday School training, runs youth group, and leads in summer Bible school. He helps local churches and our team in all aspects. Here's to Mr Willing!

PRAYER GROUP

Join a prayer group for southeast Asia that has been faithfully meeting for several years.

Contact au.prayer@omfmail.com to express your interest.

PRAY

- I've been part of the furniture or fabric of His work here for so long that our team will feel the reset keenly for a while. Pray for the team as they continue working for His harvest.
- Current staff are able to fill all the roles I held—except for English teaching. Native speakers or near native speaker teachers are sought by the communities here. Pray for God's provision.
- Give thanks for the maturity and commitment of local Christians as they also go out to the harvest. May each one stand firm and continue to share good news joyfully and meaningfully.

BEFRIENDED & ENCOURAGED *into Mission*

Outgoing OMF National Council member and alumni Ken Coleman shares his journey to faith, and his subsequent adventures in mission over the last 60 years in East Asia and Australia.

I was born in 1939 into a large family who only went to church to match, hatch and dispatch (for weddings, christenings and funerals). My first experience of hearing a Bible story was when Sydney City Mission set up on the grass in a park where we children played; they played a button accordion, which got our attention. After that, I attended Sunday school and Christian Endeavour irregularly, but had little understanding of the gospel.

Just before my seventeenth birthday, I was introduced to the man who became my spiritual father. He led me to Christ that day. It was a life transforming reality that led me to experience the sheer wonder of forgiveness through the death of Jesus.

Nurtured by books and saints

I was introduced to the study of God's Word and missionary stories such as C.T. Studd: *Pioneer Missionary*. This, along with passages like Psalm 2, awakened in me a desire to know more about serving Jesus in China. (I had no idea the country was already closed to missionaries at the time.) The martyrdom of five missionaries in Ecuador was another powerful challenge. Isobel Kuhn's books also stirred my desire to reach people for Christ.

My interest was nurtured as I came under the friendship and encouragement of older saints with a



Malaysian Evangelical College: Celebrating the college's 21st anniversary with the Principal, who was one of our original seven students.

heart for mission. One who stands out was Eric Norgate, who had served in China with his wife Jean, and had spent some time in detention with other missionaries. He later took a mission leadership position in Australia and influenced many young people in discipleship to missionary service, including Maureen and I.

From Borneo to OMF

Maureen and I married in 1963, and sailed for Borneo in 1965 with the Borneo Evangelical Mission (BEM). We spent our first term in evangelism and teaching among the Iban people of Sarawak. For our second term, I was appointed principal of a new English Language Bible College in Miri (now Malaysian Evangelical College), which we started with seven students.

In 1974, the BEM Field Conference voted to amalgamate with OMF. The following year, we were appointed to Queensland as the State Secretary to facilitate this merge. Later, we spent six years as Senior Minister of an international evangelical Anglican church in Hong Kong. I also spent some



St. Andrew's Church: A Coleman family photo at St. Andrew's Church in Kowloon, Hong Kong.

TIPS

Before you go on mission...

- **Get** a solid grounding in the Bible. Time spent studying God's Word is never wasted.
- **Pray** for and look out for godly people you can be mentored by.
- **Learn** what you can from others—the great resources God has made available through the life experiences of those who have stepped out following Jesus.
- **Seek** to understand what God is doing in different places for the spread of the gospel.

years as advisor to the Bishop of Western Sydney for cross culture ministry.

In 1989, I was appointed as OMF Australia's National Director. During this time, Johan and Debbie Linder—as well as several other long-time members—applied for service and went to Thailand, Taiwan, Philippines, and Korea. (Johan would hold this leadership role years later, when I had retired from full-time ministry.)

In 2012 Ed Brooke, OMF Australia's National Council Chair, invited me to join the team. It has been a learning experience for me. Much has changed in the world of missions since we took our first faltering steps over 60 years ago. However, the vision and the task haven't changed. Reaching Asia's billions for Christ remains our motivation.

The significance of genuine love for Christ

I am thankful for many helpful and challenging books on mission. I'm also thankful for the years we studied the Bible at Sydney Missionary & Bible College, which helped us to know God better and to constantly "lift our eyes to the fields, to see that they were ripe for harvest." (John 4:35)

I am also thankful my three years at Moore Theological College. The teaching of wise and godly men further prepared me for the challenges we would face, and the inevitable disappointments we might experience in our service for Christ.

Reflecting on my life, I realize that the most significant influences were the encouragement of ordinary Christians who genuinely loved Jesus and were eager to help me grow in my love for Him. Pray that Maureen and I will keep our vision and commitment clear, and grow in loving God so we can serve Him all our days.

Ken Coleman

Outgoing OMF National Council member and alumni

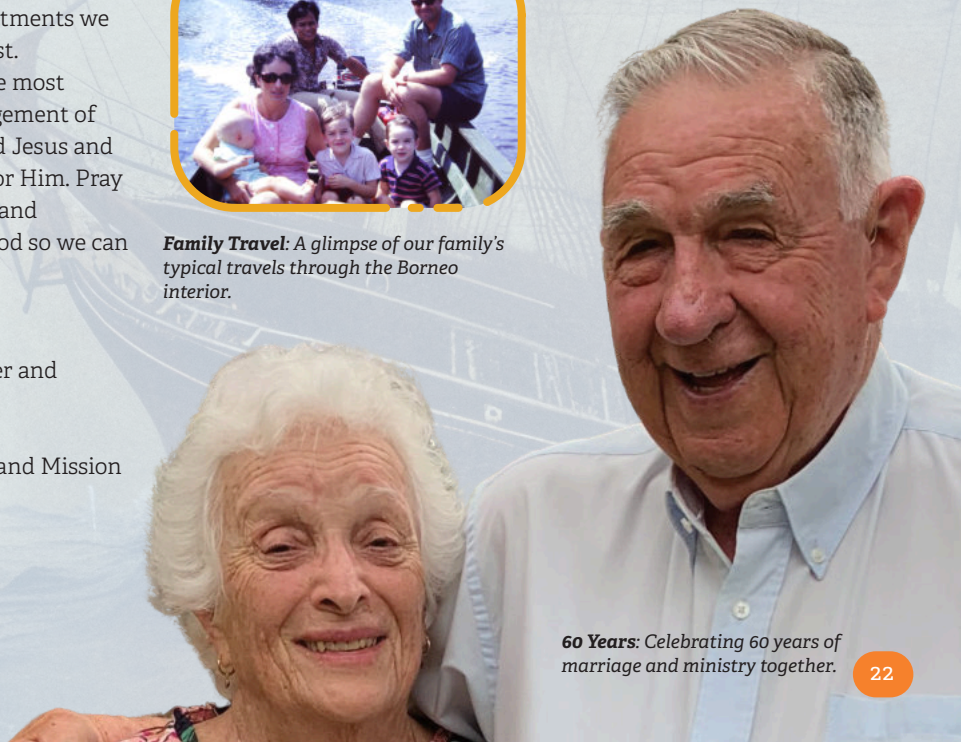
*OMF was formerly known as China Inland Mission or CIM



Prayer Card: Our 1965 prayer card, used as we set sail for Borneo.



Family Travel: A glimpse of our family's typical travels through the Borneo interior.



60 Years: Celebrating 60 years of marriage and ministry together.

Whole Lives, Sharing Wholly

Boaz and Ruth*

On the day of their 15th wedding anniversary, Boaz and Ruth took on leadership of a team spread across five countries and over 3,000 kilometers. They share their team's vision for isolated people to know Jesus, and how you can be part of it.*

Skylands covers an enormous geography. Our team is located across five countries and over 3,000 kilometers from edge to edge. (One family lives 1,500 kilometers from their nearest colleague!) We serve nomadic herders, and since incarnational ministry is an OMF value, it's not surprising that our team members' lives reflect this isolated lifestyle.

On the day of our fifteenth wedding anniversary, Ruth and I (Boaz) were inducted to the position of Skylands Field Directors to lead this scattered team. Our vision for each member is "whole lives, sharing wholly," with mutual accountability and encouragement for each person as part of a small team. Serving in community is an OMF value—and, moreover, a biblical one.

For me, this will involve working closely with each person in a leadership role to think through how they can help their team be more effective. Ultimately, we serve to see East Asia's peoples come to new life and faith in Christ. How will each team leader play a significant part of facilitating this vision? My role, in turn, is to support them in this critical task. I'm deeply encouraged by a new course we recently produced in language and culture learning, which is equipping new workers to better understand the worldview of the people they are serving.

Meanwhile, my wife Ruth is working with a team that uses digital media to share the gospel across



Skylands—a strategic push to begin introducing Jesus to people we cannot reach in person. God has already answered prayer and provided two native speakers to begin responding to seekers online. Praise God for this huge provision!

Boaz and Ruth*

*Names changed for privacy and security purposes

PRAY

- Pray that God will send more prayerful, purposeful, and persistent (Skylands' three main values) workers. We would love to build new teams around our faithful and isolated colleagues.
- Pray for Christians with professional or entrepreneurial skills who are eager to learn, adapt, and serve in teams in the Skylands region. These include IT-related fields, digital media, teaching, medicine, and working with children.

PRAYER GROUP

Join an online prayer group for Skylands.

Contact au.prayer@omfmail.com to express your interest.

From Learning to Leading

Andrew and Jo Wong

After seven years of church planting in Yahaba, Andrew steps into a new season of ministry. He'll guide and care for new workers on the brink of experiencing the ongoing challenges of cross-cultural growth.

When we arrived in Japan in 2012, I didn't know much more than the word "sushi." Very quickly, everyday life became a series of humbling lessons. I still remember wandering up and down a supermarket aisle for forty minutes because I had forgotten how to ask for a shopping bag. At one point, I spent over three months recovering from pneumonia.

It was a season marked by weakness—but also by God's patient forming.

During language school, we slowly realized that learning Japanese was never just about vocabulary or grammar. It was about cultivating humility, resilience and a posture of curiosity. Those early years taught us the value of a mindset of constant learning—a theme that has stayed with us ever since.

After graduating from language school, we served at a church in Sendai, ministering to survivors of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami. I particularly loved working alongside a Japanese evangelist. Together we visited homes, listened to people's stories and prayed for them. I discovered how to make friends and share Christ in ways that honor their experiences and culture.

This year, we found ourselves in a significant season of change. After seven years of church planting in Yahaba, I was appointed as OMF Japan's Sector Leader for Training. We remember how valuable it was to have leaders walk with us during

our bewildering early years. Now we hope to extend that care to new workers, guiding them to love Japan deeply and clearly proclaim the gospel.

We will relocate to Sapporo, near the Japanese Language and Culture Center, where I and where all other new OMF missionaries begin their training. It feels fitting that this next chapter brings us back to the place where our own journey began—among new learners with fresh questions, on the brink of experiencing the ongoing challenges of cross-cultural growth.

Admittedly, this is one of the hardest transitions we have ever taken as a family. For the past seven years, we have been investing deeply in relationships and community life, in neighbors and friends we prayed for daily. Those familiar with rural Japan know how slowly trust develops. We felt we were only just beginning to see small but meaningful steps toward faith.

We entrust the hope of a church in Yahaba to the Lord, who continues His work even when we cannot remain. And we continue to be thankful—for Yahaba, for the people who invested in us, and for God's faithful leading through each chapter of our journey.



PRAY

- Pray for God's continual work in Yahaba, and for the few Christians there to be firm in their faith and abide in Christ
- Pray for new friends for Andrew and Jo's daughters as they transition into a new school in a new city
- Pray for wisdom and servant-hearted leadership for Andrew as he serves the next generation of workers God is calling to Japan

TO SEE AND LOVE CHRIST MORE

When plans failed and doors closed, Martha found herself away from home for weeks, including over Christmas. During that time God showed her, 'He lets me help so I can see Him at work—and so that I may learn to love Him more.'*

How it all began

Jesus has been holding onto me from a young age, and leading me to understand and love Him more. I was born to Christian parents and grew up knowing the gospel, but didn't understand its centrality in my life. When God brought me to Norwest Anglican Church through a friend, I heard about how life with Jesus as Lord demands submitting everything to Him.

Over the years, I became convicted of the need to share the gospel and to live a bold life for Christ. As I began attending camps, sharing my faith, and leading at church, I was struck by the fact that millions have no access to the gospel. God began putting in me a desire to go to the nations.

When God's plans are higher

In Year 12, I began thinking more logistically about what it would look like to serve God long-term overseas. I hoped to go on a one year trip after finishing school.

I learned quickly that God's plans are higher than mine. It had seemed like the trip would line up perfectly, that I would be able to use my experience working as a bike mechanic—but the door closed.

That closed door ended up opening into a full

non-deferrable university scholarship and a seven week trip at the end of my first year of study.

Throughout my trip, God helped me see how the way He works doesn't need to make sense to me in the moment. He also showed me it is because of His grace that I get to participate in His big story, not because of my strength—and what a privilege and necessity it is to come constantly before Him in prayer.

I was praying for God to bring to me those with whom I could walk more closely. One afternoon, I joined my host at her class, after which I was introduced to the instructor's daughter, Milcah*, a university student in a different city. We got along pretty well, exchanged phone numbers, and I began praying for my new friend.

**GOD HELPED ME SEE
HOW THE WAY HE
WORKS DOESN'T NEED**

*to make sense to me in
the moment*

Christmas away from home

A few days later, I began wondering how I was going to spend my first Christmas away from family and friends. I received a message from Milcah

inviting me to join her and her mother for Christmas lunch! (People of her faith don't usually attend Christmas gatherings, so this was astonishing.)

I joyfully accepted and spent over four hours getting to know Milcah and her mum. I was then able to connect them with my host family as we shared a meal together. Days later, Milcah left to return to her university, and I was left questioning why God had brought about such a friendship in the first place.

I'd forgotten that where I was, most die without ever having a conversation about Jesus.

Answers in God's way, not mine

The day before I returned to Australia, Milcah's mother reached out to say that Milcah had bought me a gift. When she came over to give me the gift, she stayed for a meal with my host family, during which she shared that Milcah is actually attending a Christian university and has a job filming church services!

She also told us she loves my host family's cooking and wants to meet again when she next has holidays.

When we're surrounded by Christians, it's easy to forget how precious it is to have a person who loves Jesus walking alongside us. I'm so thankful that God has brought into Milcah's life a Christian family who can share life with her and her mother.

Milcah's is just one of the many stories God used to show me that He is always at work. He hears my prayers and He answers—but He answers in His way, not my way.

Seeing and loving God

The best way to describe my trip is as if I was a little child watching my Heavenly Father repair a car. He holds all the tools and knows exactly how to get the car running the way He wants it. I'm just eagerly watching and wanting to help. Sometimes He'll slow things down just so I can see, or let me hold the spanner as He tightens the bolt, or even take something apart so I can learn how He puts it back together.

In all this, He lets me help so I can see Him at work—and so that I may learn to love Him more.

*Martha**

OMF Serve Asia worker in southeast Asia

**names changed for privacy and security purposes*



*Read more of
Martha's story*



Foundations for a Gospel Movement in Southeast Asia

Frank & Rose*

In the last four years, Frank and Rose have been finding people of peace, initiating global prayer meetings, and forming a strong local team. They share ways you can pray as they consider their next steps during home assignment.*

In the last four years, the Lord has been working in and through us to prepare the right ingredients for an indigenous gospel movement: prayer, wide gospel sowing and a strong local team.

One of the most beautiful characteristics of the people we serve among is that they always make time for others. Whether it is chatting with a pineapple seller or meeting on the street, relationships are considered the glue of community. Sadly though, nearly every family is also impacted by division.

Forming a foundation of prayer

During the pandemic, worldwide prayer meetings became more accessible. We began the Pray4RM initiative in 2021, convinced that a foundation of prayer is needed to see spiritual breakthrough. Our group meets online 3-4 times a year to pray. Our role is to collect up-to-date prayer points and share them in an accessible way. We are praying for a volunteer to support this movement remotely.

Finding people of peace

How do you find 'people of peace' among the millions of southeast Asia? Through social media. In January,

an AI-generated TikTok story was watched by thousands—and our media team saw a spike in enquirers wanting to engage in spiritual conversations. Such connections have led to studying Bible stories together, meeting face-to-face to know more about Jesus—and grow in faith.

Local team growth

We thank God for the growth in our team, including new local workers supported by partner churches in the country (in the past four years, this has grown to eight adults). The Lord promised that He will call those from every people group to be part of His family. Like the boy at the feeding of the five thousand, we give him our two fish and five loaves—and wait for Him to act.

PRAY

- Spiritual and mental refreshment after a challenging term
- Peace to follow God's leading, even when clarity seems elusive
- Perseverance to continue serving in a difficult context
- Gospel breakthrough and a biblical movement in southeast Asia



Church Planting in Rural Taiwan

Andrew and Sarah Poon

After full-time language and culture study, Andrew and Sarah moved to a church planting ministry in rural Chiayi. With a regular Bible study group forming, join them in prayer that this may become a future church in Xingang.

Our first two and half years were spent in Taichung, learning language and culture full-time.

When we first arrived in Taiwan, we knew no Mandarin, so simple tasks such as buying food or groceries often took a lot of energy and effort.

While we had many challenges crossing cultures with a young family, we also experienced God's faithfulness and grace. The Lord gave us language progress (gradually), friends, a car, medical services and helped our kids to adjust to their local schools.

God also provided a small, supportive local church for us to be part of—a beautiful blessing that took time to fully realize. It took over six months for us to start feeling like we could converse with others, and most of the two and a half years we were there to build meaningful relationships.

We look back with much thankfulness to God for all His grace in adjusting to life in Taiwan and equipping for the next stage of our ministry.

Starting ministry in Xingang, rural Chiayi

In July 2025, we moved to Xingang to join a church planting ministry whilst continuing to study language online part-time. Our team's vision is to start a local Mandarin-speaking church in Xingang—a rural township of about 30,000 people, and a major



hub for Mazu worship. The town's main temple is the destination point of one of Taiwan's two largest annual Mazu pilgrimages, and this temple attracts hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to Xingang each year.

Although this is a region where the influence of traditional folk religion is deep and wide, God continues to give our team many opportunities to connect with people and to talk about Jesus. For example, next to the main temple, we were able to share a couple of Bible stories with an elderly widower, who questioned why Jesus had to die on a





cross. On other occasions we have been asked about differences in beliefs between Christianity and different religions (e.g. Mormonism, Catholicism, traditional folk religion etc.) which has allowed us to share about God's grace. Through ministries run by our team (such as a winter camp for kids, Christmas outreach and English class), we have also had opportunities to present the gospel to both children and adults alike.

Whilst this often does not lead to immediate interest or conversions, we have seen that God is at work. Many who hear us share, remain open to continue building relationships with our team, attend our subsequent activities and hear us share more each time. Given the foreign-ness of Christianity to a working-class Taiwanese, we are learning that evangelism in this context often requires cultivating trust in relationship (guan-xi 關係), and is therefore, a long-term process of walking alongside people and testifying to the difference that trusting in Jesus makes in our lives.

Since the beginning of 2025, a few people have formed into a small regular Bible study group. We are praying this group will become the nucleus of a future church in Xingang and ask that the Lord would continue to be at work, even as our team is away on home assignment for the next four months.



PRAY

Pray for the Poons and their ministry in Taiwan

- Pray for our family as we connect with churches and mission partners, and for meaningful time with family and friends. Pray for a good debrief and refreshment for a second term in Taiwan.
- Pray for the handful of Bible study group members that remain in Xingang whilst our team is on home assignment, that they would continue to be increasingly established in their faith.
- Pray for the Lord's leading as we continue to commit our plans of starting a local Mandarin-speaking church to Him.
- Pray for new workers for regions such as Xingang, where Christians are few. Our family is one of only two on our team. May more join us to see flourishing communities of followers of Jesus in Taiwan.

Collaborations, milestones and mission teams in Cambodia

Sunny and Wendy Wong

Hosting short term teams, celebrating an association of church plants, and meetings with local leaders are just some of the highlights from Sunny and Wendy's last four years serving in Cambodia.

What are some highlights of your term?

Equipment Handover Ceremony with University of Health Sciences

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the university, OMF Cambodia donated dental equipment to the university clinic where Sunny is currently serving. An official equipment handover ceremony was conducted, during which we also had an extended meeting with the institution's leadership. This valuable time of dialogue strengthened mutual understanding and further deepened our partnership for future collaboration.

Fellowship of Churches Cambodia (FCC) 7th General conference (Oct 29-31)

FCC is an association formed by OMF in 1997 for supporting and encouraging churches founded by OMF missionaries. Over 400 brothers and sisters from 24 churches participated. More than 100 people from minority ethnic groups travelled over 10 hours from Ratanakiri to Phnom Penh to join the three-day conference. Our brothers and sisters enjoyed a truly blessed time — living together, learning from God's Word, and praying for one another.

Hosting teams from Australia

Teams from our supporting churches visited us last year. The trip deepened their understanding of our ministries and the people they had been praying for. It was a great joy to meet with old friends and see the faces of those who have been faithfully praying for us. The visit strengthened our partnership, brought mutual encouragement, and gave the teams a clearer picture of how God is at work in Cambodia.

What are some of the greatest ministry opportunities you've observed and would love to see new workers take on?

Female Tutor/ Supervisor for Dental Student ministry

There are over a hundred final-year dental students at the University of Health Sciences, but only four tutors are currently available to supervise them. Additional tutors are greatly needed. Furthermore, more than half of the students are female. Having female mentors on the team would be especially valuable in offering appropriate support and encouragement to female students.





Serving opportunities at Kampong Chamlong

Although the church was founded in 2004, the size of the congregation has declined over the years due to urbanization. Currently, fewer than ten local Christians attend Sunday worship. There is an opportunity to serve alongside Jesus Village Church, which is sending volunteers to support Sunday services and the Sunday School ministry. Additional opportunities also exist to serve the surrounding community through English and computer classes.

Any particular tips for people considering serving in Cambodia?

Be open-minded, yet firmly grounded in Scripture

Enter a new culture with a willingness to learn and to see the world through a different lens. At the same time, remain anchored in a biblical worldview, allowing God's Word to shape your thinking and values rather than cultural assumptions—your own or others' (Romans 12:1–2).

Walk in humility and serve with a learner's heart

Regard others as more important than yourself, approaching ministry not as an expert but as a servant. Be ready to listen, to learn, and to serve rather than to be served, following the example of Christ in all relationships.

Stay deeply connected with your sending community

Maintain strong relationships with your home churches, family, and friends. Missionaries are not



only sent to share the good news but also called to be messengers—faithfully testifying to the wonders, faithfulness, and work of God among the people they serve.

Let mission begin with your neighbors through genuine relationships

Mission starts right where you are, with intentional relationship-building among neighbors and the people God places around you. Evangelism does not end with a confession of faith or baptism, but continues through lifelong fellowship, discipleship, and walking together in Christ.

PRAY

How can we pray for you during your home assignment?

- Our upcoming home assignment from May–July will be relatively short. Pray that we will adjust well to the colder weather, which is drastically different from Cambodia.
- Pray also that our medical check-ups and financial clearances will go smoothly.
- Finally, pray that this season will be restful, that we will have meaningful time with family and friends, and that we will have good opportunities to share with our supporting churches.

COURAGE AMIDST THE STRUGGLE

In the Bible and among missionaries today, we see many different narratives of God's people stepping out in faith and seeing God's faithfulness as He provided, protected and guided His workers, OMF Finance Manager Edwin Lee writes.

As a second-generation migrant who has lived in Australia for almost forty years, sometimes I wonder what it was like for my father to make the decision to move here. I am sure it would have taken much courage and struggle—even more so than I might be able to imagine, because my father is not a man of faith; he did not and still does not believe in God.

In the Bible, we see many different narratives of men stepping out in faith as they were called.

Abraham, Moses, Joshua all stepped out to bring God's people where He led.

Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah moved to a city their forefathers left years ago to rebuild the temple and the wall—and, most importantly, to rebuild the people for the Kingdom of God.

Paul and Barnabas were sent by the church at Antioch upon being called by God—and because of that, churches were formed as the gospel spread all over the world.

All these

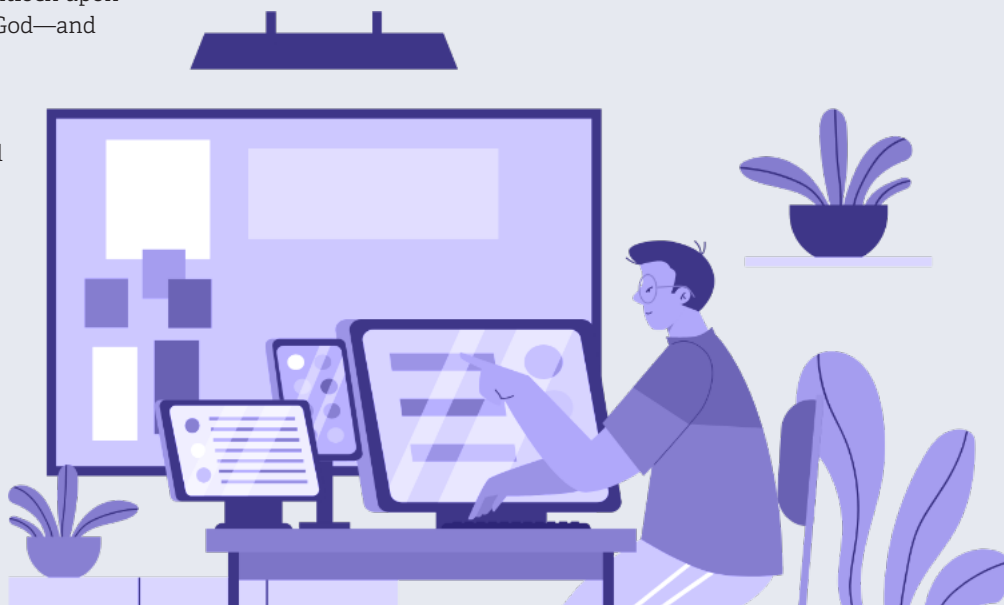
incidences of faith in the Bible not only give us hope, they also demonstrate our God's faithfulness. He faithfully provides for, protects and guides His workers.

Our missionaries at OMF have also answered their calling from God. Like His workers in the Bible, and like all of us, they too experience struggles, difficulties and weakness. Yet they make decisions to respond to their calling with faith—and certainly courage—from God.

As someone who serves in the OMF support team of finance and administration, I praise God for the opportunity we have to journey with our missionaries. This is our calling: to provide the support they need, and to strengthen their hearts as they see our team at their back.

Edwin Lee

OMF Australia Finance Manager



TEN YEARS OF PRAYER

for North East Asia

“Our prayer for years has been for more open doors. We’re seeing this happen,” prayer group leader Jemimah says. On the 10th anniversary of OMF’s northeast Asia prayer group, she reflects on how the Lord led and kept her praying.*

How did the Lord lead you into leading this prayer group?

One of OMF’s northeast Asia (NEA) leaders and I were friends from our university days. We stayed in touch after graduating and throughout our careers. When my family went on holiday to northeast Asia, he asked us to bring books back to Australia to save OMF postage costs. (These were books about NEA.)

About ten years ago, we met again while his family was on home assignment, and decided to gather people who might be interested in their ministry. We met over a meal, chatted, and he suggested, “Maybe you should start a prayer group for NEA.”

I’ve never been interested in this region. I was a reluctant follower. (I’m still saying no now!) Another missionary and I met to pray. We were joined for a while by two women from NEA who were very interested, as well as other OMF missionaries, and a man who went on to serve short-term himself. Over the years, people have come and gone.

How have you seen God respond to prayer over the years?

I tell myself not to be discouraged by numbers and persevere, even when our group is down to two people some weeks. God is faithful.

One encouraging thing is the start of different prayer groups praying for NEA. One of our current workers actually started with running a prayer group! Another missionary in South America also started a group in her church, which prays for NEA as well as other regions.

Our prayer for years has been for more open doors. We’re seeing this happen. Join us in prayer for opportunities for students from northeast Asia to study abroad and meet Christ.

Jemimah*

*Names changed for privacy and security purposes

PRAYER GROUP

Mission prayer groups are for everyone—join one today!

OMF Australia National Director **Paul Jessop** and NSW State Ministry Leader **Christine Dillon** share why mission prayer groups are for everyone—and their impact.





Indonesia **PRAYER GROUP**

Join us

