



Wesley International
Congregation

MISSIONSFEST 2026

Surrendered to Christ at any cost

Welcome to Missionsfest!

This year's Missionsfest theme is **"Surrendered to Christ at Any Cost."** When we acknowledge Jesus as Lord, we surrender our claim to self-rule. We willingly place our lives under His authority and become His servants. This wholehearted surrender lies at the very heart of Christian discipleship.

In many ways, it is like enlisting in the military. A soldier voluntarily submits to the leadership of another, ready to receive orders and carry them out. In the same way, followers of Jesus say, **"Lord, Your will be done. Lead me, and I will follow."**

As we seek to make disciples, we may begin with an invitation to "come and see" who Jesus is. But discipleship does not end there. The fullness of life Jesus promises is found in yielding every part of ourselves to His lordship. This kind of surrender is neither natural nor easy, but it is the pathway to true freedom and abundant life.

Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With a Mission, captured this well when he said: "Maintain your responsibility, relinquish your rights, and be released to a new level of relationship and reward with God." Surrendering our rights for the sake of Christ opens the door to deeper intimacy with God and greater participation in His mission.

During Missionsfest this year, let this be more than a theme we discuss—let it become a posture of our hearts. Come ready to listen for the voice of God. Ask Him where He is calling you to deeper surrender, greater obedience, or renewed participation in His mission.

Ps. Cory



MISSIONSFEST 2026

HEART FOR KIDS



**DAVID &
BETH RYAN**



A First-Ever Visit to Sumatra

This year has been a fruitful time so far. We were excited to send our first team to the children's home in Sumatra in March: Esther, Ken, Michelle, Beth and myself.

The children loved every minute of it: games, crafts, cooking lessons, music worship, prayer, more games, and more laughter. Many of the children specifically thanked God for the team's visit. One boy wrote:

"I am very grateful because you have visited us and spent four days with us. May God bless Mr David and his friends."

Being there in person also meant we could identify some issues we wouldn't have otherwise seen, a few medical needs and some building concerns. All of these are now being addressed.

Bali and Southeast Asia

After the team's time in Sumatra, Beth and I went on to visit Bali, where we continue supporting ministry to children across three urban villages, children who love learning, love their ministry leaders, and where mums of different faiths are also joining the discussion groups too. We were blessed to spend time with the children, and with our ministry partners, encouraging them and sharing ideas together.

In May, I travelled on to visit our team in Southeast Asia, an area I hadn't been back to since before COVID. There have been many challenges for this part of the ministry over the past six years, as I've shared with many of you in person. And yet, even through the challenges, we're blessed still to be walking alongside around 100 children, supporting their education and meeting with them regularly for mentoring. Please continue to pray for this country and for our co-workers who carry a heavy load with great faithfulness.

Clean Water for India's Villages

God has enabled us to keep serving more villages in India, providing safe, clean water, no matter their religious background or social standing. We've now given long-term water supplies to over eighty villages, well over 200,000 people. Behind every one of those numbers is a family no longer walking hours for water. It's slow, faithful work, and we get to watch God's love multiply village by village.

Hope Through the Tailoring Schools

The twelfth women's tailoring school is now running, giving women practical skills to better care for their children, with dignity and self-esteem restored along the way. Not all the women who start the school know God. By the end, that has usually changed, and often all of them know Him. We never see these schools as simply skills training; every class is woven through with the gospel, with prayer, with the chance for a woman to hear, maybe for the first time, that she is loved by God.

One woman wrote to us recently:



"My life was very difficult. My husband spent all his money on drugs and alcohol and often abused me and my small children. I felt helpless and alone, not knowing how to survive or care for my family. Today, I am so grateful for this opportunity to learn tailoring. It has given me hope for a better future. I believe I can start a small business, earn an income, and take good care of my children. I also have a desire to help others who are suffering like I did. The help you have given me, I want to pass on to many more. Thank you so much for bringing hope into my life."

Centres, Schools, and Everyday Faithfulness

The five child development centres we fund are going strong, with approximately 250 to 300 children attending each week to receive basic education in a loving environment.

The Tent School has now begun its second year, forty-five children receiving an education that's never been available to them before, plus a good meal once a day.



Our Foundation: Compassion, Justice, and Bold Faith

As we look back over this year, the joys and the hard places alike, we keep coming back to the same foundations that have always shaped this ministry:

James 1:27 reminds us of what God calls "true and pure religion": to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep ourselves from being polluted by the world. This practical call to compassion reflects the very heart of God, who in Deuteronomy 10:18 is described as one who "executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner, giving them food and clothing." These verses remind us that our actions should reflect God's own character.

Then, Isaiah 54:2-3 speaks a bold word about expansion:

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left..."

This passage has encouraged us to step out, trusting God as we seek to care for more children, equip more women, and serve in more communities. We're learning that faith means not holding back.

Together, these scriptures urge us to live an active, expanding faith, grounded in compassion, committed to justice, and bold in action. But we're also reminded that compassion alone isn't the whole calling. Every meal, every well, every lesson is an open door, and we want to walk through it. Wherever we go, we go praying for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus. Clean water and education meet physical needs; the gospel meets the deepest need of all. We long for every child, every woman and every family we serve to come to know the love of Christ, not just the love of His people.

Walking this path isn't always easy. Serving both physical and spiritual needs is complex, but we see again and again how God uses this approach to transform lives.

Through all these moments, whether joyful or challenging, we continue to see God calling us to step forward with trust. He strengthens the stakes. He lengthens the cords. And He never stops loving the people we serve.



Thank You, WIC Family

To our WIC family, thank you. Your prayers, your encouragement, and your giving make all this possible. We love partnering with you, and seeing how we can, together, bring real transformation to the lives of these children, women, and communities.

In your support, we see a reflection of God's own heart, and we are deeply grateful.

Please keep praying with us. We need God's guidance, wisdom, provision, and heart for the invisible children as we walk this road of compassion together.

David Ryan
Heart for Kids
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KIDSREACH

"One of the joys of being involved in missions is that you never quite know where God is going to take you next. Sometimes it is a carefully planned itinerary. Sometimes it feels more like a mystery tour with prayer as the travel agent!"



DAVID & THÉRÈSE GOODWIN

At Kidsreach, our mission is simple: **to help those who help children.** Rather than working directly with thousands of children ourselves, we train, encourage, resource and support pastors, children's workers, teachers and ministry leaders who then impact countless young lives in their own communities.

Over the past year, that mission has taken us to some remarkable places. We have travelled to **Indonesia four times, Sri Lanka four times**, and also ministered in **Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia**. Each trip has involved training leaders, teaching counselling and children's ministry, encouraging churches and helping ministries become healthier and more effective in reaching children and families.

Of course, mission travel sounds very glamorous until you find yourself eating airport food at strange hours, wondering what day it is, and trying to remember which country's currency is currently in your wallet. But every kilometre travelled has been worth it when we see local leaders growing in confidence and effectiveness.

One of the greatest highlights of the year has been the purchase of our new **House of Hope** property in Sri Lanka. For many years we have dreamed of having a permanent base for training, ministry and accommodation. By God's grace, that dream has now become a reality. Work continues to make the property fit for purpose, and we are hoping for an official opening in October. We believe this facility will serve children and leaders for many years to come.

As I reflect on the year, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our WIC family. The encouragement, prayers, interest and financial support we receive from the congregation mean far more than you may realise. Mission work can sometimes feel like a long road, but it is much easier when you know faithful people are walking that road with you.

Thank you for partnering with Kidsreach. Thank you for praying when we travel, for giving generously, and for sharing in the vision of helping those who help children.

It is a privilege to represent WIC in these various ministries around the world. We truly see ourselves as your ambassadors, and we look forward with excitement to what God will do in the year ahead.

Want to stay in touch?

If you'd like to receive our updates, email us at kidsreach@gmail.com or visit our website www.kidsreach.org.au for quick updates.

David and Therese Goodwin
Director, Kidsreach

THE BURTTTS



SAM & ELDORA, WITH CHARLIE, JADEN & KAIYA

Sam and Eldora serve with the Youth Strategy of Power to Change. **Sam** plays drums in Amber Lights, performing concerts in high schools, youth groups and online: sharing the gospel through music, stories and personal testimony. **Eldora** serves in operations: working on project-based tasks such as organising conferences, annual paperwork submissions, safe ministry and other ongoing admin.



MISSIONSFEST 2026

Thank you, WIC, for your prayers, support and for getting behind our family and our ministry work with Power to Change. We are only halfway through the year, but there have been many wonderful ministry opportunities:

- Amber Lights tour to Albury/Wodonga in May – five schools, a youth group and an ISCF youth camp – **22 young people started a relationship with Jesus!**
- Weekly livestreams – four nights a week, with continually growing viewership.
- MyFriends training course (Apr – Jun). Eight young people were equipped and trained to live missionally in their everyday Christian lives.
- An Alpha course (Jun – Aug) for youth exploring faith.
- Collaboration with Power to Change's Digital Strategy to film eight videos, including music videos for our original songs, testimonies and a video series exploring Christian themes in popular media.



The Youth Strategy is facing a time of transition as our Youth Strategy Director and his wife, the Youth Operations Leader, both step down from their roles at the end of June. **Eldora is taking on the role of Acting Youth Operations Leader during this transition.** Please be praying for her and the Discernment Committee as they seek God's wisdom appointing a new Youth National Strategy Director.

How can you pray for us?

- For Eldora to serve well in her acting role and for discernment around whether to continue in it longer term.
- Sam will visit seven public high schools around Western Sydney for shows throughout August and September. Pray for soft hearts as students hear the gospel.
- For our short-term mission trip to Orange/Dubbo in November. We have three musicians—all uni students—signed up to play in a project band for this trip.
- Grateful for God's faithful provision for our family and for each of our children enjoying and doing well at school in the first half of the year.
- More volunteers are needed to help on our digital platforms and support ministry online by interacting with viewers and moderating chat during streams.

If you would like to receive our ministry updates personally, please use the QR code to sign-up.



The Burtts

THE CLARKS



BEN & MELINDA WITH KENSIE AND SAVANNAH



Serving unreached people groups in the Himalayas
Based in Northern Thailand

Over the past year, our ministry has focused on two main areas: field leadership and digital outreach.

Field Leadership

Ben's role has centered on supporting and guiding teams across a wide region, from Mongolia to the Himalayas.

Digital Outreach

Mel serves with a team that aims to provide access to God's Word and to discipleship resources (such as songs, videos, and commentaries) to an unreached people group in the Himalayas. Her work centers on content creation, content development, and digital evangelism.

Ben has also been responsible for developing a Bible app for a Himalayan language group.

How can you pray for us?

- Ask for wisdom and discernment for Ben in his field leadership role and for good relationships with the field leadership team.
- Ask for creativity and effectiveness for the various digital outreach projects.
- Pray that many Himalayan people will know that the Bible exists in their language and that they will be able to access God's word online and in print.
- We are thankful that we live in a city with good schools and a wonderful community for our family. Pray that Kensie and Savannah will thrive and continue to grow closer to the Lord.
- Ask for grace and good communication in our marriage, and for wisdom in parenting.

*You will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins (Luke 1:76-77)*

Want to stay in touch?

Visit www.benandmel.com to sign up for our newsletter and to request more information.

Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/omfskylands) or Instagram (instagram.com/omf_skylands).

The Clarks

THE YOUNGS



JT & QUEENIE WITH MICAH AND ISABEL



We are thrilled to be back in Australia after 14 years serving on the mission field. It is a joy to return home, reconnect with our church family, and share firsthand testimonies of God's continuing work among the people of Isan in Northeast Thailand.

Our local team in Isan, led by Loung Kong, continues to serve with passion and perseverance in one of Thailand's most populous and least-reached regions. Despite challenges with economic pressures, the team is seeing steady fruit. In a recent conversation, they shared the joy of an outreach where they were able to share the Gospel with 53 people, with 11 coming to Christ. New believers are being nurtured in their faith, and lives are being transformed.

We praise God for these faithful servants who labour tirelessly to restore hope to their own people. Their commitment reminds us that the Church is truly global, and indigenous leadership is key to long-term impact.

As we settle back in Australia, our vision for the future remains focused on holistic transformation in Isan. We are increasingly excited about supporting enterprise projects designed to help local families and villages become more self-sustaining. These initiatives will equip locals with practical skills in areas such as small business development, agriculture, and micro-enterprises. The goal is not just short-term aid, but lasting dignity and independence—enabling families to provide for themselves while creating opportunities to bless their communities and churches. By fostering self-reliance through enterprise, we believe we can reduce dependency, strengthen local economies, and create more space for spiritual growth and outreach.

We invite you to pray with us for wisdom, resources, and partnerships as these projects take shape. If you feel called to support this next chapter—through prayer, giving, or even involvement—we would love to connect with you.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in restoring hope in Isan. It is an honour to serve alongside you as we witness God's kingdom advancing in Australia and across the nations.

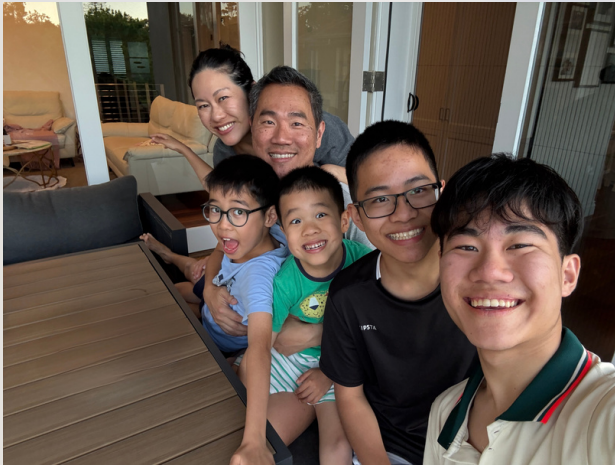
Blessings,
JT Young

Email Contact: joongyoung@gmail.com

For updates, please subscribe at the following link:

<http://eepurl.com/mjPBf>

THE RAHARDJAS



**HENDRA & STEPH
WITH JJ, ES,
MZ AND CJ**

A few weeks ago, I caught up with Shirley (not her real name) at Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC). As a mission representative for Pioneers, I get to interact with college students at SMBC on regular basis and I have known Shirley for almost 2 years now. While Shirley believes the Lord is leading her to serve overseas, she admits that she lacks the courage to move forward. There seems to be so many barriers. Her own shy personality. Her singleness. Her parents' lack of support. Her future. And there are other challenges too. All these are very daunting for Shirley. But recently she went to South Asia for a short-term mission trip, and there she witnessed the reality that **many are perishing without ever hearing about Jesus even once in their lives**. The desperate need for more Gospel workers has convinced Shirley that she is willing to surrender all her insecurity and uncertainty to Christ and move towards mission, whatever the cost.

Shirley is just one of the dozens of individuals that I interact with each year, who are seriously counting the cost of long-term mission work overseas. Shirley also reminded me of my own mission journey and the cross-road that I found myself at, after a short-term mission trip in 2001. Upon returning, I felt God's clear call for me to leave home and serve overseas but I struggled with this costly call. The Lord, in His goodness and grace, was patient with me and at the end I surrendered everything to Christ and decided He was worth the cost.

25 years later, I am STILL called to God's mission, especially among the Unreached People Groups of the world. In a sense I am still paying the cost. But oh, the Lord has blessed me so much more than what I have sacrificed for Him. And one of these blessings is for me to regularly interact with people like Shirley, in my role as a mobiliser and mission mentor, and to hear their AMAZING stories of surrender and faith. What a privilege it is for me to see God at work, transforming the hearts of His children, enabling them to put up their hands and responding to the Lord,

"Here I am Lord, send me."

The Lord Jesus said, **"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"** (Matthew 16:24). Whether we are senders or goers, when it comes to global mission, Christ requires us to carry our cross and to follow Him, whatever that looks like. There is cost if we are serious about following our Lord Jesus and making Him known. My prayer for us is that we will fully surrender all to Christ, whatever the cost. Because He is worth it.

If you are interested in receiving our newsletter, please let us know at handsintouch123@gmail.com

Together in mission
The Rahardja family.

“

Surrendered
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