



NATIONS

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

Being a missionary
in your own nation

COVID UPDATE

Fresh testimonies
from around the
world

ROHINGYA REFUGEES

What we're doing
and how you can
help



OUR OWN BACKYARD

Just prior to ascending to heaven, Jesus spoke his last recorded words: (Acts 1:8) “...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

In this verse, Jesus envisages the gospel going out in concentric circles simultaneously, as follows:

- **‘Jerusalem’** – which best represents your church’s immediate location;
- **‘Judea’** – the neighbourhoods around you;
- **‘Samaria’** – people further away including people of a different culture that may be living in your vicinity;
- and the **‘ends of the earth’** – unreached people groups / and those of a different culture.

In World Outreach, we normally focus on the ends of the earth (and we’ll continue to do so), but please note where Jesus said we were to begin – our Jerusalem, or to use colloquial language – our own back yard.

According to recent projections, 7 out of every 10 people in the world will live in cities by 2050. It is expected that urban centres will double in size between now and then. Large numbers of people are uprooting their lives and migrating to other countries or larger cities for various purposes: to escape hardship, to find work, to study, or to pursue greater opportunities.

Many of these migrants belong to unreached people groups and communities that restrict evangelism. They are now moving into towns and cities whether there are strong churches or effective outreach ministries.

While it is still important to send out missionaries ‘to

the ends of the earth’ (which we do), the unreached people groups that are now ‘in our own backyard’ cannot be ignored. This phenomenon requires a new way of doing missions.

This edition of Nations will tell the stories of some of our field workers who felt called to reach the unreached in their own backyards. They’re successfully impacting people in their own Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.

Our prayer is that their lives and ministries would inspire you to reach out to those of other cultures, especially migrants from unreached people groups, in your own backyard. To find out more about how you can do so, please go to:

world-outreach.com/migrant-upg-ministry



May we continue to do all we can to bring the good news of Jesus to our own backyard right through to the ends of the earth.

Bruce Hills

International Director



Love
YOUR

NEIGHBOUR

YOUR COMMUNITY
YOUR COLLEAGUES
YOUR MIGRANTS
YOUR NATION



Let's talk about

MAJORITY WORLD CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS



Majority World

noun

Majority World refers to countries where most of the population resides - this includes **Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the South Pacific island nations.**

The churches from the whole world are joined in the effort to reach every corner of this Earth, but Western missionary forces still comprise most missionaries. Though it may be slowing down and experiencing some challenges, missions coming out of the majority world show amazing progress with an increase in number due to a growth rate that is much greater than their Western counterparts.

Everyday we hear testimonies from Buddhists who have begun to believe in Jesus, seeing them grow and change through the power of the Holy Spirit.

John & Nok are Thai missionaries serving amongst Buddhists in their home nation. They have incredible testimonies of the healing, life changing power of Jesus through their ministries.

WHERE ARE YOU CURRENTLY LIVING AND SERVING GOD?

John and I are Thai pastors, and we have a 25-year-old daughter Nana. She works with us in our ministries located near Bangkok. It is a blessing to work together as a family from our home and church facility.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

We are living in a church building. And we work and live together 24/7. It is difficult to separate work and rest. However, we enjoy it. Every day we focus on evangelism and discipleship through social media.

HOW HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN RICHER BECAUSE OF CROSS-CULTURAL SERVICE?

Everyday we hear testimonies from Buddhists who have begun to believe in Jesus, seeing them grow and change through the power of the Holy Spirit. We feel excited because we are seeing the book of Acts come alive.

WHAT HAS GOD BEEN TEACHING AND SHOWING YOU RECENTLY?

People think it is hard to evangelise and disciple Buddhists, but we have found that after 10 years of trial and error, that it is not that difficult if you do it in a way that Thais can understand and receive. In controversial areas of their lives, we allow the Holy Spirit to convict them.

WHAT STRUGGLES ARE YOU EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW?

Misunderstanding of our ministry and methods by traditional Christians is our biggest obstacle.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST SPIRITUAL NEED IN THAILAND?

Thais accept anything and everything new, as something to be added to the mix. However, we use this as an opportunity for them to build relationship with Jesus.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT PARTNERING WITH WORLD OUTREACH?

We like the clear vision of WO to reach unreached people groups through training, development, encouragement and mentoring.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Health for our family, especially John who has leukaemia, but it is under control with medication.



Let's talk about

MIGRANT MINISTRY



Migrant Ministry

noun

Migrant Ministry refers to ministry to a person who has moved away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border.

Today, **more than ever before**, people are on the move, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, and for various reasons—terrorism, economic collapse or opportunity, famine, human trafficking, education, to mention a few. There is a **tremendous opportunity** for ministry to, through, and beyond diaspora peoples.



WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AND VISION IN THE MIGRANT MINISTRY TEAM?

I am part of the team that did the research and compilation of the Starter Kit. The vision that we have is to see new ministries birthed among unreached people groups (UPGs) migrants while using the Starter Kit. My focus is on keeping the Starter Kit updated, making people aware of the Starter Kit, and assisting those who would like to use it in their contexts.

For South Africa, our dream is to see church communities use the Starter Kit to engage with UPG migrants in their area. We have formed a network of like-minded ministries in South Africa with a heart to reach out to the UPG migrants called UPGRAYDE.

WHAT HAS GOD BEEN TEACHING YOU RECENTLY?

Two things have been standing out to me in recent times.

- Firstly, Godly partnership is critical for the success in making disciples, we cannot and should not work alone in the Kingdom of God.



- Secondly, is something I heard a good friend of mine say some weeks ago. "You cannot expect to reach migrants while sitting in your backyard, you need to get out and engage with people." I speak with a lot of people paralysed by the mind-set of not having enough to start. The growing is in the going, all of us know how to build relationship with people. God wants to use us, but we need to take a step.



WHAT DO YOU WANT OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT MIGRANT MINISTRY?

Prayer is a powerful way to catch the heart of God. Identify migrants in your area and start praying for them.



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please pray for:

- Favour as we engage with churches and individuals about the UPG Migrant Starter Kit.
- Wisdom and discernment as we reach out to UPG migrants in SA.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT PARTNERING WITH WORLD OUTREACH?

Field driven initiatives are one of World Outreach's distinctives. There is freedom for the individual partner to hear God within the vision of World Outreach, which leads to unique solutions in reaching out to UPGs.



**IVAN VENTER,
SOUTH AFRICA COUNTRY
OFFICE DIRECTOR**

"You cannot expect to reach migrants while sitting in your backyard, you need to get out and engage with people."



Pray for them
**Pray for and with
them**



Show hospitality
**Invite them for
a meal**



Encourage them
**Speak life over
them**

6 ways to
**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOUR**



Rejoice with them
**Celebrate their
wins**



Be generous
Give a gift



Serve them
Fulfill a need



worldoutreach

SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP

Whether you're an aspiring, emerging or experienced leader, there'll be something in this video resource library that'll **inspire, sharpen** and **develop** your life and leadership.

These videos are ideal for self-directed learning, group discussion, staff training or for a more formal leadership course. **It's totally up to you.**

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COVID UPDATE

The gospel in action



Thailand

Prasert is one of our Field Leaders in Thailand. Using the Covid Relief funds donated to World Outreach, she is reaching out to two communities she has been working with. Prasert previously ran after-school activities with the children from these two communities, but Covid restrictions have put a hold on in-person gathering. These are poor communities and many of the parents have lost jobs. This food package drive was to provide essentials and stationery supply to the children, so they continue to study at



S.E Asia

In this very difficult time on the Thai-Myanmar border, God has given us the opportunity to train new believers to do evangelism. We have also given training on the Christian life and spiritual growth for Bible School teachers, and those who work with children and education. In 2012 God gave me a special love for an unreached people group in one of the border villages. It is a hard and dangerous place due to trafficking of all kinds that takes place there. We visited there for many years with some resulting fruit.

S.E Asia

Our strategy has been to educate the children of the unreached people groups we are working with, whose parents down to several generations have had no means and/or opportunity to have an education. This has been an effective bridge to open doors for us to reach the communities with the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Certain radical groups among the majority people have offered incentives to turn them away from their faith but our people have resisted, despite harassment and marginalisation. And, even at times, our team has been interrogated, but by his grace, we continued to persevere. Praise the Lord, many churches have been planted since commencing this journey in 2010.



S.E Asia

This year we had a food donation project for some places in need. We prayed and went to talk with a new village leader to ask permission to give a food donation to the 180 families that live there. We had the opportunity to share the gospel with the village leader, who openly listened. Then he allowed us to share the gospel when we reunited with families on the day the food was delivered. This was a miracle! We brought people of the same ethnicity, who had been converted within our group from another area, to share their testimonies and the message in their dialect. It has been wonderful for me (after working for 9 years in the area) to see, for the first time, an entire village listening to the Good News!





Partner with us for GIVINGTUESDAY

November 30, 2021

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. It has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. World Outreach is excited to participate in this event and is focussing on raising funds for our projects helping Displaced People Groups.

Help our WO workers to meet the needs of **DISPLACED PEOPLE**



One person is forcibly displaced approximately **every two seconds**.



There are **79.5 million people** around the world who have been forcibly displaced—the highest figure ever recorded.



50% of these are children.





ON THE BORDER OF WAR

Sawadika! I'm Silvia.

I work at the Thailand-Myanmar border and in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. At the border I work alongside local Christians. We participate in the extension of the Kingdom reaching out to an unreached Rohingya group in the area.

Since 90% of the population is illiterate, we work with audio Bibles to evangelise and do discipleship. In Bangkok my ministry is with women who have been trafficked into Thailand and they are victims of human trafficking.

I do interviews to identify the victims, I conduct art workshops, counselling and accompaniment in the process of returning to their countries. Let me tell you what God is doing in this corner of the world!

This has been a very intense time on the Thailand-Myanmar border.

Myanmar is an in a state of civil war and chaos. There are no banks open, no transport to carry food and goods from one province to another.

In the villages the situation is even worse where weapons have been used openly and bombs have exploded day and night. Last week a bomb went off in a little school there. Thank God there were no students at the time, but the building was totally destroyed.

There is much confusion and fear, so people choose to spend the night and sometimes weeks in the jungle where they are exposed to animals (snakes, wild elephants, etc.) and diseases. In addition to this, in our area, cases of Covid-19 have been registered on the Thai side (on the Myanmar side there are no hospitals that do tests so there are no records).

Let's pray for Myanmar in this time of great anguish in the country! In all of this chaos, we have seen the love of God for these people as we have been able to get closer to the leaders of the villages which has opened doors to share the gospel there! I can see God working in hearts in the midst of the chaos and that amazes me!



MIDWIFE TO REFUGEES

- Ms Glyn

In recent years, between trips to our target ministry locations, I have acted as a doula (the word literally means 'a birthing servant') to expats and missionaries in my ministry country. But God changed this in the most unexpected way.

Just prior to the Covid pandemic, I became increasingly aware of the plight of the Rohingya refugees all around us. Numbers seemed to be on a steep increase in our area and I heard of the many difficulties they faced.

Life as a refugee is hard, but as a refugee giving birth - it is even harder!

Fear, emotional stress and financial pressures lead to reluctance to go to the local hospital, resulting in unassisted home births which, sadly, have ended in loss of life - of the infants especially. If the infants survived these unassisted births, there is the dilemma and struggle for a birth certificate for the child. It's a truly sad situation.

My heart was burdened by this fate and I knew that God was calling me to use my life skill as a trained midwife/doula, to help these women and their families. This burden quickly turned into a vision, and soon, a ministry!

I began to build relationship with birthing families.

They soon trusted me to develop their understanding of healthy pregnancies, allowing me to take them through birth classes with other Rohingya ladies. They felt comfortable to allow me into their homes to support them through the many hours of labour - where they could do so, feeling safe, respected, comforted and cared for.

I am their 'Auntie' who ensures that they reach the hospital in time for a safe birth. ***To date I have served 60+ families in this way, and it is by God's faithful provision, that I have been able to assist them, with my skills, with training, with baby provisions, and with 50% of their hospital bills.*** And the relationships remain even long after the births.

They have grown to trust me to look out for them and to advocate for their best interests. I believe that my deeds - and sometimes, when appropriate, my words, testify to the goodness and love of a GOOD GOD, who sees them, and cares about them! Simple kindness, and the help I give them, bears testimony to his love.

Even though they struggle to survive through Covid joblessness, financial difficulties, fear and no identity - 'family' remains their highest value. Often - it's all they have. And in partnering with this value, I hope to introduce them to Father God and his family.

#GIVINGTUESDAY



Give hope to refugees

world-outreach.com/GivingTuesday

Help our WO workers to meet the needs of displaced people.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Bilis R

Bilis R, wife of K, went to be with the Lord on Saturday morning, 15th May, at 5:43 am (local Indian time) after a battle with cancer. She died peacefully in the arms of her granddaughter and surrounded by all her loved ones.

K & Bilis have been associated with World Outreach (WO) for more than 30 years. She was always incredibly supportive of K's roles in WO. Those who knew and served closely with Bilis and K shared the following insights.

Bilis was a committed disciple of Christ. She was focused on the gospel call, mission expansion and church planting in partnership with K. For decades of their married life, it was Bilis who was the home carer of children, foster children and extended family as K often travelled, following the call of God to plant churches, connect with the leaders of multiple tribal groups throughout Northeast India and establish Christian schools and other ministries.

There's no doubt that in K's absence while travelling, there were times of loneliness, many unexpected challenges, financial uncertainty and even opposition to the gospel. Bilis' perseverance and protection of the family was a great strength to K and all the children.

For many years Bilis also worked as an accountant to support the family and work of the ministry in Northeast India, while managing the home and looking after the children.

Bilis was a beautifully kind and gracious lady. When visiting the R home, the welcome offered by Bilis made visitors feel very special.

Her selfless devotion to do whatever it takes for the purpose of the gospel has been an inspiration to her family and will be to everyone who knew her for a long time to come.

Bilis' presence, giving heart and selfless attitude will be deeply missed by K, their two sons, Iashan and Pyndap, daughter, Ibanylla, and all the grandchildren, plus foster children.





SURGE

*BE PART OF THE CROWD FORCE
ONLINE FUNDRAISING EVENT*



SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO





**KEEP ON LOVING
ONE ANOTHER
AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
DON'T FORGET TO SHOW
HOSPITALITY
TO STRANGERS
FOR BY DOING THAT SOME
HAVE SHOWN HOSPITALITY
TO ANGELS WITHOUT
KNOWING IT.**





GO

Get ready to serve cross-culturally in mission.



GIVE

Make a difference by giving to a project or missionary.



PRAY

Intercede for the unreached and for the workers delivering the good news.



LEARN

Get started by learning about missions.



SEND

Become effective at sending people cross-culturally.

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