

OUR JOURNEYS

DEC. 23



RADION
INTERNATIONAL

DECEMBER 2023

RADION TURNS 16

LEARN SO WHY ARE THE POOR
VULNERABLE?
VOLUN-TOURISM?
NO THANKS.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2H 2023

WITNESS PROGRAMMES IN
PICTURES
IN A NUTSHELL
OUR IMPACT

OUR PLANS

PARTNER ROADMAP & OPPORTUNITIES
TESTIMONIALS
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RADION TURNS 16

16 years! What a joy and privilege it has been to serve Him!

As we look back on these past years, we are reminded of the hundreds of volunteers, sponsors and partners who have quietly **served, partnered and enabled** us to continue serving the last, lost and the least.

Friends from different backgrounds, different ethnicity, different faiths, all drawn together, to a singular call - that every life is precious.

In the past few year, we witness quiet discontent, a rumbling in hearts, a deep stirring in our lives for the less privilege amongst our young, and in churches; coming to a deep realization that faith and deeds *-should and must-* come together.

As one of the pioneers of holistic missions, we believe it is indeed time, to share some of our most precious learnings, thoughts and reflections. So these humble nuggets, may become handles & hope, for the ones who many who aspire to do greater good in our world.

It is to this end, that we have started JOURNEYS - not just a newsletter about RADION, but also sharing the learnings that we have garnered over the years, and hopefully, it will bless you as you embark on your journeys of faith.

So, let us begin.

Eugene Wee
Founder & Executive Director
RADION International



LEARN : WHY ARE THE POOR VULNERABLE?



We often see the tagline "Poor & Vulnerable", but do we know why? So why are the poor more vulnerable? Here is a glimpse.

Researchers have found that residents living in poorer neighborhoods are more likely to be victims of crime than those living in affluent communities. And when a crime happens, law enforcement is usually - more thorough - in affluent communities than in lower income areas.

The officers know that the affluent are able to seek recourse, hire a good lawyer and discover lapses. But for the poor, there is no way they can hire a top lawyer to argue their case.

And statistically, the under-privileged are more likely to settle for an unfavorable outcome.

We see this in our work.

This disparity isn't just with the law enforcement but with basically everything around them.

Access to education, getting a doctor to take their condition seriously, or for that job that allows them to adequately care for their families.

Life expectancy for the rural poor is also significantly less than the urban rich.

That is the issue with poverty.

Some years ago, I asked a group of Streetkids, what does poverty mean to them? And after thinking for some time, one young teenage girl replied:

*"Poverty isn't the lack of finances. Poverty **is NOT being able to reach** for your dreams, no matter how much you try."*

It was grim. What she was saying, is that determination alone isn't enough.

But how can that be so?

As Singaporeans, we have been brought up to believe that if we try our best, we will succeed. But the longer I stay on the field, this streetkid's perspective becomes increasingly clearer.

A village kid can start at Primary 1, but if there are no teachers in rural schools, he/she will never progress up to upper primary.

And if somehow after that, you get past the next few educational levels by sheer determination, you will still be years behind everyone else at graduation.

You are disadvantaged from the get-go.

It's like going into a marathon one whole hour after the gun goes off. And being expected to meet the cut-off time...

They can try all they want. But only the truly exceptional, truly gifted, the fastest, the strongest - can, and may at best - aim for a pass.

SO WHY ARE THE POOR SO VULNERABLE?



Winning, coming out top, succeeding is not just out of reach, **but entirely out of sight.**

But this, unfortunately, isn't a standard chartered marathon. But life, as how our beneficiaries experience life's race.

Poverty is indeed "not being able to reach for your dreams, no matter how much you try."

That's hopeless-ness.

So imagine yourself as the young child, coming from a dysfunctional family, or when you have survived violence and abuse, and needing special care.

And there is no facility, no one to help. The odds are already stacked up so high. Maybe it's better to just give up, and maybe it's easier to end it all.

That's despair.

That's why across the world, suicides are twice as likely in rural, remote, underprivileged communities than in urban and affluent communities.

So how do we help?

We can't wait for despair to consume a life, we can't wait for people to be on the verge of ending their lives, to finally be willing to step out.

At RADION, early intervention is about this. Treating a wound before it festers; to bring life when death awaits.

To do that, it **requires intentional kindness** from all of us here. And for the Christians reading this - it's a call to live out our faith - not just in words, but in deeds.

At RADION, we do not just have a working hypothesis or proof of concept. But rather, 16 years of seeing incredible transformation in the lives of our StreetKIDS.

We more help is needed to scale up - to save more precious lives, and more importantly create safer communities through restoration.

After reading, I hope that you wouldn't just go away making a one-time gift to a meaningful work; or setting aside a percentage of your business profit; or allocating a bigger missions budget to the work.

Of course, that is what I hope you will do.

But beyond that, I would like you to consider being actively involved in our work - to come visit, learn, and join us in making a difference

Let's go forth, and leave a lasting legacy of Hope.

KNOW : VOLUNTOURISM? NO THANKS.

"Volun-tourism" is **a disturbing trend** in the social work sector that is often fueled by first world demands - demands to provide participants with a quick-fix "feel-good" experience - in the shortest time, and at the lowest cost.

Volunteers come back patting their backs about how much they have done, how poor the people are, how privileged they are to be born in the first world, and collecting pictures of poor children from these trips, and posting them on Facebook like trophies after a hunt.

There is something **gravely wrong when we quantify our successes by how much we have done and accomplished on a mission, instead of how much the locals have benefited.**

But wait ... surely the locals must have benefited!

Buried at the backs of our minds is this flawed belief that "Something is better than nothing". We believe that anything we bring to the table is of great value to the locals - be it teaching English for 2 days, helping a farmer plant rice, build a house, etc. etc.

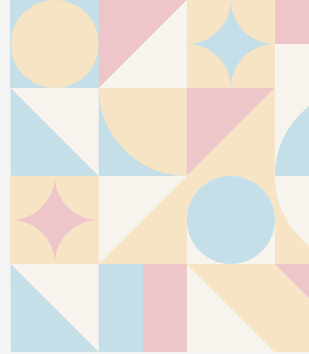
What most people don't see is this.



Quietly behind the scenes after a volunteer leaves, you see children who are still unable to speak any English, but can recite A-Z without blinking an eye - especially after their 20th "basic english class".

You'll see farmers looking at their fields in despair, wondering if there will be enough to harvest after the volunteers had planted everything wrongly... *(continue on next page)*

VOLUN-TOURISM. NO THANKS.



(continued)...Or families pointing to that newly built house had to be torn down after volunteers leave as the structure was built haphazardly, and is too dangerous to live in.

These trips get as cheap as SGD400 for an entire week. But think about the harm it can cause, just to bring us this feel-good experience.

We advocate against volun-tourism/hit-and-run type of missions because we've seen the damage it caused, how locals are left to pick up the pieces and the community spirals further down the poverty cycle.

We can travel cheaply and quickly to gain as much experience as we can, but not at the expense of the locals.

RADION's trips are not cheap because we choose not to cut corners, exploit the locals, or provide sub-standard services to our beneficiaries.

We ensure that surpluses are all plowed back into micro-enterprises, building projects and ensuring sustainability for the people who serve alongside us - so they can sustain themselves and their families.

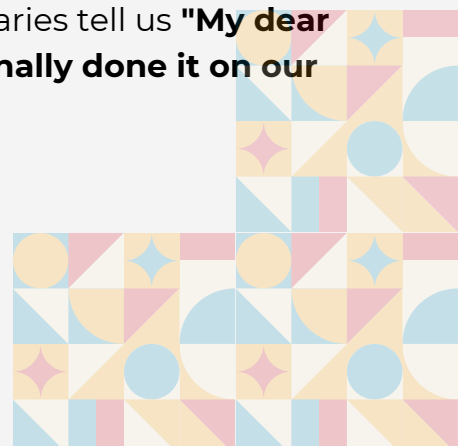


In short term/Hit-and-run mission, time is often limited and we are forced to be so task oriented that we forget that it's the people that matters most.

It's likened to seeing a child struggling to tie his/her shoelace. We often jump right in to help tie it, not so much as to help the child, but simply because it will be faster and more convenient for us to do so.

To bring about sustainable change, we need to be ready to inconvenience ourselves, and take more time so we can effectively partner the community to build the tomorrow they dream about.

We are only successful when we have built lasting friendship and trust and when the beneficiaries tell us **"My dear friend, we have finally done it on our own!"**





IN A NUTSHELL

3 HIGHLIGHTS IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS

1 COMMUNITY LEADERS FELLOWSHIP (SEP)

We are privileged to chair and put together a collaborative platform for churches, schools and grassroots organisations to come together and work on social concern projects.

2 COMMUNITY HEALTH RESEARCH (JUL)

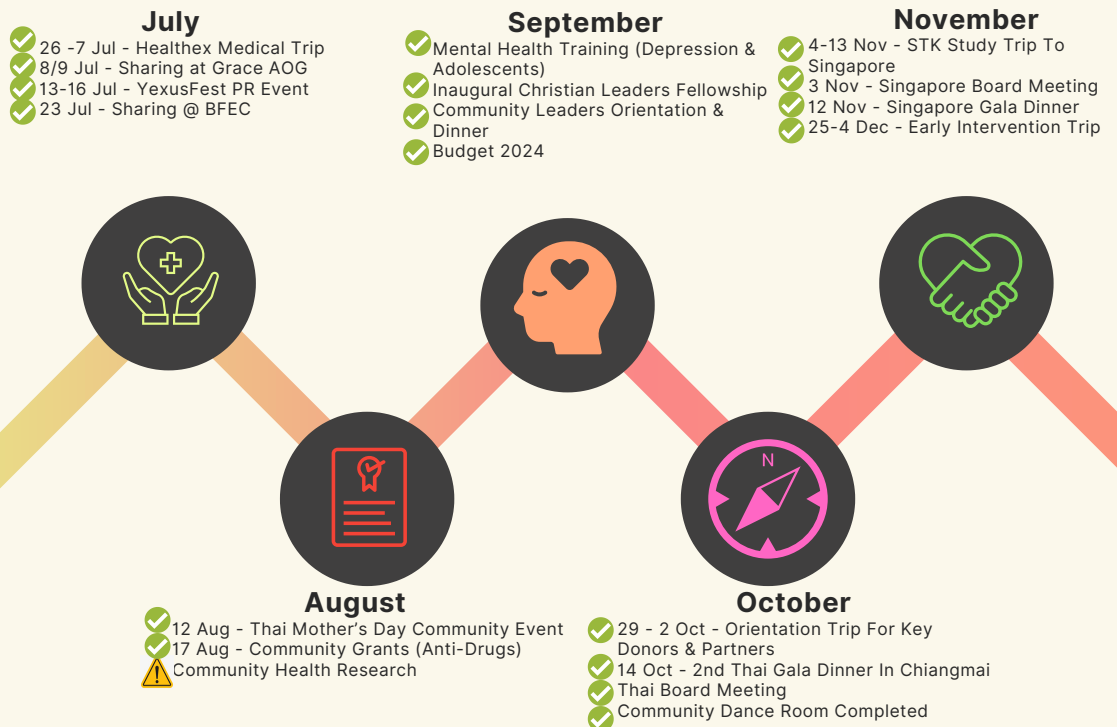
1,329 students from the largest public school have participated in this survey, to allow us to understand family stressors, substance use, and mental health challenges.

3 INAUGURAL MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING IN CHIANGMAI

RADION Hope Center launches its first mental health training to strengthen social safety nets for children at risk. The inaugural training focused on early identification of depression in children.



From July to December 2023, we have impacted a total of 5,334 lives, through our array of short term relief & long term development programmes.



JUL-DEC IMPACT REPORT



63 Youth & Students

Community Outreach

3,615

1,656 Crisis Relief

“ the gospel widely heard and deeply felt. ”

December

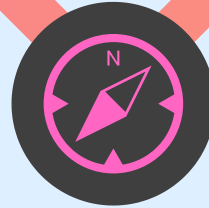
- ✓ Education & Early Intervention Camp
- Hope Mentorship Camp
- Project LIGHT Medical Trip
- Christmas Outreach In Khek Noi

February

- Expansion of STK1 living quarters & Field Office 5 Year Maintenance
- Transition to solar power for Chiangmai Center
- Valentine Day Outreach

April

- Orientation Trip For Key Donors & Partners
- Combined Board Meeting
- Songkran Fundraising Trip

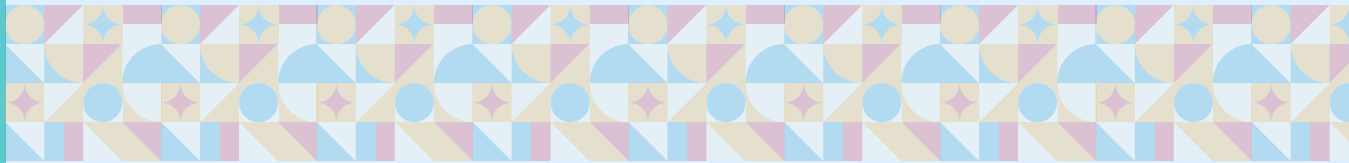


January

- New Year Celebrations at STK Chiangmai
- Staff Planning & Training
- Presentation of research findings to community leaders
- Special Merchdrop for donors
- Education & Early Intervention Camp (BFEC)

March

- External Audit
- Education & Early Intervention Camp (Needed!)
- Q1 Newsletter & Annual Report Preparation



2024	Name	Status	Objective	Activities	Location
Jan	Construction Manpower Support (Phase 1)	Open	Paving of road. From main access road to Entrance	Building Project	Thailand (Chiangmai)
Mar	Education & Early Intervention (2/4)	Open	Educational exposure for village children, while assisting local teams to identify children at risk (40-60kids)	Organising 3D2N Children Village Outreach Community Engagement	Thailand (Phetchabun)
	Construction Manpower Support (Phase 2)	Open	Paving from Gate to STK Accom	Building Project	Thailand (Chiangmai)
	Medical Mission (1/4)	Open	To provide medical care for underserved communities. Patient Load approx 300 pax	Mobile Clinics Community Engagement	Thailand (Phetchabun)
Apr	Vision Trip (5D4N)	By Invite	For existing and new donors to get a glimpse the work in Thailand	Village Outreach Community Development StreetKIDS	Thailand (Both Sites)
Jun	Education & Early Intervention (3/4)	Open	Educational exposure for village children, while assisting local teams to identify children at risk (40-60kids)	Organising 3D2N Children Village Outreach Community Engagement	Thailand (Phetchabun)



TESTIMONIALS



EXCEPTIONAL

10D9N LEARNING JOURNEY
24 NOV-4 DEC 2023

9.7



It has been **a life-changing glimpse of heaven!** Almost 1 week later, I'm still processing all that I've seen and experienced. God broke my heart for what breaks his, as I hear about the pain that the children have gone through.

Yet Radion has been a place where the **children can find new hope and life**, and go on a different path from what their past has set. Each of the children is treated as precious and created in the image of God, and the Radion team pours out their lives to love and care for the children so that they can blossom into who God created them to be.

Coming from bible school, this trip has helped me to see how classroom theory learning can be connected with practical on-the-ground ministry....

I've learnt about culture and adaptation, but my first time sharing the gospel and doing an altar call was more difficult than expected, having to figure out how to connect with the children without watering down the truth. Eugene repeatedly encouraged us **to pray and wait on God**, which reminded me of what was most important.

It was a very important experience of seeing how my SBC training is helpful as a starting point, but there's much more that all the training won't give me, that I can only get from dependence on God and sensitivity to His leading.



ANGIE NG, POST-GRAD (SINGAPORE BIBLE COLLEGE)



EXCEPTIONAL

10D9N LEARNING JOURNEY
24 NOV-4 DEC 2023

9.5



.... I've **learnt so many life lessons that I didn't even know I needed to learn**, many of which come from the interactions with the villagers and the children.

I've been so **greatly touched** by these actions as I discover how God is working in each of the lives in Khek Noi.

The heart and the intention behind Radion is **so inspiring** as each and every one of the staff is **so dedicated** to God's work as they lay down their lives for Him.



MISHA KAI ANG, STUDENT



EXCEPTIONAL

10D9N LEARNING JOURNEY
24 NOV-4 DEC 2023

9.3



It's been a privilege to have spent the past 10D9N with Radion. I've received and been blessed more than what I can give.

This trip has **opened my eyes** to see how God works in and through individuals here. Being limited with my language, resources and even my own abilities, the only thing I could rely on was God.

When my heart gets to the right place with God, everything else falls in place. The time away from the bustling Singapore and sitting with God is the **greatest gift from this trip**.



Come and taste what the Thai would say..
"Jai Yen".. stop rushing and look at His beautiful creation among the Hmong people
:)

CYNTHIA NG, SOCIAL WORKER

Blessed Christmas

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." - John 14:27



This art is created by one of child beneficiaries of the StreetKIDS - Child Rescue & Recovery Programme.



Mission Learning Journeys & Internships

Heard our volunteers raving about our mission learning journey and would like to bring a team of learners up? Here's how!

Contact : general@radion-international.org

Financial Giving, Sponsorships & Legacy Planning

- 1. StreetKIDS Fund.** Supports child-rescue, recovery costs and other emergency needs that a child may need.
- 2. Community Outreach Fund.** Provides training, education and community grants to help uplift communities.
- 3. General Fund.** To wherever its needed the most.

Contact : edward.lam@radion-international.org to know more



PayNow transfer using RADION's UEN: 201025815E

OR

Bank Transfer To
DBS Account: 003-914854-2

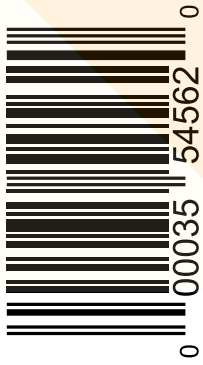
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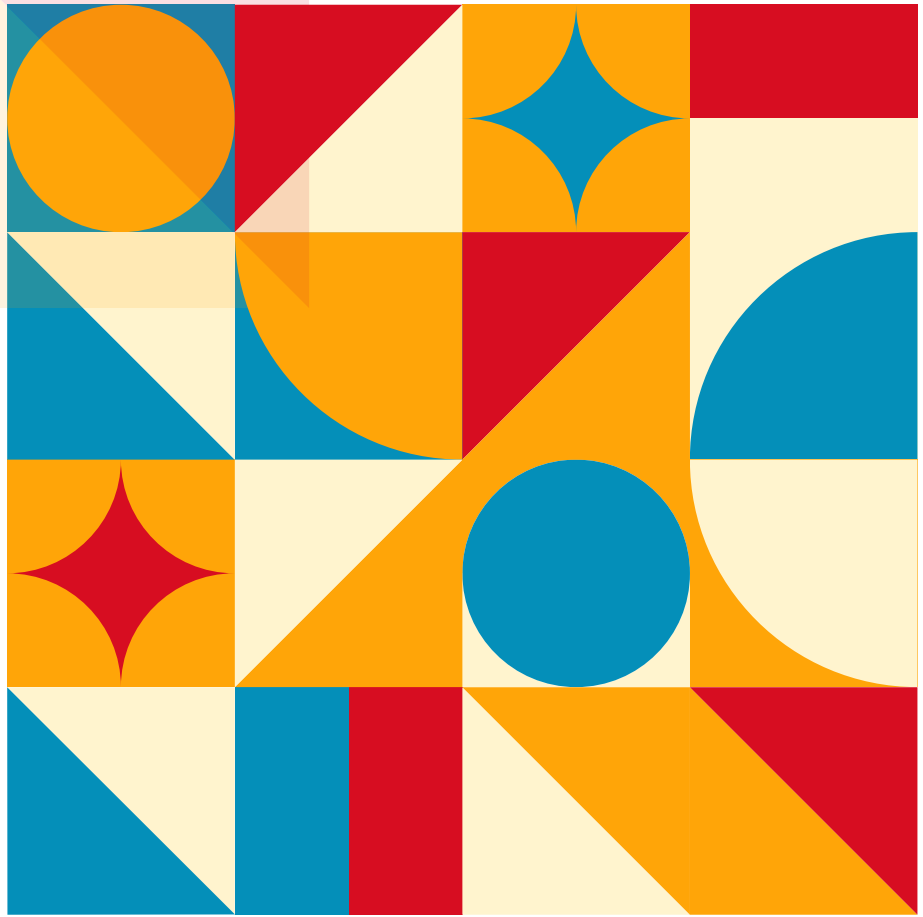
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JOURNEYS

JUL
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RADION
INTERNATIONAL

RADION International is a Christian relief and development agency dedicated to serving the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, empowering them to overcome poverty and oppression.

RADION stands for RADIATING MISSION
We want to radiate love and care to the ones who need them most, not just through words but with actions.

Special Consultative
Status with the
United Nations
(Economic & Social
Council)



www.radion-international.org