

JOURNEYS

ISSUE 3 (JAN 2025)

OUR WORLD

LEARN IS OUR WORLD
DROWNING?
ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2H 2024

WITNESS PROGRAMMES IN
PICTURES
IN A NUTSHELL
OUR IMPACT

SCALE UP YOUR IMPACT WITH US

PARTNER ROADMAP & OPPORTUNITIES
TESTIMONIALS
CONTACT & PARTNER US



IN SPITE OF...

Dear friends, donors and benefactors,

In the last 6 months, we have been seeing unprecedented breakthroughs across all our ministries: our StreetKIDS programme **expanded by up to 150%**, more community **first responders have been trained** & equipped, we have seen a **surge of local volunteers** coming alongside us, and our year-end Christmas celebration reached 667 lives - **exceeding our current hall's capacity by more than two-fold**.

These are things that we have not seen in the past 17 years of ministry; and they have all happened in the last year. It has been almost like a new breath of air filling our lungs!

But the year wasn't all easy - to say the least. Chiangmai was hit by the most severe flooding in recent history, reaching depths of 5.2m. Cars were submerged, water levels were neck-deep for some of our neighbours, and our premise was not spared either. **It was deeply painful.**

There is an ongoing narrative about how we ought to serve God with our surpluses - of time, talents and treasures. This is correct, but incomplete; **because what we do, in spite of the circumstances, is what defines us as Christians.**

In the midst of the flooding, our colleagues went out, door to door, to ensure that none of our elderly neighbours were stranded, that every family had enough clean drinking water, and made sure that even the poorest had a mosquito net to brace themselves for the surge of insect-borne diseases.

They went, **simply believing that this is the very thing that He would do.** And as much as our colleagues poured out their lives, you too came alongside us - pouring out your heart and resources, enabling us to reach more than 4,453 lives through the crisis.

As you look through the following pages, may your hearts be encouraged and faith strengthened. I have also penned 2 writings that may be helpful for those who are thinking of serving, or are rethinking missions.

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of JOURNEYS!

Eugene Wee
Founder & Executive Director
RADION International

KNOW: IS OUR WORLD DROWNING?

Disasters: earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, wild fires; displaced people, refugees, violence.

These are often the things you will see on the newspapers, TV and perhaps on your social media feeds.

The world can feel bleak, the needs overwhelming. Just how bad is our world?

If you asked any group, an overwhelming percentage of people will tell you that the world is getting worse by the day.

And if you ask any group of Christians, we will view it as a sign that this world is not meant for us.



But is the world truly getting worse?

Actually on the contrary - it's actually getting better, according to a multi-year research by Dr Hans Rosling, a Swedish professor, scientist and researcher.

In his award-winning book "FACTFULNESS" he offers a pop quiz of the world, backed by real world data.

The results are remarkable.

A few key points from the research show that

- in the last 20 years, extreme poverty has almost halved
- deaths per year from natural disasters have decreased 75% in the last 100 years, and
- more than 85.3% of the world have some access to electricity

What this means is that :

More people are surviving disasters, more deaths are being prevented, more children are surviving life-threatening diseases and now, more infants are surviving not just because there are incubators, but also electricity to power these life support machines.

The world is indeed more hopeful, despite and in spite of what we read on the news every day.

So why does our newsfeed contradict these real world statistics?

Simply because the mundane, the regular, the simple acts of kindness, don't attract as much attention, as sensational stories.

KNOW: IS OUR WORLD DROWNING?

But yet, it is in the mundane, the routine, the slow passage of time, that good work is truly been done.

Love not so much a dramatic event, rather than a series of quiet, mundane sacrifices, over a period of time. - The gentle hands of love, the consistent love of a mother, a father, quietly sacrificing material comfort for their children.

That's the same love that perhaps Christ has for us; the same love that works behind the scenes, changing our world, saving lives, transforming communities while we slumber.

The world is indeed hopeful (more hopeful than we dared to believe); but do we notice it? Do we see the hands of God through the passages of time?

Maybe this verse from the bible is apt.

*Isaiah 43:18-19 "**Forget** the former things; **do not dwell** on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it **springs up**; do you not perceive it? I am **making a way** in the wilderness and **streams** in the wasteland."*

This is a call for us, to re-examine our worldview, and prepare ourselves - for something is (already) happening!

Note what is said.

"Forget the former things" - our presuppositions, our assumptions and perhaps our worldview.

"do not dwell..." - do not persist, linger and hang on to things of the past

"see, i am doing a new thing" - a call for us to witness, to watch carefully

"..It springs up" - it's coming forth, it's unexpected.



Something is happening! Let's read on

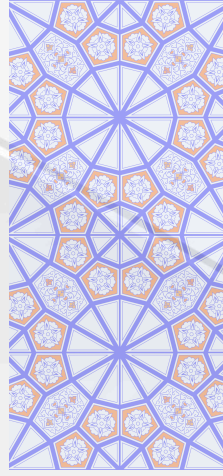
"I'm making a way" **He** is creating

- way in the wilderness (inroads into new areas),
- streams in the wastelands (restoration in places of brokenness)

God is actively at work, not passively. God has not left the world to dwindle, quite the opposite.

And for me it's clear, if the Lord is all out, for the good of the people, so am I! Take heart my friends. This is just the beginning!

LEARN: ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Before we can talk about asset-based community development, we need to talk about what the opposite is.

It is called deficit-based community development, and we are all guilty of this at some point of our lives.

To be deficit-based is to focus on identifying and servicing needs.

Asset-based community development (ABCD), by contrast, builds on the assets that are found in the community, mobilizing individuals and groups to realise and develop their strengths.

In short, it's working to uplift the community for the long haul, rather than just providing short-term, interim and temporal aid.

DEFICIT-BASED VS ASSET-BASED

	Deficit Based	Asset Based
Approach	Identify Needs What are the problems? What is missing?	Identify Strengths, capacity and assets What are the possibilities? What's there?
Control	Control-Outside In Top Down	Lead by stepping back Inside out
Ownership	Donor led Drive Change. Do For. Blame	Community led Nurture Lives. Do with. Shared ownership
Views Of Each Other		
Donors	Controllers/Managers	Partners & Friends
Beneficiaries	Clients/passive receivers	Contributors
Outcomes		
Result	When donors leave, programmes cease and community regresses back.	Community is gradually uplifted, and over time, donors can channel support to other areas
	Not sustainable	More sustainable & impactful
Cost	Short haul	Takes time, dedication, and a deep love for lives



LEARN: ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

So what does asset-based community development look like at RADION?

Many years ago, we noticed that 7 in 10 elderly patients came to our clinics with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) - a disease affecting the lungs, and most often seen amongst heavy smokers.

What caught our attention was that the majority of these patients were non-smokers. So where did the COPD come from?

So we decided to investigate - visiting the families, the living conditions, seeking to understand the culture.

Families will live in a wooden shed, having a shared bed, and right next to the bed was a fireplace, that served as a kitchen as well as a warmer.

And there it was - a humble metal ring that served as prop to hold up pots while the firewood burns beneath it.



The fireplace will be left burning right at the bedside, with the ash filling the lungs of the families that lay their heads to rest.

We asked if the villagers would be able to move the stove out of the house, however the response was always the same - that if they left the metal ring outside the house, it will be stolen. That metal ring was worth a day's wage or more.

So together with our teams, we started an initiative, to encourage families to put these stoves outside their homes, and should a ring go missing, we would pay for a new one!

Gradually families moved their stoves out, and the number of rings that were stolen were none. For everyone had a ring of their own.

This simple initiative, had a dramatic impact on the community's health. We saw a 90% reduction in COPD cases.

And today, villagers are helping to spread the word, encouraging each other to keep these fireplaces away from their beds.

This is how missions can be both intentional and effective!



IN A NUTSHELL

3 HIGHLIGHTS IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS

FLOOD CRISIS RELIEF (CHIANGMAI)

Chiangmai was hit by the worst flooding disaster in 40 years. With flood waters reaching 5.2m, and devastating large swaths of Chiangmai. Our relief teams were on station for 3 months, supporting the community and impacted more than 4,453 lives

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

An additional 38 emergency workers and community first responders were trained by our teams.

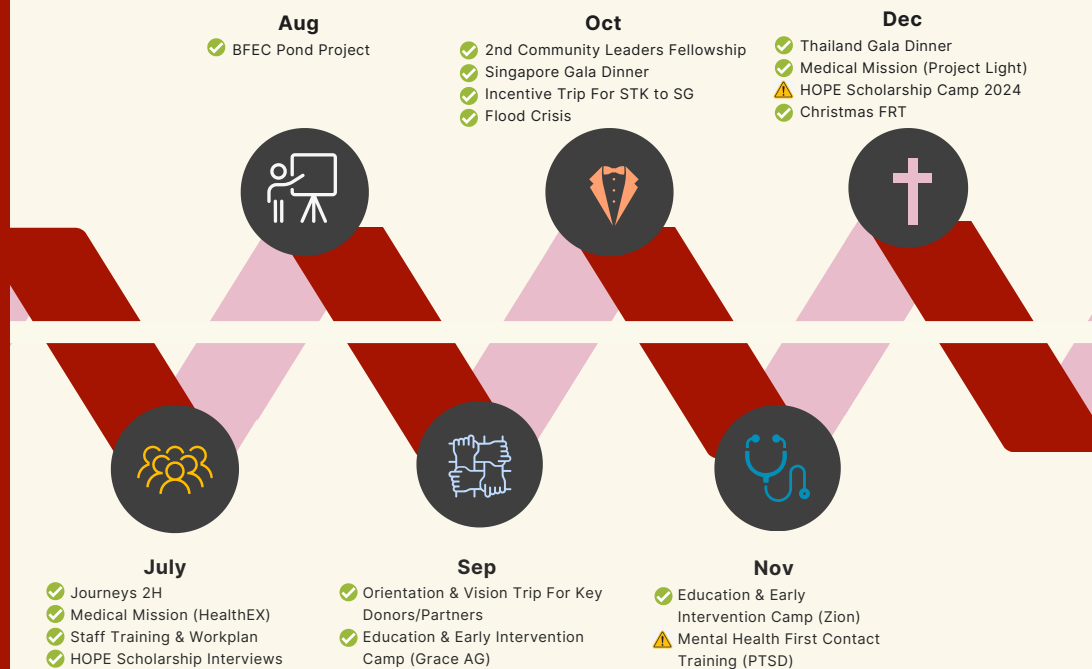
Each first responder trained and equipped, is one step closer to a safer community

CHRISTMAS & ANTI-DRUGS DANCE COMPETITION

667 people joined us for our annual dance competition and Christmas celebrations, marking our biggest participation for a single outreach event.

This event also saw the largest turn out of local volunteers joining in to make the event possible

From July to December 2024, we have impacted a total of 10,619 lives, through our array of short-term relief & long-term development programmes.



JUL-DEC IMPACT REPORT

78

Youth & Students

Community Outreach

6,088

4,453

Crisis Relief

“the gospel widely heard and deeply felt.”

MINISTRY ROADMAP

Mar

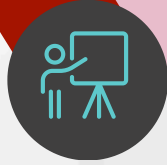
- Architectural planning for STK Chiangmai Expansion
- Learning Journey (BFEC)
- Education & Early Intervention Camp

May

- Mission Learning Journey (SBC)
- Education & Early Intervention Camp
- Planning for STK

Jul

- Education & Early Intervention Camp (Grace AG)
- Mental Health First Contact Training
- Internship Window 2
- Staff Training



Feb

- 5 Year maintenance for Dream Center
- Valentine's Day Outreach
- Staff Retreat & Training
- HOPE Scholarship PR Window
- Internship Window 1



Apr

- Vision Trip & Combined Board Meeting
- Songkran FRT
- Education & Early Intervention Camp (STK2-3) + Hope Camp 3
- Mental Health First Contact Training (Childhood Trauma & PTSD)
- Ministry Evening 2025



Jun

- HOPE Scholarship 2025 Interviews
- Medical Mission (HealthEx)



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Mar	Education & Early Intervention (2/6) 22-31 March	Booked	Educational exposure for village children, while assisting local teams to identify children at risk (40-60kids)	Organising 3D2N Children's camp Village Outreach Community Engagement	Thailand (Phetchabun)
	Construction Manpower Support (Phase 2)	Open	Paving from Gate to STK Accom	Building Project	Thailand (Chiangmai)
Apr	Combined Board Meeting (6-8 Apr)	By Invite	Board & Advisors to visit the field	NIL	Thailand (Both Sites)
	Vision Trip (4D3N) - 4-7 Apr	By Invite	For existing and new donors to get a glimpse the work in Thailand	Village Outreach Community Development StreetKIDS	Thailand (Both Sites)
	5D4N Songkran Festival FRT - 12-16 Apr	Open (Public)	Celebrating the Thai New Year with the StreetKIDS	Excursion & Games	Thailand (Chiangmai)
	Education & Early Intervention Camp 17 Apr- 28 Apr 24 (+STK 2-3) (3/6)	Open (Internal)	Educational exposure for village children, while assisting local teams to identify children at risk (40-60kids)	Organising 3D2N Children's camp Village Outreach Community Engagement	Thailand (Phetchabun)
	Ministry Evening - 25/26 Apr	By Invite	Connecting with mission trippers, church partners and coming together	Worship, Ministry Update, Prayer, Fellowship	Singapore
May	Construction Manpower Support (Phase 3)	Open	Paving Of Roundabout + Basketball Court	Building Project	Thailand (Chiangmai)
Jun	Education & Early Intervention (4/6) (24-2 June)	Booked	Educational exposure for village children, while assisting local teams to identify children at risk (40-60kids)	Organising 3D2N Children's camp Village Outreach Community Engagement	Thailand (Phetchabun)
	Medical Mission (2/4) - 19-30 June	Booked	To provide medical care for underserved communities. Patient Load approx 300 pax	Mobile Clinics Community Engagement	Thailand (Phetchabun)

TESTIMONIALS

EXCELLENT
GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
28-7 OCT 2024 **9.7**

"This mission learning journey is my first, and has been an eye-opening experience.

It reminded me of the importance of slowing down, taking in the moment, and appreciating God's beauty in the world around us.

This trip has not only impacted my perspective of life but also deepened my gratitude and awareness of Him."

★★★★★
Tania Fong, 18
Student

www.radion-international.org

EXCELLENT
PROJECT LIGHT
16-23 DEC 2024 **9.9**

This is my second trip with Radion and it was a more heartwarming experience than the first. During one of the home visits, at the end after we prayed, the villager said, "I am not a Christian, but all of you still visit, care and pray for me." This reminded me so much of why we serve, that is because God first loved us that we are able to love others. "1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us". The friendliness and warmth of the staff of Radion exemplify the fellowship of the believers as described in Acts 2:42-47 and it is a humble reflection of how I as part of the church and body of Christ should be. Keep up the good work in Christ, Radion!

Kah Mun, 36
Pharmacist

EXCELLENT
GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
28-7 OCT 2024 **10.0**

"Radion loves people in a unique way. Truly serving God and people honestly. Radion staff are brave, compassionate and simply wonderful.

The learning journey has allowed me to witness unconditional love, and how God can use the little you have, to impact lives.

I would highly recommend people to go for this learning journey."

★★★★★
Kelvin Tan, 28
Engineer

www.radion-international.org

VERY GOOD
GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
28-7 OCT 2024 **8.9**

"I thought that this missions trip would be like another trip ...but I was wrong... the component of spending time with the Lord to hear what He wanted to speak to us both personally and for the ministry was so important.

The trip was both a personal retreat and ministry. The encounters with God during this trip were so precious to me.

Thank you Radion for this wonderful Missions Learning Journey!

★★★★★
Shirley Mak, 55
Ministry Administrator, Grace
Assembly Of God

www.radion-international.org

EXCELLENT
PROJECT LIGHT
16-23 DEC 2024 **9.6**

This was my third trip to Khek Noi, but my first trip as team lead for our Project Light team of 10. Despite this being my third trip, it never gets easier seeing the plight of the Hmong people, and hearing their backstory once again.

It is heartwarming though, to see some of the same patients as from the previous years, progressing and benefiting from our past efforts. We give what we can, in the time that we have, with whatever resources we are given, to the best of our abilities. Because every life matters.

Dr Eileen Soon, 34
Medical Director

EXCELLENT
HEALTHX (PROJECT PHETCHABUN)
24-5 JUL 2024 **9.1**

"I came for the trip hoping to learn more about community development, mission work and caring for those that are struggling and I was not disappointed.

I learnt and experienced so much from the team and gained lifelong lessons about how we should care deeply about people and how we can do that with a gospel centred mindset.

The team has been so helpful and wise in teaching and helping us learn more about the Hmong culture and the work that they do! A truly unforgettable experience that I hope to use when I see how God can use my life to glorify his name!"

★★★★★
Dr Daniel Tan,
Medical Doctor

www.radion-international.org

EXCELLENT
PROJECT LIGHT
16-23 DEC 2024 **9.7**

During this trip, it made me understand the villagers (how they live and their lives) and how we can help them. It opened my eyes to the world outside of Singapore and made me realise that I can do something to help others. It also made me realise on how privileged we are and made me start appreciating little things in life.

I was so excited to come for the trip again as it had positively impacted my life last year. Would recommend to everyone!

Mavis Chia, 28
Occupational Therapist

EXCELLENT
GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
28-7 OCT 2024 **10.0**

"It has been a meaningful experience that is life changing. This trip has made me realise more about who God is and how He is ever present.

Learning to slow down and notice little things that I never did, revealed so much about myself that I never knew.

It has also allowed me to recognise God's voice much clearer and has pushed me to desire more of Him, and to see Him at work anywhere I go."

★★★★★
Melody Tay, 17
Singaporean Student

www.radion-international.org

EXCELLENT
HEALTHX (PROJECT PHETCHABUN)
24-5 JUL 2024 **9.9**

"... Hospitality, availability to speak with us explaining issues, addressing the heart of the issues faced in community, leading by example in sincerity & hard work

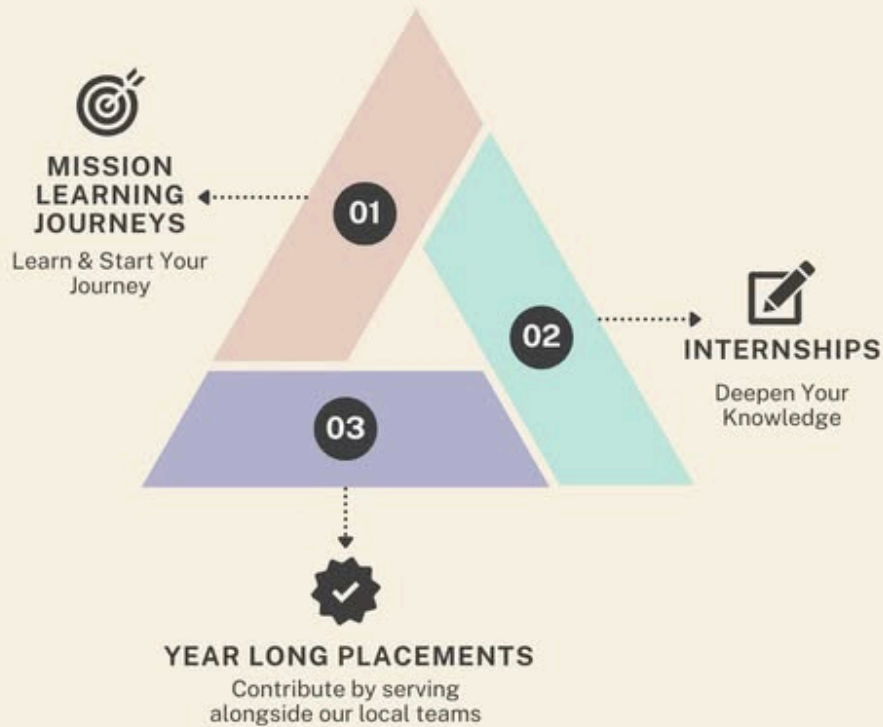
I saw God using regular people as his hands and feet, to show love to each person they met."

★★★★★
Dr Dawn Chueh, Medical Doctor
Chairperson Healthx International

www.radion-international.org



3 WAYS YOU CAN VOLUNTEER WITH US



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.

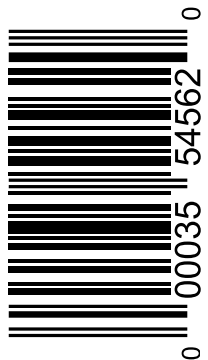
Contact : edward.lam@radion-international.org to know more



PayNow transfer using
RADION's UEN: 201025815E

Bank Transfer To
DBS Account: 003-914854-2

Please indicate the fund, and send us a screenshot of the transfer to general@radion-international.org



JOURNEYS

JUL
DEC.
24



RADION International is a Christian relief & development organization, dedicated to serving vulnerable and needy communities.




Our key programmes include child-rescue, community development and crisis relief.

RADION International is also a multi award-winning organisation in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC).

*RADION stands for **RADIATING MISSION**.
Our name encapsulating what we believe in living out our faith, not just in words but in actions.*



Follow Us

-  @radioninternational
-  @radion.intl
-  radion-international.org
-  @radionintl
-  +65 8842 3380