



The Patersons

Steve & Sarah with Daniel & Eden
OMF International



The Clarks

Ben & Melinda with Kensie & Savannah
Thailand



The McKellehers

Will & Edna with Joshua
Taiwan



H & S with JJ, ES, MZ & CJ
South East Asia



The Youngs

JT & Queenie with Micah & Isabel
Thailand



SPIRIT LED

WIC MISSIONSFEST 2021

Imagine you are one of the disciples gathered together listening to Jesus speak these beautiful words:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

Then, as soon as He speaks these words, He is taken up before you in a cloud. What thoughts and feelings would be running through your heart and mind?

Here are some thoughts I imagine the disciples may have had:

“But Jesus, how will we do this without you?”

“Lord, where do we start?”

“What about all those who are against us?”

Yet the mission of God continued advancing through the disciples by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit!

As the gospel continued to spread like fire through Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and then beyond, the same pattern would arise:

- Obstacles arose to prevent the gospel from spreading
- The Holy Spirit would:
 - lead, guide and empower the disciples and
 - reveal His power and presence to restore and transform people
- The disciples would persevere with the gospel with the help of the Spirit
- Many more would be added to the church



From the beginning, the church has always faced obstacles in proclaiming the gospel and advancing the mission of God.

So even though COVID impacts God's mission, it will not impede it!

We are even more aware that in this season, we need the leading, guidance and power of the Holy Spirit to creatively and faithfully proclaim the gospel and advance His kingdom locally and globally.

We need "Spirit LED Missions", and this is our Missionsfest theme for 2021!

Our prayer is that over this next season, you will join us in raising the base level and intensity of prayer for missions globally in our congregation; that together we will see a significant increase in creative hands-on partnership in missions initiatives; and lastly that we will increase our personal partnership with the Holy Spirit in living out our unique mission calling!

Let's pray together and urge each another on in this Global Gospel Mission of God!

Love,

Ps Andy

(On behalf of the Missions Committee and Pastoral Team)



A photograph of a vast field of wheat under a cloudy sky. A faint rainbow is visible in the background. The text "missionaries on the field" is overlaid in the center.

**missionaries
on the field**



The Patersons



Steve & Sarah with Daniel & Eden
OMF International

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Sarah is the Ministry Leader for OMF in NSW/ ACT, overseeing a team who run short term missions, mission promotion, mentoring people interested in long term cross-cultural work and caring for missionaries when they return to Australia. Over the past year Covid has significantly impacted international travel, making short term mission impossible and creating challenges for long term missionaries wanting to return. Praise God that all the families wanting to return to Australia have, despite flight cancelations, made it back. A number of opportunities for ministry have opened up online including speaking at conferences, running workshops and doing mentoring. Some people hoping to go to the field this year have needed to postpone their plans but we keep praying and praising God for new people who are on track to go overseas in a couple of years.

Steve enjoys opportunities to walk with, or catch up on Zoom with, guys on home assignment. He continues as Household Manager, including caring for the kids. He recently celebrated the third birthday of his nature photography business, Steve Paterson Photography. Steve's photography has provided him with many opportunities to connect with people in the community, with the highlight of the past year being The Beauty on Our Doorstep, a photographic exhibition at home. The people he meets at Hunts Creek, where he exercises and takes photos are often open to chat. Steve is always on the lookout for ways to gently share his faith, particularly through his photography.



The Patersons



Steve & Sarah with Daniel & Eden
OMF International

Daniel is currently in Year 11 at Rivendell School and Eden is in Year 7 at Muirfield High School. Daniel has grown his hair long during lockdown and loves playing the ukulele, both at home and at school. Eden has adapted well to high school, making a number of new friends and enjoying the variety of subjects. She continues to love reading and drawing.

Thank you for your support and prayers.
Steve, Sarah, Daniel and Eden

Prayer points:

- *Please pray for stamina and patience with the challenges of lockdown and chances to rest*
- *Pray that enquirers may continue to come forward to test their mission calling*
- *Pray for wisdom and guidance for Sarah as she leads the team in uncertain times*
- *Please pray for good emotional and spiritual help for all of our family*
- *Pray for deepening of relationships and more opportunities for Steve to share his faith*



We are Ben, Melinda, Kensie (aged 8) and Savannah (nearly 5), and we are currently in the US (Ben's home country) preparing to head to Thailand whenever our travel permits come through.

Over the last year, the Lord has been cultivating patience in us as we wait for his timing for us to move as well as peace to trust him amid uncertainties and setbacks. We have also been learning to persevere in faithfulness to the calling he has given us.

The Lord has also filled us with much joy as we look ahead to the work that he has prepared for us in Asia. Our ministry will be in training and equipping those who work with Tibetan Buddhists. Our tasks will include planning conferences for Christian workers, coordinating Christian literature translation projects, mentoring young Tibetan believers, running song writing workshops for Tibetan background believers, and developing prayer materials to help the worldwide church pray for Tibetans. There aren't many Tibetans living in Thailand, but it will be our base from which we will travel to six other countries in Asia to connect with people who are reaching Tibetan Buddhists and to conduct training courses and conferences.

God gave us a heart for Tibetan ministry many years ago. His Spirit has led us on a long journey across six countries and through multiple roles in mission. We're excited to see him leading us back to Asia to serve a people group we have loved for so long.



The Clarks



***Ben & Melinda with Kensie & Savannah
Thailand***

***to receive updates and give support:
benandmel.com/signup.***

We love seeing how God delights in including our gifts and skills (music, discipleship, encouragement, strategic planning, and administration) in his much larger work in the Tibetan Buddhist World.

We would be so grateful for your prayers as we continue this journey with the Lord

Please pray that:

- *God will draw many Tibetan Buddhists to himself.*
- *Tibetan Buddhist Background Christians will mature in their faith and in their love for God.*
- *The doors will open soon for us to move to Thailand. COVID-19 travel restrictions and other complications have delayed our move to Thailand.*
- *We will have good communication and lots of grace in our team relationships in Thailand.*
- *We will get off to a good start with Thai language study. Although we won't be ministering in Thai, we would like to gain some basic Thai language skills so that we can live there more comfortably.*
- *Our girls Kensie and Savannah will be built up in their resilience and that they will adjust well to life in Thailand.*
- *Our marriage will be strong and that we will lean on each other for support during these times.*
- *All four in our family will continually see more of the fruit of the Spirit in each of us as individuals and as a family.*





H & S with JJ, ES, MZ & CJ
South East Asia

to receive updates and give support:

handsintouch123@gmail.com



Dear church, greetings to you from our family in South-East Asia! It has been over two years since we have been home and how we miss Sydney and are looking forward to visiting families and friends when Covid situation has improved (we have no idea when that will be)!

Overseas travel has become difficult, if not impossible in many cases, during the pandemic. This poses a very big challenge to the work of mission, one of many. So has Covid brought the work of mission to a halt?

Not at all! Through His Spirit, God continues to lead His global mission! Not even Covid, with its far-reaching tentacles and deadly impact can stop God's Spirit at work! Let me share just two (of numerous) examples of how God's Spirit leads the work of mission – often unexpectedly, but wonderfully!

1. I have seen more people apply to go on long-term mission in the last 12 months even though travelling remains very difficult! We have had the privilege of preparing these brothers and sisters for the field (here's a photo of the recent cohort we have trained recently).
2. I have also noticed that the Spirit is leading us to change the way (for the better) we mobilise and equip new workers that we would not have even considered if not for Covid. We are learning to be more creative and to meaningfully engage with people digitally now that we can't travel.



Yes Covid is powerful. But God's plan is NOT hindered by this pandemic. We are invited to put our confidence in Him and let His Spirit lead us. Perhaps the Church has been given the opportunity to re-examine how we can serve differently because of Covid.

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Let me end with a story.

The captain of a ship looked into the dark night and saw a light in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message, "Alter your course ten degrees south." He promptly received a reply, "Alter your course ten degrees north."

The furious captain sent another message, "Alter your course ten degrees south. I am a captain!" Soon another reply was received, "Alter your course ten degrees north. I am seaman third class Jones."

The captain sent a final message, "Alter your course ten degrees south. I am a battleship." The reply was, "Alter your course ten degrees north. I am a lighthouse."

Jesus Christ is our solid Rock and He is the Lighthouse that doesn't change course, not even for Covid. Let's stand on this Solid Ground. All other ground is sinking sand.

Blessings and love to you from our family.

H, S, JJ, E, Mikey and CJ

August 2021

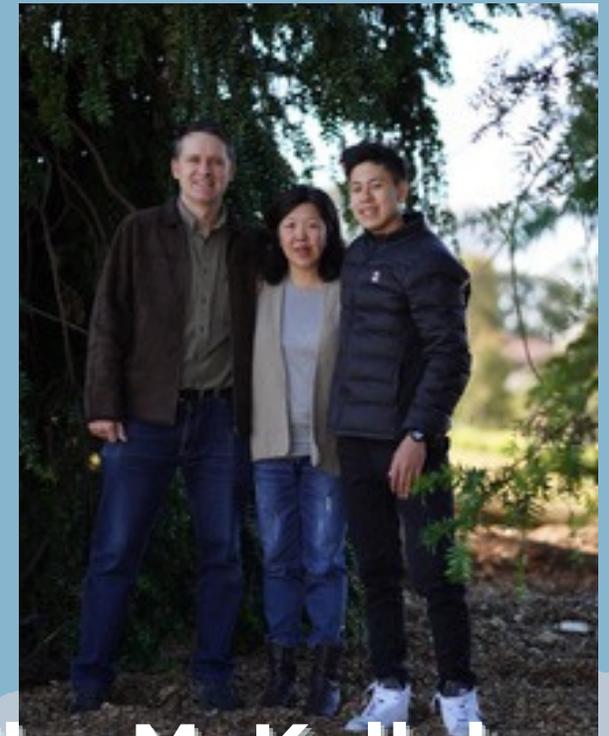


Will & Edna serve as missionaries with OMF in Taiwan. Their ministry focus is with marginalized peoples: Edna shares the gospel and practically assists older women working in Taipei's red light district. Will volunteers at a youth correctional facility and assists at a local church with evangelism, discipleship & preaching. Their son, Joshua (aged 15) is studying Grade 10.

What is Spirit led missions? It might be something small but significant: a prompting to contact someone; an urge to pray for another or share some truth of Christ. We have both seen Christ slowly transform people as we come alongside them, sharing Christ's love. Spirit led living also requires us to step out in faith believing God will guide as we move forward. For our family, moving to Taiwan to serve as missionaries involves both a knowing inside and a willingness to obey. As God's children this obedience to the Holy Spirit and witness of God at work, grows our faith and deepens our relationship with Him.



SPIRIT LED



The McKellehers *Will & Edna with Joshua* Taiwan

*to receive newsletter updates:
oneway@fastmail.fm.*



The Youngs

*JT & Queenie with Micah & Isabel
Thailand*

Email Contact: joongyoung@gmail.com

***For updates, please subscribe at the following
link: <http://eepurl.com/mjPBf>***

Thailand was a nation that God placed on my heart in 2002. It wasn't until ten years later that we took that step of faith as God led us to Isan, an underprivileged region in the northeastern part of Thailand. Initially, we achieved 30% of our goals, changing as we tried to establish what God wanted us to do. We can look back at the many things we tried and can only testify that many were God led, bringing us to where we are today. From accepting a child who didn't qualify for the program, only to walk alongside her a year later when her mother, her only carer, passed away from cancer. We continue to walk alongside her to this day as she pursues her higher education in accountancy.

From the numerous occasions when we as humans doubted that nothing could ever be done from that medical issue, only to be led by the Spirit to overcome the doubt with faith. This resulted in many being healed. From the tedious work that had to be done in obedience led to much excitement as we established a small spirit-filled village church of 40 members, having baptised 9 members early this year and seeing the importance of developing local leaders. We have since established 4 life groups as a strategic way to link new believers to the church.





The Youngs

*JT & Queenie with Micah & Isabel
Thailand*

Email Contact: joongyoung@gmail.com

***For updates, please subscribe at the following
link: <http://eepurl.com/mjPBf>***

We pray that God will continue to lead us into the next phase of our presence in the district of Suwannakhuha, Nong Bua Lam Phu. As a church, Sunshine Fellowship, with its leadership and members, has embraced the vision on local missions and praying for God's leading as we are praying to church plant in the neighbouring district of Na Wang. A place God has placed on our hearts when we first set foot into Suwannakhuha that we are to expand into other regions of Nong Bua Lam Phu. We want to be led by God in all we do but ask that you stand with us in prayer as we place a 5-year timeline to achieve a footing into this new district.

Covid has been a hard hit throughout the world; we are learning to embrace the numerous lockdowns amid a technologically challenged group in Suwannakhuha. Keep us in prayer as Thailand's leadership is currently losing its battle in contenting the impact and is unable to assist its people. Despite all that, we are thankful for all that God has done, and we continue to press on to the goal set out for us in Isan. While being led by Spirit, we have learnt that the race is not to the quick and the strong but to those who hold out. To keep striving and keep moving, as God wants us to keep working as He leads.

Blessings,
JT Young





**partner
organisations**





David & Beth Ryan
China, India, Indonesia
www.heartforkids.org

God has been really faithful to us as a team in Heart for Kids, and those whom we serve, during the last year. At the beginning of 2021 our board, Ken and Esther Lee, Tom and Adele Chan and myself, met for a time of prayer and planning, seeking God's leading for the ministry during the coming year and beyond. Six months later one person said..."I find it extraordinary that the planning & prayer time we had was confirmed so quickly!" God is indeed faithful.

Last year we faced many challenges in working remotely. How would we keep secure communications with our staff and partner organisations? We take Zooming for granted here in Australia but it's not been terribly secure in some countries. This year we have had to strengthen some of those areas due to concerning issues of local persecution but we are thankful that we have been able to maintain good communications.

God has continued to bless us with the resources to:

- Give many hundreds of COVID food parcels to families in India & Bali, probably the most needed area this year.
- Continue to run Child Development Centres around lockdowns
- Install water bores to provide safe drinking water in villages
- Shortly open a women's training centre teaching tailoring in India enabling women to gain an income to support their children
- Continue to run children's programs in urban slums in Bali along with a new English teaching initiative





James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



SPIRIT LED

See new leaders rise up following the devastating loss late last year of our loved mission partner and spiritual brother Ps. Wayan due to COVID. This hit everyone in the ministry very hard but God has brought the team through this and new leaders have stepped in and are doing really well.

See more children in China and India join our sponsorship family.

- Securely meet with our staff weekly to pray together, bring encouragement and training via video calls. Sometimes other volunteers have joined in these from the USA and England.

In all areas of the ministry, we have continually searched for God's leading and encouraged our co-workers to actively do the same. That together we would be a light in the areas where we serve. I believe this has been what's happened because we have seen lives changed in the physical sense and transformed eternally as decisions to follow Jesus have been made by children and their parents. Even by those not directly in our communities. We praise God for all the ways he has allowed us to serve through this year and we're extremely thankful for our partnership with Wesley International Congregation.

On the personal side Beth and I have welcomed our 2nd grandchild into the family last December and our "children"... Annika and Mathias, Kirsten and Adam (with Harlow and Arlen) and Jason have been doing well through this very challenging year.

Thank you so much for your prayers, encouragement and support.

David and Beth Ryan

Thank you, WIC, for partnering with Kidsreach Overseas Missions. Our work mainly focuses on Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Australia and NZ.

COVID-19 has affected everything, but an overwhelmingly positive has come out of it. The ever-increasing ability to use online platforms, combined with other technology, to communicate with even greater numbers than before COVID. It seems that travel, as it was pre-COVID, will not return for years, so our efforts have been to continue developing resources that will be helpful for online teaching and in a format that local people will be able to pick up and use in more significant numbers.

Papua New Guinea -

the work continues to thrive in the different areas Kidsreach works. We have been able to resource the local ministries with teaching materials and masks and be in contact to encourage and help.

Several disasters have rocked Indonesia in the last twelve months, added to the 100K deaths to COVID. Kidsreach has provided trauma packs for 1000s of children and presented training for the workers.



Keep safe in Papua New Guinea



Prevention material presented to children in Indonesia



With David & Thérèse Goodwin

Thanks to ZOOM, the School of Children's Ministry in Sri Lanka, a two-year Bible College program, has more students than ever before. Our team are also ministering in whatever way they can with practical help and food parcels. David will be lecturing over the coming months. Our building fund continues to grow – albeit slowly.

In Australia, Kidsreach has responded to the devastating floods in NSW earlier this year and the COVID crisis.

Prayer needs

Please pray especially for our workers in the various countries. They have much more significant challenges than we have in Australia.

Vernny – heading up Kidsreach in Indonesia, China and Malaysia.

Shanthi – our Kidsreach director in Sri Lanka, and her staff.

Vali – the Kids Keep Safe leader in PNG, her team of workers.

David – as he continues to write training material for the future.



The Kidsreach team delivering food parcels in Sri Lanka



what steps will you take to step deeper into Spirit LED Mission?

PRAY

- *Commit to regularly pray for Global Missions.*
- *Sign up for the WIC Missions monthly E-Prayer letter. Contact pearly.sim@gmail.com.*
- *Sign up for missionaries' newsletters and pray for them regularly.*
- *Adopt a missionary and a people group.*
- *Join or start a specific missions prayer group. This could be a starting point:
<https://omf.org/australia/nsw-prayer-groups/>*

SEND

- *Support a missionary with prayer and finances.*
- *Contribute to the WIC Missions Fund through your annual pledge or through online giving.*
- *Send care packages to missionaries and their families at special times of the year.*
- *Offer practical help to missionaries returning from the field for good or for home assignment.*
- *Connect with our missionaries at the next Zoom meeting in September.*

HELP/MOBILISE

- *Volunteer your time and skill to help a missionary, missions partner and/or agency.*
- *Help represent mission needs to the church.*
- *Volunteer with the Missions Committee.*
- *Invite a missionary or missions partner to speak with your life group or fellowship group.*
- *Invite another to attend a missions event.*
- *Partner with our mission projects in Sri Lanka and India.*

email andrew.chin@wesleymission.org.au to take a next step...



what steps will you take to step deeper into Spirit LED Mission?

LEARN

- *Attend a Missions conference (e.g. Reachout 11/9-12/9 <https://reachoutmissions.com.au>).*
- *Sign up for a course to deepen your understanding of world missions (e.g. Perspectives (<http://www.perspectives.org.au>) or Kairos (<http://www.kairoscourse.org>)).*
- *Read missionary biographies.*
- *Receive mission newsletters and magazines.*

WELCOME

- *Befriend someone in your community from a different background.*
- *Get involved with an international student/migrant/refugee outreach organisation.*
- *Offer practical support to new arrivals.*

GO

- *Explore online ministry and outreach opportunities.*
- *Join online OMF gatherings to explore missions.*
- *Talk to one of the pastors if you believe God is speaking to you about long-term missions.*
- *Explore potential short-term trips for when international barriers are lifted.*

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