

NATIONS



**LIVES TRANSFORMED
CALLINGS REIGNITED
THE MISSION CONTINUES**

From Southeast Asia to Southern Africa, from prisons to villages, God is drawing near to the broken and calling his people deeper into his mission. This issue highlights testimonies of healing, restored lives, and gospel advancement among the unreached.

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CHRIST AT WORK AMONG THE NATIONS

Across our World Outreach community, we are witnessing a remarkable truth: God is moving with compassion, power, and purpose in every corner of the world. Whether in a bustling city, a rural village, a prison cell, or a classroom, the stories emerging from our global family reveal a God who draws near, transforms lives, and calls his people deeper into his mission.

This issue of Nations Magazine highlights the breadth of that work, from moments of healing to steps of obedience, from the legacy of seasoned leaders to the equipping of new missionaries preparing to serve the unreached.

In Thailand, God’s love is transforming lives in both gentle and dramatic ways. A simple Holiday English Camp became a profound encounter with the Father’s heart, as children who came for games and language learning found themselves deeply moved by his presence.

Not far away, a grandmother experienced her own journey from fear to freedom. Tormented nightly by a haunting spiritual darkness, she had long relied on rituals that brought only temporary relief. Everything changed when she accepted an invitation to a small church, where she encountered a peace she had never known.

Across the region, in the urban slums, Pete’s story reminds us that no life lies beyond God’s reach. Once a lonely child caught in cycles of violence, poverty, and injustice, he encountered Jesus in a juvenile detention centre through the joyful witness of a visiting team. Today, he serves the very community where he once wandered without purpose, helping vulnerable children discover the same transforming hope that changed his life.

This issue also honours leaders who have run the race well. The life and legacy of Dr David Khoza offer a powerful reminder of the impact of a humble, Christ-centred life. His devotion, integrity, and passion for raising leaders continues to shape Southern Africa and the wider World Outreach family. His story urges us to invest in others, to finish well, and to keep Jesus at the centre of all we do.

Looking ahead, we celebrate the Nations Course, preparing new missionaries to serve among unreached peoples through rigorous, cross-cultural training. And next June, the World Outreach Global Summit in Bangkok will gather us under the theme Consecrate, calling us to renewed devotion and unity as we prepare for what God will do next.

As you read this issue, may you be encouraged: Christ is redeeming stories, restoring lives, and reigniting calling. Let us consecrate ourselves afresh, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among us.

World Outreach International

AN ENGLISH CAMP BECOMES AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE FATHER'S LOVE

What began as a straightforward two-and-a-half-week Holiday English Camp in northern Thailand became something far greater than any of us had anticipated. We expected fun activities, language learning, and new friendships. Instead, we witnessed a profound move of God, an unexpected, tender encounter with the Father's love that transformed young lives.

From the opening day, there was a sense that the Holy Spirit was gently weaving his own theme throughout the programme. Conversations, lessons, and even the children's questions seemed to point in one direction- the Father's love. It was not something we had planned or built into our curriculum, yet God kept bringing it to the surface. There was a tangible softness in the atmosphere, as though he were preparing the hearts of the children long before we realised what he was doing. As the camp drew to a close, each child received a personal "love letter" written from the perspective of Father God. These letters spoke of belonging, care, and his delight in them.

The following morning, we revisited Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, this time with fresh eyes. Our focus shifted to the father in the story: watching, waiting, longing for his son to return home. As we shared, something beautiful happened. Quietness settled over the room. Several children began to wipe away tears. The message of unconditional love, not earned, not demanded, simply offered, touched them deeply. When we invited anyone who wanted to "come home" to the Father's embrace to step forward, we were stunned. More than half the children rose from their seats and came forward with sincerity and courage. We prayed with them as they repented, invited Jesus into their hearts, and received his forgiveness and love. It was a holy moment, joyful, tender, unforgettable. None of us had orchestrated this. It was simply the Father drawing his children to himself.

Among them was a 14-year-old girl whose story had weighed heavily on our hearts. Abandoned by her parents and later mistreated by relatives, she had built strong walls around herself. Since arriving in our city, she had resisted anything to do with God, not with anger, but with a deep, guarded pain. Whenever we spoke of God's love, she would turn away or shut down completely. But on this day, something shifted. As we prayed for her, tears began to run down her cheeks. Her shoulders shook as years of hurt and isolation began to thaw. Afterwards, she told us through trembling words that she had felt something she had never known before: a warm, gentle embrace, as though someone were holding her close. She is now open, cautiously, but genuinely, to the love of God. What started as an English camp became a divine appointment. We planned lessons and games, but God planned a homecoming. And one by one, his precious children came running into his arms.

FROM TORMENT TO TRUE PEACE: A GRANDMOTHER'S JOURNEY TO JESUS

For many years, *Kinn's grandmother carried a weight no person should have to bear. Living in Eastern Thailand, nearly 600 kilometres away from her family, she was well-acquainted with the spiritual traditions of her community. Like many in her region, she followed the local belief system, relying on offerings, chants, and mantras to navigate the unseen world. But none of it relieved the nights of deep fear that tormented her. She began to hear a voice calling her name, persistent, invasive, and frightening. Night after night, it returned. At first, she did what she had always been taught to do. She offered what she could. She recited the mantras she knew by heart. And for a short time, it seemed to work. The voice would fall silent for a few days. Then, without warning, it would return stronger, darker, and more unsettling than before. Her family grew increasingly concerned. They had watched her try everything within her spiritual tradition, yet nothing brought lasting relief. In desperation, she finally visited a local church that Kinn had suggested she go to many times before. It was not a place she had ever imagined entering, and she carried with her more questions than expectations. But she agreed to go. It was there that she encountered something entirely new: Peace.

There were no chants. No offerings. No complex rituals. Only a gentle, steady love that met her with a warmth she could not explain. As she listened to the believers pray, tears filled her eyes. For the first time in years, perhaps even in her lifetime, her heart felt calm. The torment ceased. The nighttime fear lost its power. And she found the peace she had longed for in the love of Jesus. From that moment, everything began to change. Since then, she has travelled often to stay with Kinn and has been attending church regularly. Each church visit draws her deeper into the life and joy of the Christian community. Her eyes shine more brightly. Her steps are lighter. The peace she received has grown roots. This past October, she made a decision that left everyone rejoicing; she asked to be baptised.

The baptism took place at our home in a simple, sacred moment surrounded by those who had walked with her in prayer, and Kinn at her side. Afterward, we shared a festive meal together, celebrating not only her new life in Christ but the grace of God that had brought her safely to this point. At the end of the afternoon, she approached me with a wide smile and wrapped me in a warm embrace. "God will bless you," she said. In Thai, people often use the word for "blessing" as a casual well-wish, much like saying "good luck." But this time was different. Her voice carried conviction. She was not offering a blessing of her own; she was joyfully declaring that God himself blesses his people. Her faith is growing beautifully, and every day we witness another glimpse of the transforming work of Christ in her life. Praise God for his gentle, mighty power to bring peace where there was once fear!

**Names have been changed for security purposes.*

FROM BROKENNESS TO PURPOSE: PETE'S STORY

"Jesus chose me out of disappointment and failure, and rebuilt me for his work."

Those are the words of Pete*, a young man whose early life was marked by hardship, loneliness, and a deep longing for belonging. His journey is a powerful reminder that Jesus steps into even the most difficult stories and brings transformation that reaches far beyond one life. Pete grew up in a low-income family of street vendors, where every day revolved around survival. His family earned what they could by selling food in the market, and from an early age, he had to fend for himself. While other children were still learning how to tie their shoelaces, seven-year-old Pete was getting himself up, ready, and off to school with no one to guide him. Life in his community was full of risks and temptations. Drug dealing, alcoholism, and family violence were normal sights. With everyone in his household working long hours, there was little supervision and even less emotional support. Loneliness became his constant companion. At twelve, overwhelmed by instability and without anyone to encourage him, Pete dropped out of primary school. His grandmother, unable to cope, sent him away. Homeless and adrift, he spent his days roaming the streets with friends, slipping into destructive behaviour he barely understood. His life spiralled quickly.

By thirteen, his health was failing, and he found himself entangled in a justice system he could not comprehend. He was arrested twice, first falsely accused of stealing, then of drug possession. A frightened child with no advocate, Pete was sent to a juvenile detention centre. There, shame and despair settled heavily over him. "For the first two weeks, I cried every night," he recalls. "I felt as though I had no dreams, no future, and no purpose left." Everything changed in October 2011. A Christian team from Korea visited the detention centre, bringing with them what felt like a completely different world. They told Bible stories, sang songs, played games, and spoke words of encouragement that Pete had never heard before. Their joy was disarming; their kindness, deeply moving. At the end of their programme, they performed a dance, a breakdance creatively portrayed by someone in a costume resembling Jesus.

What might have seemed simple to others became, for Pete, a moment of divine encounter. "When I watched that dance, I felt Jesus loved me," he says. "He lifted me up, comforted me, and gave me hope for change. That day, I opened my heart and welcomed Jesus into my life." That moment of grace marked the beginning of a new story. Today, at twenty-eight, Pete is married and serves full-time in children's ministry right in the same slum community where he grew up. Together with his wife, he is building something he once thought impossible: Hope. They help children discover faith, joy, purpose, and the belief that their lives matter.

"My prayer," Pete says, "is that the lost children here will meet Jesus just as I did."

**Name changed for security purposes.*

LIGHT IN THE DARKEST PLACES: A PRISON MINISTRY IN SOUTH ASIA

In a region of South Asia where political and spiritual pressures against Christians continue to grow, God is opening remarkable doors for the gospel. One faithful couple, quietly serving week by week, regularly visits a local prison to encourage the inmates. They come with snacks, friendly smiles, and open hearts as they share the hope of Jesus with those who are often forgotten.

Despite increasing restrictions, the local policemen who guard the prison continue to welcome them in. On one recent visit, the couple brought thirty-five snacks, unaware that more than seventy prisoners were waiting for them. As they apologised for not having enough, the policeman on duty surprised them by firmly telling them, "You must come every week. The prisoners eagerly await praying and worshipping with you on Sundays. Make sure you have enough snacks for everyone."

Deeply moved by his encouragement, the couple quickly purchased more treats so each inmate would feel seen and valued. When they began sharing the gospel, the same policeman stepped inside, listened intently, and, at the end, applauded their message. Later, he said simply, "Your Christianity is very good."

In a place marked by hardship, these quiet moments of kindness are softening hearts. Prisoners are finding hope, guards are witnessing Christ's love, and the gospel is advancing in ways only God could orchestrate.

Praise God for hungry hearts and for the testimony of love that proclaims Christ in both word and deed, even amidst opposition. May this ministry continue to shine Christ's light in the darkest of places.

PRAYER POINT

Pray for God's favour over this prison ministry in South Asia. Ask the Lord to continue softening hearts, both among the inmates and the guards, and to protect this couple as they minister under increasing pressure. Pray that many prisoners will encounter the transforming love of Jesus, that the guards will remain open to the gospel, and that this simple witness of kindness will bear lasting spiritual fruit. May God multiply every act of love and provide all the resources needed for continued weekly visits.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF DR DAVID KHOZA

When we look at the history of Christian missions in Southern Africa, the legacy of Dr. David Khoza stands as a magnificent testament to a life well-lived. His very existence was defined by unwavering faith, profound devotion, and tireless labour. He was, at his core, a faithful servant of God and a dedicated family man, modelling obedience to the Great Commission and an abiding love for all people.

His journey with World Outreach officially began in 1969 when he and his wife, Doreen joined the organisation. This was the launchpad for an expansive ministry that reached from Southern Africa to neighbouring nations. Driven by his singular passion for evangelism, Dr. Khoza became an instrument for significant change, overseeing the successful planting of dozens of churches. Crucially, his vision led to the founding of the World Outreach Bible School (WOBS) in 1981, an institution that has since trained over 4,000 pastors.

Now that Dr. David has passed into the great cloud of witnesses on 11 November 2025, we are compelled to ask: what practical, lasting lessons can we draw from his character and leadership that will help us finish our own race with equal grace and effectiveness?



Character is Key to Finishing Well

The first lesson drawn from Dr. David's life is the importance of his character. From my interactions with him and the testimonies of others, his personal and public persona were one and the same: he simply followed Jesus. This point was beautifully illustrated earlier this year when he expressed his concern to me that "the fear of the Lord is not there anymore" among some young pastors. Serving God as Lord and Saviour was paramount to Dr. David. His example shows us that if we want to finish our race well, we must first and foremost continue to seek God and crown Jesus as Lord in our lives.

“From my interactions with him and the testimonies of others, his personal and public persona were one and the same: he simply followed Jesus.”

Investing in Others is the Measure of Ministry Success

The second lesson I learnt from Dr. David is his passion to raise leaders and invest in the lives of others. The biggest test for any leader is the willingness to let others step into their calling. Many leaders in Africa struggle to let go and invest, often out of the fear that younger leaders would take their place. Dr. David, however, intentionally invested and celebrated the success of other leaders in ministry. He took pride in telling me about students who went on to plant churches and lead people to Christ. Consequently, Dr. David's legacy and the fruit of his ministry live on in the work of others.

Humility is key to fruitfulness

Years ago, when I stepped into Dr. David's office as a young, inexperienced pastor, he welcomed me the same way he would welcome those who had accomplished much more. This always made me feel valuable, and encouraged me to treat everyone I meet and work with alongside, with dignity and respect. It was also this humility that opened my heart to receive the gentle rebukes he gave me over the years, which made me a better minister of the Gospel.

In conclusion, as I reflect on these and other lessons, I believe they are why Dr. David was able to laugh and enjoy his ministry until the end of his life. He was not distracted by the fleeting "success" and wealth of this world. He served and loved Jesus as best he could with the time he was given on earth. May that be the aim for all of us as we continue to run the race set before us.

- by Ivan Venter

RISK, SUFFERING AND CALLING: WALKING WITH JESUS INTO HARD PLACES

From the World Outreach Podcast, episode 57

When Louise speaks about risk in mission, she is not sharing theory from a classroom. She is sharing a story written in tears, courage, and deep trust in God. Originally from Southern Africa, Louise, her husband, and their children served for several years in the Middle East. They loved their neighbours, walked alongside local believers, and poured out their lives for the gospel. Then came a moment they could never have imagined: Louise and her husband were kidnapped. Her husband was killed. Their family's season on the field ended in heartbreak.

Today, Louise and her children are back in Southern Africa. Out of that place of pain and faith, she has started a non-profit organisation, serving in both humanitarian work and in equipping faith-based workers for ministry in risky, complicated places. Her voice is tender but steady, the voice of someone who has discovered that even in the darkest valleys, Jesus is present and God is still at work.

Suffering and Risk: Honest Faith in a Real World

Louise gently helps us untangle two ideas we often mix together: suffering and risk. "All believers will experience some form of suffering," she explains. "Scripture is clear about that. Philippians 1:29 says we're not only given the privilege of believing in Christ, but also of suffering for him."

Risk sits under that larger umbrella. It is part of following Jesus, especially into unreached and hostile places, but it is not the only expression of faithfulness. Drawing on resources like Anna Hampton's work on the theology of risk, Louise points to passages such as Philippians 2 and Romans 16, where believers are described as risking and even staking their lives for the sake of the gospel. "Risk is absolutely biblical," she says. "But we're only now learning to talk about it clearly and wisely."

Crucially, Louise reminds us that sometimes the most Spirit-led decision is to step away from danger. "We've placed so much pressure on missionaries always to stay, always to push further, that many feel guilty when they have to leave," she says. "But the Bible also shows people withdrawing from danger under God's direction, e.g., Paul escaping in a basket, Joseph fleeing with Mary and Jesus, Jesus himself saying, 'My time has not yet come' and moving away from the crowd. Obedience can mean going in, and obedience can mean coming out."

Heart, Motives, and Ongoing Preparation

At the centre of this tension is the question Louise keeps returning to: Whose agenda is this? "It's been a theme in my life," she reflects. "Am I doing this because God is leading, or because I want to prove something, or feel irreplaceable? We need to be honest with ourselves." For Louise, preparation is not a lack of faith; it is an expression of mature discipleship. Spiritual formation is the well from which everything else flows, staying close to Jesus in the word, prayer, and obedience. From that place, God often leads his people to prepare emotionally and practically: understanding local risks, planning for crises, caring well for children and families, and working closely with sending churches and organisations. "You can't just say, 'We'll trust the Lord' and ignore wise preparation," she says. "Think of Noah building the ark before a drop of rain had ever fallen. He loved God, and because he loved God, he obeyed, even when it didn't make sense. Spiritual intimacy and practical obedience belong together."

Redeeming Suffering, Keeping Our Eyes on Eternity

Louise is honest when she says we will not always see, in this life, how God is redeeming our suffering. But she anchors her hope in the cross. "If God could take something that looked like utter defeat, Jesus on the cross, and use it to redeem the world, then we can trust him with our smaller stories too," she says. "We may never fully see the fruit here. But he is faithful, and eternity will tell the full story." Her final encouragement is simple and beautiful: "Love Jesus. Keep showing up to be with him, not just for answers or miracles, but because you're in love with him. Out of that place, life will flow. Our doing must always come out of our being with him." In a world where risk and suffering are real, Louise's journey reminds us that we do not walk into hard places alone. The one who calls us is with us. He is sovereign, and he is worthy.

Listen to more conversations like this on the World Outreach Podcast

Each episode features honest, hope-filled stories from people serving in some of the most challenging places on earth. You'll hear firsthand experiences from workers on the field, biblical insights on mission, and practical lessons learned through joy, risk, and sacrifice. Whether you're exploring mission, already serving, or simply wanting to grow in your understanding of what God is doing among the nations, these conversations will encourage and equip you. Our guests share their journeys with authenticity — the victories, the setbacks, the unexpected ways God moves, and the deep faith formed in hard places. If Louise's story has inspired you, you'll find many more episodes that speak to calling, perseverance, cultural engagement, and God's heart for the unreached.

Scan the QR code to listen on Spotify, follow the podcast, and stay updated as new episodes are released. Join us as we celebrate what God is doing around the world and hear from those who are walking in obedience, wherever He leads.



STEP INTO THE STORY: SERVE, LEARN, AND SHARE HOPE THROUGH SHORT- TERM MISSIONS

What if a few weeks of your time could bring hope, dignity, and the love of Christ to communities longing for change?

In 2026, World Outreach is inviting short-term volunteers to step into vibrant, life-giving ministries across India, Indonesia, Kenya, and Thailand. Whether teaching English, supporting vocational training, joining outreach programmes, mentoring young people through sport, or simply walking alongside those in vulnerable situations, these opportunities offer a meaningful way to serve with your hands and heart.

Outreach India | India

Serve alongside local leaders as they invest in children, teenage girls, women, and mothers through education, life skills, and outreach. Volunteers can help teach English or vocational skills while building relationships that point families towards healthy, Christ-centred lives. A powerful opportunity to support long-term transformation at the grassroots level.

Mt Hope | Indonesia (Borneo)

Mt Hope is a Christian school and training centre equipping the next generation through education and practical skills. Volunteers are welcomed to teach English or other subjects, or to share vocational expertise, from building and plumbing to baking and business skills. Come and help shape futures while walking closely with a vibrant local community.

Alfa Lighthouse Foundation | Kenya

This dynamic ministry reaches young men from Nairobi's slums through football, discipleship, and community support. Short-term volunteers can serve through sports ministry, teaching, or outreach while witnessing lives transformed by the hope of Jesus. It's a hands-on opportunity to invest in Kenya's next generation.

Rahab Ministries | Thailand

Rahab Ministries offers friendship, dignity, and hope to women working in Thailand's red-light areas. Short-term visitors are invited to join outreach programmes that share Christ's love through presence, compassion, and practical care. A deeply moving opportunity to walk gently with women on a journey towards healing and freedom.

For more information:





STEP INTO YOUR CALLING WITH THE NATIONS COURSE

Are you sensing God's nudge towards cross-cultural missions? The Nations Course is a dynamic training journey designed to equip believers for effective, sustainable ministry among unreached people groups.

Combining interactive online learning with a four-week residential immersion in Thailand, the course provides practical tools for language acquisition, cultural understanding, cross-cultural communication, spiritual resilience, and long-term ministry effectiveness. You'll learn from seasoned missionaries who have served across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, gaining wisdom that has been shaped on the field, not just in the classroom.

Whether you are preparing for your first term on the field or seeking fresh direction after years of service, the Nations Course will strengthen your calling and sharpen your effectiveness.

Registrations for 2026 are now open!

Step out in faith and step into the training that will prepare you to make disciples among all nations.



 worldoutreach

GLOBAL SUMMIT 2026

JUNE 22-25 | BANGKOK, THAILAND

Join the World Outreach global community in Bangkok for the Global Summit 2026, a week of renewal, inspiration, and global fellowship under the theme "Consecrate" (Joshua 3:5). Missionaries and leaders from over 30 countries will gather to share stories of God's work among unreached peoples, offering a unique opportunity to hear first-hand what the Lord is doing around the world.

Experience powerful multicultural worship, receive biblical teaching from an international group of facilitators, and gain fresh insight into the current state of global missions. You will be challenged to consider your own part in God's mission and to respond to his call with renewed commitment.

Save the dates: 22-26 June 2026.

Come expectant that God is preparing us for what lies ahead.



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