

# Crossing the Street in South East Asia

*The passionate team in South East Asia crosses the street with the hope of Jesus every day. Here, they share about two avenues for impact, the Education Foundation and Creation Care initiatives.*



## EDUCATION FOUNDATION Dave and Caz

When our team established the Education Foundation ten years ago, Adam was one of the first employees. A widower with three young boys and minimal education, he was struggling to make ends meet and provide for his family. He lived in a small dwelling with his sons and extended family members.

Flash forward to today, and Adam has blossomed and grown in confidence as a loved staff member. He has been able to care for his boys and make sure they attend good schools. He has also been saving regularly and was recently able to buy a small house for himself and his sons.

He is so happy and grateful that he could do this.

Adam eagerly participates in the weekly devotion times we run with the local staff, and we know the Lord continues to work in his life.

This is just one story of many. Over the past ten years, we have witnessed God at work through us and in the lives of the local staff and students.

There are now Education Foundation branches in three provinces and partnerships in other provinces. Employing around 45 local staff, the foundation provides courses for expatriates and local people.

Intercultural workers from many organisations study culture and language at the Education Foundation. In this way, the foundation is having an impact far beyond itself as it helps equip new workers who will be serving God in many communities.

The foundation also has a benevolent purpose to relieve poverty and distress. Most of the local staff come from the majority faith community and were struggling with poverty prior to working within the foundation. The foundation provides them with stable employment, fair wages, health insurance and a safe workplace where they experience dignity.

All the staff participate in weekly devotion times where they discuss spiritual matters. Several have come to faith in Jesus and others are on the journey.

For our team, the Education Foundation also provides a natural place to develop rich relationships with local people. Pray with us that through these relationships, we will be making Jesus meet-able.



## CREATION CARE Max and Ezzie

Creation Care has been a ministry platform for the South East Asia team since 2016. The initiative runs activities for social and community development among underprivileged communities, along with environmental campaigns and activities.

Under Creation Care there are two regular programs that we run, which are the Reading Garden and the Trash Bank.

The Reading Gardens are a signature program that combines the objectives of child literacy and environmental education.

The two Reading Gardens are in underprivileged areas where children have little access to books. The initiatives also provides rich opportunities for the team to build relationships with the parents and others in the community.

The Trash Bank is set up to connect and serve the Scavenger community, who are seen as very low on the social ladder in South East Asia.

During 2021, the Trash Bank collected around 133 tonnes of trash from its network of Scavengers.

Why?

1. To contribute to waste solution and help protect the environment
2. To support and empower Scavengers and their families by purchasing their collected recyclable trash for a fair price
3. To build relationships with the Scavengers and bring about emotional and spiritual transformation

Praise God that some Scavengers are gathering as a faith community through the Trash Bank. They meet every week to study the word of God together.

One of them is a man who has a deep passion to share about Jesus and reach out to new people. One of these new people is Abel, who has gone through various challenges in his life but was brought to Jesus by this man.

Before this, Abel lived a life of heartache and pain. He had even considered ending his own life. Now he has been transformed by Christ. Praise God!

Pray with us that the good news of Jesus will be shared with many throughout this community.

