

THE GOING

Missions Report



*Go into all the world and preach
the Good News to everyone.*

- MARK 16:15 -

THE GOING 2023

Thank you for your continued support...

After several years of not being able to travel overseas, we are so thankful that this year we were able to send over 80 volunteers to three different nations, along with a team working locally in Australia. Additionally, we have one more team scheduled to go to India in late October this year.

It has been amazing to witness our teams connecting with our local partners, forging lasting relationships, and serving as the hands and feet of Jesus by providing practical assistance, support, and spiritual guidance.

We would like to express our gratitude to our church, HopeUC, and to everyone in our community who contributed to making **GOING 2023** a reality. Thank you for your generous donations, prayers, encouragement, and support. Every dollar has been spent with great diligence by our team and partners, and we are confident that the impact will extend for generations to come.

To every volunteer, **THANK YOU** for dedicating your time, financial resources, and skills to serve and love the communities you visited. From the stories we have heard, we understand that you all experienced the profound blessing of giving and serving.

THANK YOU!

Because of you, our amazing teams have achieved the following:

- Raised over \$100,000 for various team projects.
- Trained 300 leaders from 150 churches in a two-day kids leadership training retreat at three different locations, and hosted 400 children at two kids events in Sri Lanka.
- Initiated the construction of a new community hall, built two houses, and installed solar panels on a school in Vanuatu.
- Donated \$25,000 towards the construction of a free education center for street kids in Denpasar, Bali.
- Educated, trained, and ministered to local communities through outreach programs such as kids' programs, feeding initiatives, first aid training, dental health campaigns, leadership workshops, and more.
- Organized a community kids fun day, provided various supplies to bless local community leaders and the local school, and stood alongside the local church in Peak Hill for a worship and prayer night, as well as their Sunday church service.

We firmly believe that this is just the beginning of what we will have the privilege of being a part of as we continue to answer the call, "Here I am, Lord, send me."



SRI LANKA

Matt Johnson



This past July, we led a team of five to Sri Lanka to collaborate with our mission partners, Narel and Alison Atkinson.

We were honoured to share the good news that Jesus loves them and has great plans for their lives with over 400 children. The days were filled with fun, laughter, and an overwhelming response from the children as they placed their trust in Jesus. In fact, more than 220 children chose to begin a personal friendship with Jesus.

The impact of our training sessions with children's leaders from 150 different churches across the south and east of Sri Lanka exceeded our expectations. We've received numerous positive reports from senior pastors of these churches who are profoundly grateful for the investment in their leaders and children's ministries.

The first church has now successfully organised its own evangelistic children's program, drawing in 150 children and 30 leaders. We eagerly anticipate witnessing the continued growth and impact of the seeds sown in these regions.

A remarkable testament to the fruit of our partnership with local residents is the opportunity to witness personal growth over the years as they choose to be used by Jesus. In the photo below, you'll see a young girl in the center who served as our translator during our visit in 2013. Initially shy, we had the privilege of encouraging her to use her English language skills for God's glory. The other photo, taken a decade later, depicts her translating for us once again. Her remarkable command of language, grammar, and syntax left us deeply impressed. We are incredibly blessed to see how her dedication to serving Jesus has nurtured this gift in her life.



Matthew Johnson

PEAK HILL NSW

Lisa Glen

The mere thought of embarking on another mission trip always fills my heart with joy.

For our accommodation, we had the choice between staying with host families, camping at Geoff's farm (our Peak Hill contact and local pastor), or lodging at nearby hotels. We enthusiastically opted for camping. The idea of serving all day and then unwinding around a campfire, sharing stories of God's divine appointments, and spending time with Jesus' "12 Peak Hill disciples," give or take a few, had the potential to set my joyful heart in motion—so long as I didn't channel my inner King David and dance in my undergarments.

Friday afternoon began with a heartwarming gesture—blessing the staff of a local primary school with gift bags filled with goodies. This was followed by an after-school fun event for children at the church, complete with a jumping castle and a brief talk about our friend Jesus. Pastor Stephen Bruce was initially thrilled to confirm the attendance of just three children. However, through a series of divine appointments, word quickly spread throughout the small town, and approximately 50 delightful children, along with their parents, joined us.



Saturday morning saw Pastor Geoff taking us to the sacred grounds of Engedi. Over the years, this land had been used for tent meetings and now featured a multipurpose hall and accommodations intended for groups to use while serving the community. Saturday Worship Night and Sunday Church followed. While I cherished every moment, it was the one-on-one conversations that truly blessed me, as I witnessed the depth of faith and richness of these people's lives.

As we returned to the farm, the campsite now stood empty. The stillness and serene surroundings prompted reflection on the past three days. But Father had more in store. To the west, a breathtaking sunset painted the sky, while to the east, a double rainbow emerged. Tears of joy followed. Mission trips send you out to serve others, yet you return home with an abundance of gifts from our Father.

In the end, mission trips are not only about touching lives but also about the profound impact they have on our own hearts.



hopeglobal

hopelocal

VANUATU



THE GOING

BALI INDONESIA

Olivia Mahrous



Food Distribution Denpasar Mums

I had the privilege of travelling with Team Bali 2023 to the Bali Life Foundation, where I encountered what many would consider the best and worst of Bali. I witnessed the poverty of trash-sorting communities who have constructed homes and a way of life on the small plots of land they were given, using whatever materials were available. I also heard stories of unimaginable trauma.

On the flip side, there was abundance and extravagance in our villa, restaurants, cafes, and tourist attractions. However, neither the good nor the bad could overshadow the true heartbeat of Bali: its people. These people rise up with faith, living each day on purpose and with the intention to be a blessing. I found myself asking, "How could I ever make an impact that would come close to what I have received in return?" Their love towards us, their passion for their village, and how they serve the communities that remind them of their home village—all with the goal of igniting hope, dignity, and purpose.

During our time there, we had the privilege of partnering in the distribution of food and sanitation packs, contributing financially towards the promise of a brighter future.

We taught English through dance and song, played games, painted walls, did handyman work, and hosted the children's home kids and alumni at our villa. It all felt like much more than a 'mission'; it truly felt like visiting old friends to help with their renovation. I wholeheartedly recommend BLF mission trips to anyone.



What affected and infected me the most? The people! Their playfulness! Their embrace! We engaged in the community, embraced the culture, expressed thanksgiving, and loved each other well.

Seeing the unseen and serving while standing together made me envision how beautiful our world could be if we all just did that! Signed with love from Olivia (aka the chick who fell in love with Bali).



VANUATU

Ann-Marie Skinner

I didn't want to admit that I had fallen prey to the first-world disease of addiction to acquiring MORE!

As much as I believed that my kids needed to embark on a mission trip to shed their sense of entitlement, I soon realised that I was the one in dire need of it!

This mission trip did more than just reveal entitlement within me; it exposed how empty it truly was!

We encountered people living in tin shanty towns, some with cement floors, others with dirt floors, all devoid of hot water or TVs. Yet, they were the most content, generous, sacrificial, and joyful individuals I had met in a long time. They shared their best produce and livestock with us so that we could dine like royalty, allowing us to eat first and exempting us from chores.

We got to know them by constructing houses, organising children's clubs, providing essential items like bras and sanitary kits for the women, training teams to become certified in trades, assisting community schools, and witnessing our fundraising dollars stretch further than any of us could have imagined.



Their praise and worship of God were simple yet incredibly powerful, honourable, and pure!

Their generosity reminded me of the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:1-2, who gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.

It's peculiar how, in the West, those who possess more tend to cling to it more tightly, while those who have less are more willing to share it.

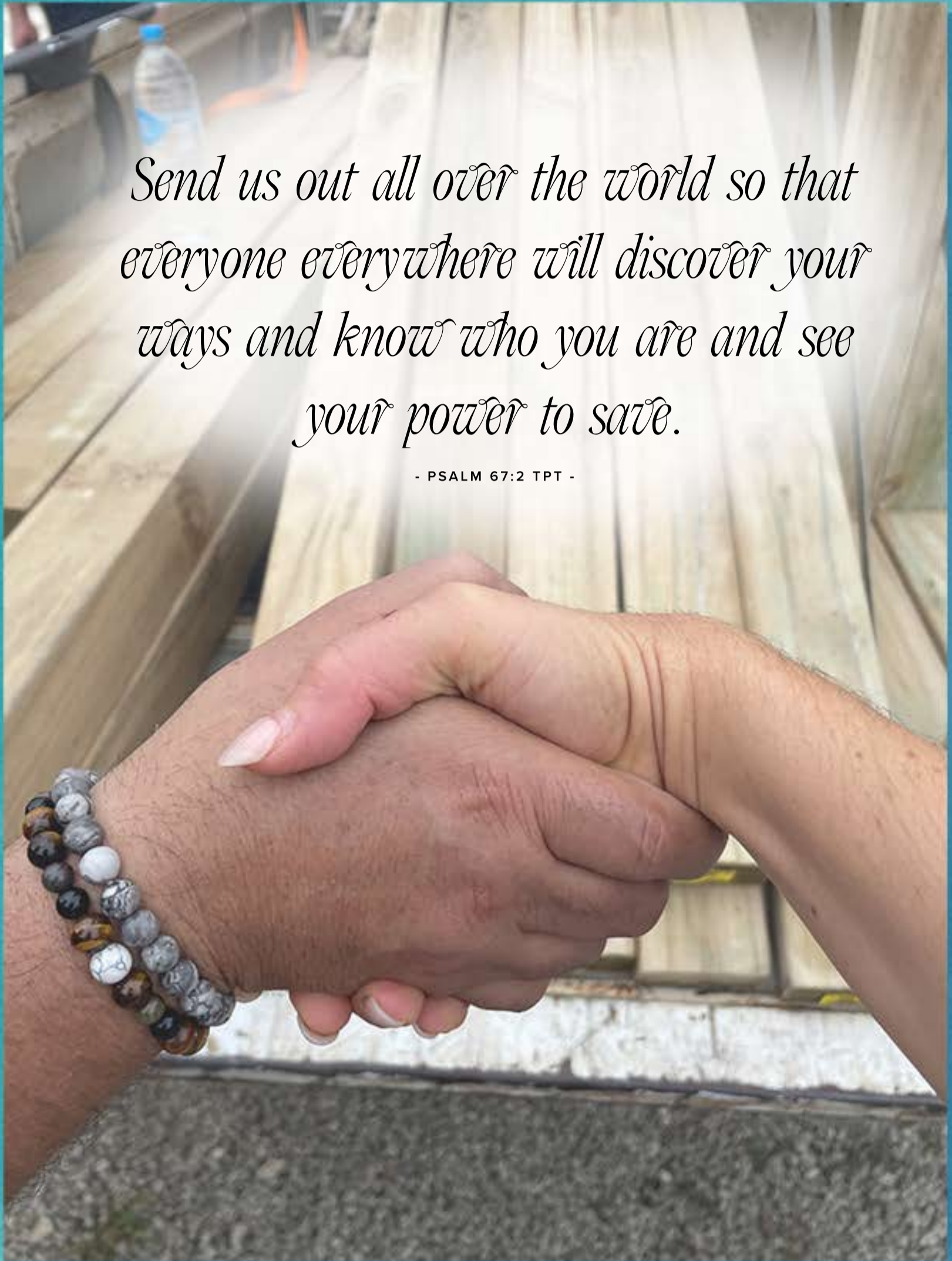
This experience made me desire less and yearn to know them more, to engage in partnership more!

May we learn from the generosity and joy of the least of these that we don't need to accumulate more material possessions, but rather, seize more opportunities to partner with those less fortunate than us and, in the process, discover more about Jesus.

VANUATU

Send us out all over the world so that everyone everywhere will discover your ways and know who you are and see your power to save.

- PSALM 67:2 TPT -



RWANDA

SRI

VANUATU


hopeglobal

hopelocal



THE GOING