



“Is Jesus Really the Almighty, Powerful God?”

Thailand is home to many people groups. Animistic ethnic groups live in the hilly North whilst Muslim Malays dwell in the South. More than 93%* of the Thai people are Theravada Buddhists. Despite having missionaries for almost 200 years, Christians number less than 1% of the 71 million-strong population. Most think of Christianity as a foreign religion.

Just as Simon obeyed Jesus' direction to cast his nets and in doing so yielded the greatest catch of fish in his life (Luke 5:4-7), FEBC Thailand is heeding Christ's direction to be fishers of men.

Casting the Net Together
Through new initiatives, FEBC Thailand,

together with a network of Christian organisations in Thailand is casting the net wide. This time, the collective body has a unified vision for Thailand called 'Love Thailand 1-1-1'. They are praying for a harvest of one million believers, 10,000 churches, and 10,000 pastors, by 2028.

To help build the Thai Church up for God's mission, FEBC Thailand started working with other local partners, providing evangelism training and media resources. In 2023, FEBC Thailand's Director Sumet chaired the combined nationwide Christmas outreach 'Christmas Give with Love' campaign.

Churches were encouraged to hold events outside of their buildings, bringing the love

"Is Jesus Really the Almighty, Powerful God?" (con'td)

of Christ into their communities. FEBC Thailand invited Christian Thai celebrities and influencers together to boldly share their faith online and on-air.

Together, the network of Christian organisations and churches in Thailand reached more than 30,000 underprivileged children and their families across 49 Thai provinces. Many heard the gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time.

The team and reach increased in 2024. More influencers, more churches (from 205 in 2023 to 330 in 2024), and this time, at least 3,000 volunteers (from 2,170 in 2023).

The Thai people heard about the love of Christ in their own language, through their own people, and in ways they could relate to. Thousands put their trust in Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour.

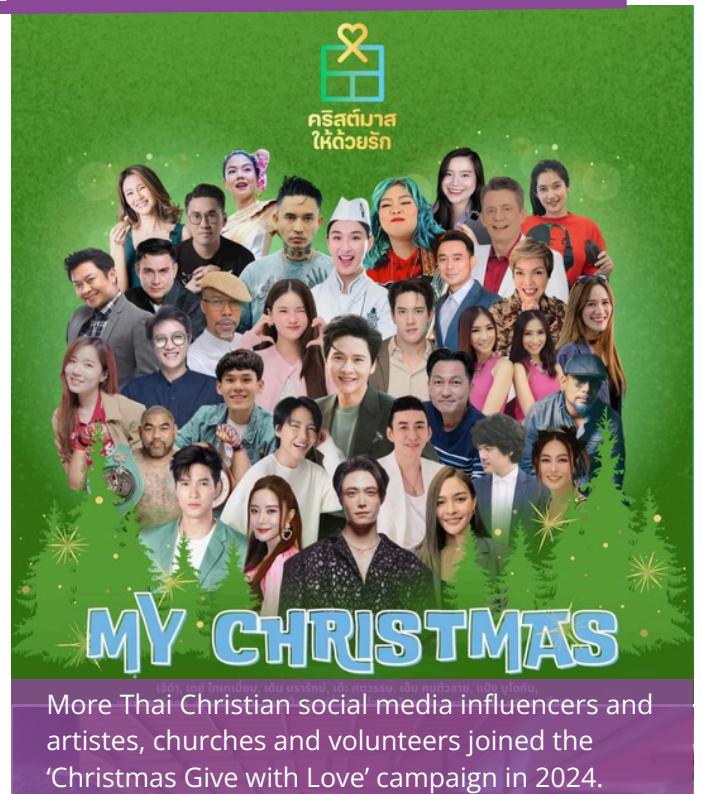
New Fellowship with Jesus, the Almighty God

FEBC Thailand doesn't just do outreach activities with the local Church and other organisations. The team also shares the Good News on-air on 33 radio stations, online, and in-person through follow-up conversations with listeners. Programs are in Thai, Isaan (for the Northeastern Isaan people), and a Southern dialect.

One popular broadcast addresses the worldview of reincarnation. Putting hope in a next life on earth can incline people towards suicide when faced with suffering and demonic oppression. *This Life has an Answer* tells of how eternal life is available through Jesus today. Many have found a new life in Christ, including 69-year-old Khun Suwannarat Khittisan[^].

Khun Suwannarat's wife was a Christian. He went to church with her but did not believe in Jesus. He would often find it difficult to stay seated in church and so he waited outside.

When his wife and child passed away, Khun Suwannarat was left on his own. He also lost all contact with every family member.



However, God cares for those who are lonely, as it says in Psalm 68:6, "God sets the lonely in families" and is faithful to draw them to Himself.

In his deep grief and loneliness, Khun Suwannarat longed for Jesus, whom his wife had spoken of. After a few years, he heard about Jesus again through FEBC's *Heart Friend* program on the radio. The host talked about matters of the heart, presenting the love and friendship of Jesus for all people. Khun Suwannarat started to listen to the program daily.

Two months went by and one day, he started to feel a spark of hope rising. He quickly called the FEBC team. Khun Suwannarat was so excited about the team's visit that he woke up at 3 a.m. in anticipation of their arrival. As soon as he laid eyes on them, he blurted out his question in Thai: "Is Jesus

really the almighty, powerful God?"

"Yes!" the team resoundingly replied. Khun Suwannarat wept tears of joy and relief. He had been waiting for this answer for a long time.



FEBC Thailand's follow-up team praying with Khun Suwannarat to receive Jesus as His Lord and Saviour.

* Statistic from DataReportal.

^ Name changed and face blurred to protect the individual.

` As listed in Googletranslate.

Statistics from The Joshua Project.

~ Fact from Thailand Foundation.

The team prayed with him as he repented of his sins and finally accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Khun Suwannarat also received a Bible and an audio Bible on an MP3 player and enrolled in the distance-learning *Bible Correspondence Course*.

We thank God that anyone who calls on Jesus is saved. He is still the almighty powerful God and enables us to be fishers of men.

Thailand Facts

- The phrase 'Thai' in the word 'Thailand' means 'freedom'`. 'Thailand' therefore means 'Land of the free'.
- Number of provinces: 76
- Population: 71,661,000[#]
- Unreached: 86%[#] of population
- Largest Religion: Buddhism (88.2%[#] of population)
- It is rude to touch the head of a Thai person as the head is seen as the most sacred part of the body. ~

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Your partnership in Jesus' Great Commission is vital.

Whether it be through prayer, or through giving or telling others about the work of FEBC, it's all hands to the plough!

Together, we can let them hear the gospel of Jesus Christ!

**Let them
hear**

Regular Giving

Regular Giving is a great way to sustain our mission. If you haven't explored giving monthly, why not start this year?

Your Regular Giving helps to reach the unreached with the Good News. Together, we can play our part in reaching every tribe, tongue and nation with the gospel in their own language, and inspire them to follow Jesus.

**Click here to give or
call 1300 720 017**





A Note from Janet

2025 A Year to Celebrate God's Faithfulness

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments" (Deuteronomy 7:9).

As we step into a new year, I'm excited about all that God might do as we continue to partner together in sharing the Good News through media around the world.

This year FEBC Australia celebrates the wonderful milestone of 60 fruitful years of ministry, and the global Association 80 years. We remain incredibly grateful to God as He continues to lead us to fulfil His Great Commission and will pause in 2025 to develop our strategy for the next few years.

In preparing our strategy, we'll be talking to our overseas Partners, and we'd love to hear from you as well. Your feedback and insights are invaluable to us as we discern, with God's help and prayer, how to best serve in the years ahead. We hope that you will take a few minutes to complete our *Supporter Survey*, which will help shape our future plans and ensure that we align our ministry with the heart and vision of those who faithfully journey with us. Together, we can continue to make an impact for God's Kingdom around the world.

We continue to give thanks for you, and for our overseas Partners too. In this issue of *Skywaves*, we share about our partnership with FEBC Thailand who has set a bold vision

to collaborate with the local church to see a harvest of one million believers, 10,000 churches, and 10,000 pastors in Thailand by 2028 – we're excited to be supporting this vision!

You'll also read about how our Partner's work in Pakistan contributed to improvement of health outcomes for the community through the use of media. And we hope you'll be encouraged by the story of Geoff and Edith Laphorne and their life-long commitment to sharing the gospel.

We are inspired by these stories, living testimonies of God's work.

I look forward to celebrating with you throughout our 60th year as we progress FEBC's mission to communicate the Good News through media and to inspire people to follow Jesus Christ.

Thank you for partnering with us in this mission, and we wish you a blessed and fruitful New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Janet Cousens

CEO, FEBC Australia

Heart to Heart

A Legacy of Love and Faithfulness

Janet Cousens, CEO of FEBC Australia, recently visited supporters at the Rangeville Community Church in Toowoomba, Queensland. She had the privilege of staying with church members Geoff and Edith Laphthorne. Here is a glimpse into their inspiring journey.

Geoff Laphthorne and Edith Guard's story is a testament to faith, adventure, and dedication. Both were born into faithful Christian families and enjoyed a rich Christian heritage in regional New South Wales and Queensland. Both their fathers were local preachers. Their strong family foundations have guided the way they have chosen to engage with people throughout their lives across continents, inspiring many along the way.

As young adults their appetite for adventure led them independently to Lae, Papua New Guinea (PNG), where they met and served together from 1964 to 1988. Geoff, a District Officer and magistrate, and Edith, a school teacher for the Methodist Overseas Mission, discovered a shared passion for service. These years were filled with purpose, and family, as they welcomed four equally adventurous children into their lives.

In Lae (PNG), the Laphthornes were friends with people who produced Christian programs broadcast on National radio stations.

Their journey took a new turn in December 1988 when they moved to Edith's hometown, Toowoomba, in Queensland. It was here in the 1990s that they first learnt about FEBC during a church deputation.

Geoff was greatly impressed that FEBC programs could reach almost a third of the world's population using the local heart languages in countries that were closed to Christian missionaries. Their growing interest led them to support FEBC in the



Geoff and Edith are keen supporters of FEBC.

Philippines.

In 1997 the Laphthornes' commitment deepened during a visit to FEBC's facility in Manila. The shortwave radio complex, under construction with recycled equipment from the U.S. Army, showcased innovation and resilience. They witnessed first-hand the powerful impact of broadcasting Christian messages into regions like China, where traditional missionary work was increasingly difficult.

Geoff and Edith's connection with FEBC remains strong. During overseas visits to their children, they have met with FEBC staff in Bali and the Philippines, hearing stories of transformation. They admire how FEBC blends community programs with the gospel and uses local languages to reach hearts.

Now in their 80s, Geoff and Edith champion radio's relevance in developing countries, supporting both large shortwave stations and local FM broadcasts. They also celebrate FEBC's embrace of digital technologies to share the gospel globally. They love reading about the work of FEBC and keep our ministry in their prayers.

They are proud of their sons and daughters who have served the Lord in many roles in China, Indonesia and Australia. They pray for the godly development of their 13 grandchildren aged 6 to 25. For the Laphthornes, life is a journey of trust in God's hand – a legacy of love and faithfulness that inspires.



Effective Use of Media in

Dengue and Malaria Prevention

In a remarkable effort to combat seasonal diseases, our partner in Pakistan launched a proactive 'Dengue and Malaria Prevention' campaign in May 2024. Recognising the pressing health risks during summer, the campaign utilised community-centred strategies and media engagement to spread awareness and implement practical prevention measures.

The initiative combined loudspeaker announcements on tuk-tuk rickshaws (motorised three-wheelers) with pre-recorded health programs broadcast via radio and portable speaker boxes. These messages, delivered in the local Punjabi language, educated the community on the importance of mosquito nets, proper sanitation, and maintaining clean surroundings. To reinforce the messaging, vibrant posters in Urdu, the national language, were displayed across the village ensuring accessibility for all.

Zero Cases of Dengue Fever

The impact was profound, with the community reporting zero cases of dengue fever by August 2024. Only one case of malaria, originating from a neighbouring village was identified. This success is largely attributed to the active adoption of

preventative measures, such as the consistent use of mosquito nets and repellents provided by our Partner's mobile healthcare team. The campaign's reach and effectiveness were significantly amplified by media tools, which created widespread awareness and engagement.

The program's success was fostered by the collaborative efforts of our Partner, local church pastors, local community leaders, and residents who participated in the campaign. The use of media not only facilitated the dissemination of life-saving information but also strengthened the community's trust in our Partner in Pakistan.

This initiative underscores the vital role of media in transforming lives and highlights the power of collaboration in achieving healthier futures while at the same time partnering with the local Church to share the Good News. Together, with your prayers and support, we continue to bring health, hope, and harmony to vulnerable communities across Pakistan.



Click here to watch our Partner sharing dengue and malaria prevention measures through the streets.