

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Faith

# Wong Kuan Yee

Age 35, Dentist/Prosthodontist

As part of AMC Missions Month 2023, we bring to you inspiring stories of church members who have answered the call to share God's love with the nations.



*Kuan Yee visited Timor-Leste earlier this year during her sabbatical. It was her first time returning since Covid-19 hit.*



*A Project Sabai Dental team at Hope House, Cambodia, in 2019.*

## Spreading smiles from Singapore

In my first year as a dental student, I joined 2 medical mission trips that opened my eyes to the dire oral health conditions of the locals in Cambodia. There were children with entire mouths full of cavities.

Being young dental students back then, there was very little we could do, so that sense of helplessness eventually spurred us on to start our own dental mission project.

The initial years of Project Sabai Dental were focused on providing dental services to underprivileged communities in Cambodia.

When we started in 2008, we were operating in two Don Bosco schools in Cambodia. The project subsequently expanded to involve a total of seven schools, including those in Timor-Leste.

## TESTIMONY BY WONG KUAN YEE



*Kuan Yee (centre) conducting a clinic at a church kindergarten in Hera District, Timor-Leste, in 2023.*



*From left: Kuan Yee with one of AMC's missionaries to Timor-Leste, Pr Loh Han Chew (far right); a dental carnival organised for the Methodist School of Cambodia's kindergarten*

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Over the years, our focus has shifted away from a predominantly treatment-based model. The current approach aims to target oral health diseases through a school-based oral health education and fluoride preventive programme.

By empowering the teachers and administrators of our partnering schools, we hope to improve the oral health of the children studying there.

In 2018, 10 years since we first started, our team also decided to officially form a society, Project Sabai Dental Society (Singapore).

We do not actively preach the gospel on our trips. However, as many of us are Christians, we do spend some time in fellowship especially with the missionaries in those countries.

We also live in a way that reflects the Bible's teachings, with the intention of leading by example for our juniors and dental students. We keep the project secular so that non-Christians can join us as we live out our beliefs.

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When it comes to missions, I believe that your availability is more important than your ability. Missions is a journey we make together with God, an invitation to join Him in His plans.

It is less of what we do and the tangible deliverables. Instead, it is about obedience and walking closely with Him.



It can be easy to get caught up in our plans, the things to accomplish and outcomes. The tendency is to measure effectiveness and efficiency according to human standards.

We may appear to be efficient and productive, but we may not be effective.

Often times, we also may not be aware of the worldview that we hold, which may influence how we view others and ourselves.

I would strongly encourage mission goers to read the book *When Helping Hurts* at least once before they embark on any trip!

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Stay tuned for more!