

# engage

DARE TO ENGAGE IN GOD'S MISSION

New Zealand Report | MARCH 2025

## Education: A Gift, Not a Given, in Cambodia

**T**HIS SUMMER, AS I EXPLORED the breathtaking South Island in our caravan, I was reminded of the incredible privilege we share: living in this beautiful country. It's a gift! Which got me thinking about the message of Luke 12:48 - *to whom much is given, much will be expected*. Friends, living in NZ means (through nothing of our own doing) we have been blessed with education, with easy access to the gospel, with an abundance of church-communities, with roofs over our heads and food on our tables. And part of this privilege includes being used by God to help others access the same. My prayer is that we would each contribute to building His kingdom, as the Holy Spirit leads us. Whether it's sacrificing time, money, attention, energy or skills, may we be faithful in offering it to Him this year, with thankful hearts. So bring on 2025!

In New Zealand, education is a basic entitlement. Yet, I know of a fourteen-year-old girl who sees education as a gift. Ten Makara was six years old when Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC) staff came to her village in rural Stung Treng and changed her life's course. "I wanted to go to school and get an education. But my parents can't afford it," she says. "They thought it was a waste of time and money. They wanted me to stay at home and help them with the chores." But AOC introduced Ten Makara's parents to our ACTS (Assisting Children to School) programme. "They convinced my parents to let me and my siblings go to school, saying: *education is the key to a better life*." ACTS starts with shifting the mindset of rural Cambodian parents to recognise education as the way to break the generational poverty cycle they're trapped in. ACTS removes the



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barriers to education, starting with the overwhelming setup-costs of school. "They gave us everything we needed: books, pens, uniforms, shoes and more. I was so happy and excited. I couldn't wait to start learning."

Ten Makara encountered another barrier years later, when she reached grade seven and needed to switch schools. "It wasn't easy," she says. "My new school was far away from my home. I had to walk every day, sometimes for hours, and I was tired and hungry when I got there. I often got scolded by the teacher for being late. My parents said that it was too dangerous for me to walk alone. They said I should quit school and help them at home. But I didn't give up. I knew that AOC cared about me and wanted me to succeed." The ACTS programme provided a bike that Ten Makara describes as *the best thing that ever happened to her*. "It helped me get to

school faster and safer than before," she says. "It is more than just a thing; it is a symbol of hope and opportunity. It is a tool that helps me achieve my goals and dreams."

You can help open up a future of hope and opportunity for children like Ten Makara, by donating to ACTS today. Your gift will enable children, who desperately desire to become teachers, doctors and shop-owners, to achieve their dreams. We're aiming to sponsor 90 children this year, and your generosity can help us reach that goal. Whether you provide a backpack for \$50, or fully sponsor ten children for \$5,500, or anything in between - we'd love to partner with you to break the poverty-cycle in rural Cambodia.



*Glenn*

Blessings,  
**Glenn Carter**,  
AONZ Director

**HELP SPONSOR  
AN ACTS CHILD!**



**Account: Asian Outreach NZ Inc**  
01-0434-0091261-00 / Ref: ACTS  
[www.asianoutreach.org.nz/acts](http://www.asianoutreach.org.nz/acts)

<b>\$50</b>	for a backpack
<b>\$175</b>	for a bike
<b>\$550</b>	for full-sponsorship of one child for one year



# BECOME A BACKBONE SUPPORTER IN 2025!

**W**e're on the hunt for five new Backbone Team members! Are you one of them? Our Backbone Team sees the big picture! They donate regularly to the running costs of Asian Outreach NZ, enabling us to continue expanding God's work in Cambodia and Mongolia. The end result is more lives impacted by God's love, through our overseas projects. Just look at all we achieved together in 2024! If you'd like to partner with us to do it all again this year, join our Backbone Team today! Set up an auto payment of any amount (e.g. \$10/week or \$30/month for one year) and let us know that **you're one of the five!**  
Email [glenn@asianoutreach.org.nz](mailto:glenn@asianoutreach.org.nz)

## Join our Backbone Team!

**Weekly/monthly donations or a one-time gift of any amount!**

**Account:** Asian Outreach NZ Inc

01-0434-0091261-00 /

**Ref:** Backbone



**Backbone donations are tax-deductible**



## Rural Church Development

In 2023 the Elim church communities of Auckland fundraised to build several new rural churches in Stung Treng District. Last year, we saw two of those churches constructed and officially opened. Having a stable structure to gather in (particularly in the rainy season) will be a game-changer for these small groups of believers, especially as they reach out to their neighbours and make more disciples! The AOC team has also been busy supporting rural pastors, sharing the good news in remote villages and giving out audio bibles gifted by kiwi supporters.

## Are you one of the mystery five?



**CAMBODIA**



## \$8000 for Family Empowerment

Hundreds of women and girls have had the opportunity to attend group trainings on topics like puberty, pregnancy and human trafficking this year. A big focus has been educating intermediate-aged kids and handing out reusable sanitary pads and knickers to the girls. These gifts are life-giving - allowing girls to carry on attending school throughout their monthly-cycle.



## \$70,500 for ACTS

ACTS stands for Assisting Children to School in Cambodia and it's all about breaking the poverty cycle through education. Kids, who would otherwise be working in the fields, are provided with all the supplies (clothing, stationery, bikes) needed to attend school. The benefits extend to whole families - parents access educational courses, the damaged roofs of family-homes are repaired and the message of Jesus is shared. AONZ sponsored 110 of the 162 ACTS children in 2024. Thirty kids were gifted bikes to improve accessibility to school.

**MONGOLIA**



## \$22,000 for Church Planting/Growth

We funded church-planting trip expenses (accommodation, food and fuel) and purchased bibles and audio-bibles to resource the small churches in rural provinces. Plus, we've invested in the Great Commission Institute (a bible school run by Genesis Asian Outreach Mongolia) that equips church leaders with the theology and skills to make disciples and grow healthy churches.



## \$23,600 for LifeSkills

We invested into LifeSkills Values Education which teaches Christian values in Mongolian state schools. This programme also opens a door for secular school-kids to attend holiday Bible Camps, and dive deeper into the gospel message, outside the school context. We're helping fund the wages of teaching staff as they expand LifeSkills geographically into new regions.



## \$7,055 for Mission Vehicle

We continue to fund maintenance costs for the mission vehicle, which we purchased in 2019. This 4WD enables teams from Ulaanbaatar to travel thousands of kilometres each year, reaching the unreached, mentoring potential-leaders and encouraging new believers.



## \$39,180 for Winter Kits

We enabled 250 children from impoverished Mongolian families, to stay warm through the freezing winter with their cosy new jackets and boots. The kids and their families also experienced and heard about God's love for them, through a short discipleship course. We took over 700 beanies with us to Mongolia last year, which were hand-made by a growing network of kiwi knitters and distributed with the Winter Kits.



# Social Media Highlights

We'd love to share snippets of news and photos with you more frequently! Find us on Facebook and Instagram: search '[asianoutreachnz](#)' and click 'follow'!



We're beyond thankful to our supporters, our partners and to God for all the incredible kingdom-work last year - getting ready now to do it all over again!



We're delighted to partner with Anna Sanford to spread the word about our Elevate project. Through her puberty talks here in NZ, Anna will share how this ministry equips rural Cambodian girls with period-products and information to manage their periods confidently. Anna is also a Strengths Coach - [www.annasanford.org.nz](http://www.annasanford.org.nz)

His light shines brighter  
when we work together



We're on the hunt for FIVE new people to join our Backbone Team in 2025... are you one of them?



Jenny Snelgrove - just an ordinary kiwi whose heart has been captivated by Mongolia. Since her first trip with us in 2018, she has returned FIVE times and plans to make it SIX this year! Every time, we can depend on her to get amongst it, show initiative, make connections and be led by the Holy Spirit.



Keep our Mongolian church-planting team mobile! These guys go the distance! They sacrifice comforts and "rough-it" for the sake of reaching the unreached with the message of Jesus. Let's help keep their mission-vehicle road-worthy! Donate at [www.asianoutreach.org.nz/church-planting-mongolia](http://www.asianoutreach.org.nz/church-planting-mongolia)

## LET YOUR LEGACY OUTLAST YOUR LIFE!

Find out more about  
including AONZ in your will.

[glenn@asianoutreach.org.nz](mailto:glenn@asianoutreach.org.nz) /  
021 833 582

[www.asianoutreach.org.nz/](http://www.asianoutreach.org.nz/legacy-giving)  
legacy-giving



Asian Outreach  
New Zealand

Direct deposits can be made into either of these ANZ accounts:

NZ Office Support: 010434-0091261-00 Overseas Project Donations: 010434-0091261-02