



# world mission offering

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Reflection by  
Rev. Dr. Sharon T. Koh

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See, I am doing a new thing!  
*Now it springs up;*  
do you not perceive it?

ISAIAH 43:19

Dear IM Family,

2025 has proven to be an interesting year! In so many of the areas where IM works, there is a darkness of natural and human-made disasters, human suffering and great need. But this has provided the dark, rich soil from which God's work springs up and offers hope and new life.

The Lord says in Isaiah 43:19, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

In this rhetorical question, the Lord is not questioning whether or not God is doing a new thing. God is questioning whether we perceive or notice it.

Even in places like Ukraine, where there is immense need, IM Global Consultant Kristy Engel has seen new sustainable medical systems created so that care for others continues far into the future. She is seeing hope and rebuilding spring up around her.

IM Global Consultant Mike Mann's ministry uses coffee, a common commodity, to help hill tribe communities build a sustainable life. Although he has been serving in northern Thailand for over 30 years, he is still seeing new ways to improve production. This means a better quality of life for those he works alongside. It also allows him to develop new ministry projects based on needs.

As I met with IM Global Servants Eric and Yuree Lembke, it was easy to perceive the new thing God was doing—they have been serving in western Thailand for less than a year! Every day they connect with new people. This often leads to developing new ministry opportunities or classes at the Thoo Mweh Khee Learning Center. A place for refugees, the center is helping Karen people create new lives.

God is doing a new thing in the lives of these IM global servants and in the lives of those they serve.

Throughout the world, God's



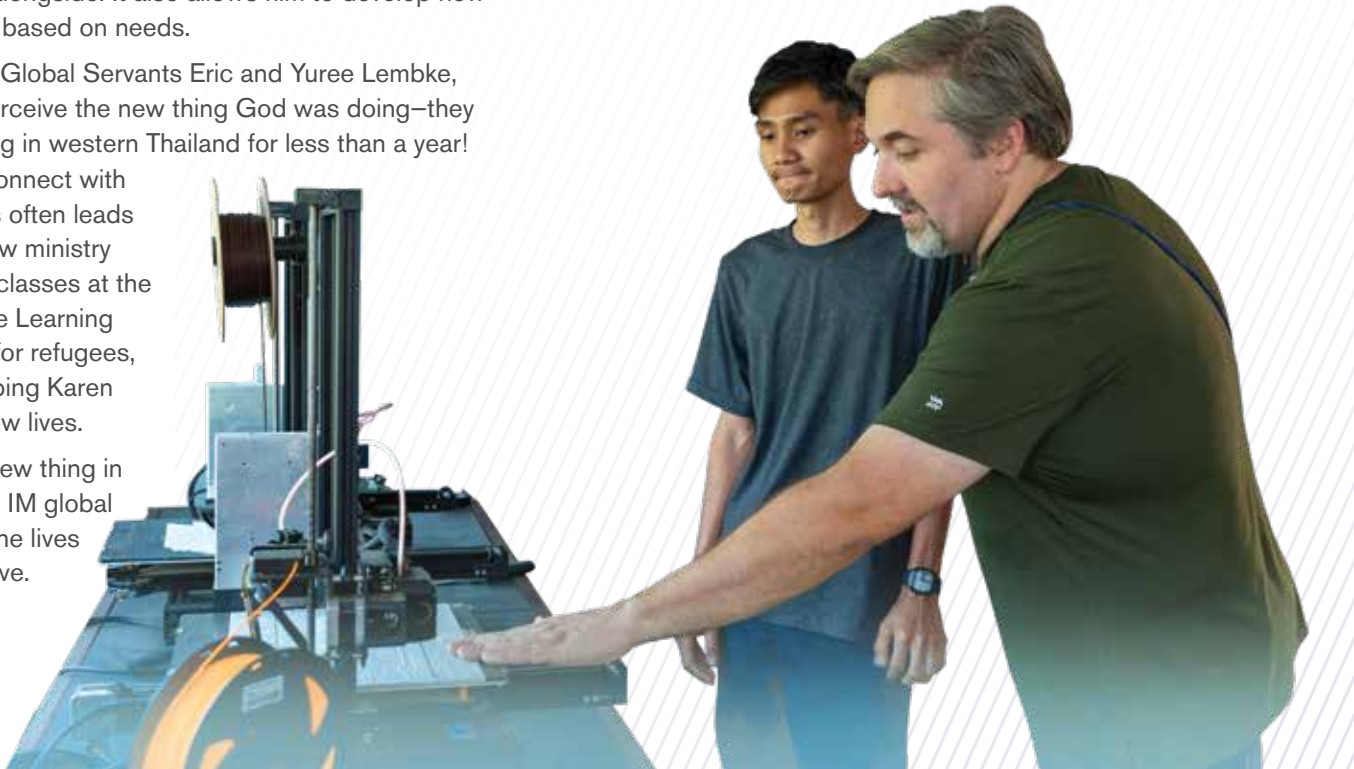
Sharon Koh

Rev. Dr. Sharon T. Koh  
MDiv, MAT, DMin  
Executive Director / CEO

work through IM is springing up in each unique cross-cultural context. Even in places of deep hardship, God's faithfulness remains steadfast, bringing forth life where despair once seemed overwhelming. As global servants adapt to changing needs and discover new ways to serve, one thing is certain—God is not finished yet. We will keep watching to see where God provides a new path forward for generations to come.

**Thank you for your unwavering partnership in God's mission. There is a new thing taking place and your support allows our global servants to build lasting relationships and make a far-reaching impact for God's glory.** Thank you for sending short-term mission teams who witness all that God is doing and return to share that with others. Most importantly, thank you for your faithful prayers—it is prayer that cultivates the soil for new growth.

This World Mission Offering, we invite you to see the new thing God is doing and to join together with IM in His work. May these stories inspire in you the same hope and anticipation we feel as we watch God's kingdom take root and flourish—on earth as it is in heaven.



CHILDREN'S  
Sermon

MAIN THEME:

While God's mission continues from one generation to the next, it often looks different and unique because God loves to surprise us with new ways to serve and to reach people for Christ.

SCRIPTURE:

See, I am doing a new thing!  
*Now it springs up;*  
do you not perceive it?

ISAIAH 43:19



MAIN POINT

Global servants share the gospel in ways that are understandable in their unique places of service. For example, ministry in Thailand doesn't look exactly like ministry in Ukraine. What does stay the same, however, is the gospel message given to us through Jesus Christ.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for creating unique people with unique gifts to serve you all over the world. Open our eyes to see you doing a new thing all around us! Amen.

OBJECTS NEEDED

Picture from the internet of historical missionaries. (Ann/Adoniram Judson and Lott Carey are some of the first American Baptist missionaries.)

Picture of global servant serving with IM today. (Kristy Engel, Mike Mann, Eric/Yuree Lembke featured this year.)

Optional: A map to show the different countries.

† Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

LESSON

- 1 **There is a verse in the Bible** that talks about God doing new things: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)
- 2 **God loves new ways of doing things! Ask the kids:** Can you name different ways God did things in the Bible? (God talking to Moses through a burning bush, God parting the Red Sea for people to cross, God helping David defeat Goliath with a slingshot, God sending an angel to tell Mary about baby Jesus.)
- 3 **Just like in our Bible stories, God continues to do new things.** Let me tell you two stories about real people. One who lived over 200 years ago, and one who is alive today.
- 4 **Show the picture and share about the historical missionary you chose.** (ie. This is Lott Carey who was a medical missionary in Liberia in 1820. He started the first church there.) When people served as missionaries 200 years ago, they were often the first people to go to that country to talk about Jesus. Therefore, their ministries focused on translating the Bible into the local language, sharing about Jesus' life, and building churches.
- 5 **Share that people are still being called to the mission field today.** But they may not be the first person to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! **Ask the kids:** What do you think missionaries do if there is already a church and Bibles where a missionary goes to serve?
- 6 **Allow kids to respond.** (Build schools, dig wells for clean water, provide medical care, feed hungry people might be some of their answers.) **Affirm their answers** as God's way of doing new things on the mission field.
- 7 **Show the picture and share about the modern-day global servant you chose.** (ie. This is Mike Mann. He helps the hilltribe people in Thailand, a country in Asia. Fifty years ago, he helped them learn how to grow coffee so they could sell it, and use the money to buy supplies to bring clean water to their villages. As Mr. Mike worked beside the people growing coffee, he was able to share about Jesus and many became Christians. This type of mission work was a new thing that had never been done before when he started!)
- 8 **God's message of love and helping others always stays the same, but how it is acted out can look very different in every generation.** This means, if one of you grows up to be a missionary, then how you serve God is not going to look the same as (name modern-day missionary you chose earlier). **Ask the kids:** Can you imagine what God might invite you to do on the mission field in another country? (Allow the kids to answer, and affirm all their responses as amazing possibilities.) **Invite the kids to pray with you.**

# BIBLICAL Reflection

## MAIN THEME:

*Surprised by Hope: Open Hands, Humble Hearts,  
Eyes Wide with Wonder*

## SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 43:18-19



International Ministries remembers the first missionaries like Adoniram and Ann Judson who sailed for Asia in 1812. The Judsons navigated illness, depression, war, imprisonment, loneliness, and grief, as well as the normal transitions of learning a new language and culture. They are credited with translating the Bible into Burmese. Their perseverance and resilience sowed the seeds for the Christian church in Burma and around the world. The “new thing” God set in motion 213 years ago continues today.

Like the Judsons, today’s global servants seek to be faithful to God’s mission in cross-cultural contexts. This year’s World Mission Offering focuses on global ministries in Thailand and Ukraine. It includes ministries that serve Karen refugees and hill tribe communities in Thailand. It also highlights a ministry providing healthcare to internally displaced people in Ukraine. God’s invitation to see new things is fresh and enticing for each generation. But how do we lean into “a new thing” when surrounded by suffering and dire need?

God’s word to the Israelites in Isaiah 43 comes after they have experienced 70 years of Babylonian exile. They are disheartened. The Israelite community is worn down, low on resilience, and stuck in old patterns of despair and hurt. Many, feeling that God has abandoned them, have abandoned God instead. So, through the prophet Isaiah, God speaks into their situation with a word of hope:

**Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:18-19)**

## PERCEIVING “A NEW THING” IS GROUNDED IN THESE PRINCIPLES:

- 1 Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.**  
God does not say that situations and people in our past are unimportant. However, we can’t keep holding on to them if we’re going to receive a new thing. God encourages us to release the emotions, biases, paradigms, and certitudes that inhibit who God is calling us to be, as well as where God is calling us to serve. We need open hands.
- 2 See, I am doing a new thing!** The new thing is not something the community can generate for itself. It is initiated by God. Also, the new thing does not come with a set of instructions you can scan with a QR code. Moving with God requires stepping into uncertainty with a huge dose of faith. We must surrender to God’s sovereignty and have confident trust in God’s transformative power. We need humble hearts.
- 3 Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?** This question implies that God’s new thing is all around us, but we’ll miss it if we don’t slow down and stay curious. God’s leading requires careful discernment. God’s mission invites paying attention with our entire being. We need eyes wide with wonder.

## AS WE RECEIVE THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING

- We choose to let go of things that hinder us from moving forward with God. God’s mission is advanced by people who learn from the past but don’t get stuck there.
- We choose to relinquish control, acknowledging that clarity for God’s mission is discovered through God’s perspective and not our own.
- We choose to pause and revel in the wonder of how God’s mission springs up in unexpected places through unexpected people during unexpected circumstances.

God’s new thing is often full of mystery and beyond our wildest imagination! And yet, if we as a community are willing to cultivate holy perception, God promises to make a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. **God’s mission is undergirded by communities with open hands, humble hearts, and eyes wide with wonder.**

# DISCUSSION Starters

## SUPPORTING VERSE:

*“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.”*

MATTHEW 6:22

## SCRIPTURE:

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19

## SUGGESTED TITLE:

Perception Matters

## THEME:

There are many circumstances outside our control: wars, natural disasters, disease, accidents, and other peoples’ actions and decisions. However, amid these circumstances, we have choices about how to perceive them. Perception matters if we want to engage with God’s “new thing.”



### 1 Pause and ask: “Is there more than meets the eye in this situation?”

Jack Canfield in his book *Chicken Soup for the Soul* shares a story of being on a subway where one man’s children were screaming and chasing each other up and down the aisle disturbing all the passengers. The father seemed oblivious. Finally, Jack went and spoke directly to the father about the situation. He then learned that this family had just come from the hospital where the mother had died only an hour before. “As you might imagine,” says Jack, “I suddenly saw the situation in a totally different light.”

**Discuss:** Can you recall a situation where what you thought was going on was not the whole story?

### 2 Adjust our lens so that our perspective shifts.

In the historical context of our scripture passage, the people of Israel have been in Babylonian captivity for 70 years. They are strangers in a strange land. Their familiar places of worship are gone. Life is completely different than it was before. It’s not where they want to be. As we read through Isaiah, we often hear the Israelites saying, “Why did this happen to us? Why God? Why are we still here?” Their questions reflect bone-weary exhaustion. Hope seems distant. God responds by inviting them to adjust their perception. If they are willing to perceive differently, they will glimpse God’s initiative of a new thing. Hope will come into focus.

**Discuss:** Where do you identify with the Israelites’ story? What can get in the way of shifting your perception?

### 3 Hold my perception accountable within a safe, sacred community.

Sometimes the lens of our perspective is colored by our stories. Sometimes the focus is blurry due to our own fears and anxieties. Sometimes we don’t have all the facts. Sometimes our world has gotten very small due to physical pain and limitations. Sometimes our hope has been battered so many times that we’ve gone into hiding, choosing to become blind to what’s around us to survive. It’s not always easy or comfortable to perceive God’s new thing. It often requires grit and courage. It also requires trusted companions who keep us focused clearly on the new vision.

**Discuss:** Who are the people who not only call you to see differently, but also walk beside you toward God’s new thing?

### 4 Transformative ministry is not based on doing the same thing over and over. God invites us to engage in “new things.”

Global servants invite us to see God at work in other parts of the world from a perspective we can’t always glimpse firsthand due to our limited knowledge and understanding. Their stories invite us to journey with them to see God’s new work through the eyes of people we may never encounter. Sometimes, we only glimpse God’s initiative in our peripheral vision. However, if God turns our hearts and we look more closely, like the Israelites, we discover hope.

**Discuss:** What global ministry is springing up in your peripheral vision? How will you choose to engage?

# PRAYER Calendar 2025

## WEEK 1

### A PRAYER FOR IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

by Adalia Gutierrez Lee, Area Director

Dear God, we are so grateful for your everlasting presence and that you are with us in all seasons of life—through celebration and rejoicing, sadness and mourning. Teach us to continue caring for our planet, yearning for peace and justice, and loving our neighbors no matter the color of their skin or the country where they were born. We ask you to bless the holistic ministries among our global servants and partners in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. We especially ask that you flourish faith and hope in the hearts of little girls throughout the continent as they learn to love you, to love themselves, and to love one another. Amen.

#### Global Servants in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean

Barbara & Dwight Bolick  
Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovanetti  
Deliris Carrión-Joseph & Moise Joseph  
Marci Carvalho  
Waleska Febres Hernandez  
Mercy González-Barnes  
Eliberto & Molly Juárez  
Christine Lafferty  
María Angélica Mainecul  
Luis & Sarah Matos  
Debbie & Keith Myers  
Kihomi Ngwemi & Nzunga Mabudiga  
David Parajón  
Ketly & Vital Pierre  
Stacy & Tim Reese  
Brian & Lynette Smith  
Corenne Smith  
Jae Stockton  
Ruth Vindas  
Dilia Zelaya

## WEEK 2

### AFRICA

by Karen Smith, Area Director

Loving God, thank you for the extraordinary ways you work in and through our partners and global servants across Africa. We ask you to bring peace to the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, western Kenya and South Africa. We especially lift up the children in these regions who are homeless, hungry and vulnerable. In your great mercy protect these precious children. Provide safe places for all of them to live and heal from the trauma of war, armed conflict, sexual violence and displacement. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### Global Servants in Africa

Ann & Bill Clemmer  
Anita & Rick Gutierrez  
Boaz Keibarak  
Christina & Lance Muteyo  
Katherine & Wayne Niles  
Kathy & Tim Rice  
Faye Carol Yarbrough

## WEEK 3

### EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND LIBERIA

by Charles Jones, Area Director

Sovereign Lord, we bring to you the global servants and ministry partners serving throughout Europe, the Middle East and Liberia. We pray that you will strengthen and embolden them for your glory as they meet the physical and spiritual needs of people in these regions. We first ask that salvation would come to this area and that people would know your truth and experience your freedom. We pray also that justice would come for migrants and refugees as global servants show them your love and hope. Thank you for always being at work in these relationships and we pray for continued opportunities to reach others in God's mission. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

#### Global Servants in Europe, the Middle East and Liberia

Melanie Baggao  
Dan & Sarah Chetti  
Hermelinda & Jorge Damasceno  
Laura & Rich Freeman  
Amanda & Jon Good  
Carmella Jones  
Nora & Pieter Kalkman  
Becky & Larry Stanton

## WEEK 4

### EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

by Becky Shenton, Area Director

Gracious and loving God, we recognize and praise you for the incredible ways you move through your faithful global servants and ministry partners in East and South Asia. We pray for their safety, health and well-being. We pray also that you meet the spiritual and tangible needs of the people in this area and draw their hearts towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We ask that you open opportunities for education and training so that quality of life can be improved and God's kingdom can be furthered. We thank you for who you are and how you work! We pray in the powerful name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Global Servants in East and South Asia

Alemla Ao & Lanutemjen Jamir  
Katie & Taku  
David Sagar

## WEEK 5

### SOUTHEAST ASIA AND JAPAN

by Kyle Witmer, Area Director

God of hope, we pray for the global servants and ministry partners around Southeast Asia and Japan. May our global servants be filled with joy and peace in their faith as they share Jesus with others in word and deed. We pray that the eyes of people's hearts in this area might be open to see you at work in and around them, so that they may know the hope to which you have called all of us. We pray this hope will beckon and draw others ever closer as they trust in you. May we all learn to live and love in such a way that life will be...on earth as it is in heaven. In the name of the One who is our hope, Jesus, our Messiah, we pray. Amen.

#### Global Servants in Southeast Asia and Japan

Aphiwan & Scott Coats  
Annie & Jeff Dieselberg  
Joel & Trish Hoefle-Magal  
Gordon & Lee Ann Hwang  
Alise & Mark Juanes  
Eric & Yuree Lembke  
Becky Mann  
Lori & Matt Mann  
Sarah McCloy  
Jonathan & Thelma Nambu  
Kit Ripley  
Paul Rollet  
Shigemi Tomita  
Aaron & AmyEstelle Trout  
Katrina & Kyle Williams

## WEEK 6

### GLOBAL

by Lisa Rothenberger, World Relief Officer

Lord, we pray for our global consultants who are serving all over the world and global coordinators who serve our IM family. We ask that you give them wisdom for the ministries to which you have called them. As they support others, fill them with encouragement and your words of truth and hope so they can continue to reflect who you are to those they work alongside. We pray that you widen your reach of the gospel through them. Please give them endurance as they go where you call and meet those you are already moving into their paths. We pray this in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

#### Global Consultants

Mylinda Baits  
Lauran Bethell  
Kristy Engel  
Mike Mann  
Rodney Ragwan  
Ray Schellinger  
Jeanine & Walt White

#### Global Coordinators

David & Joyce Reed  
Rhonda Reed  
Debby Witmer

## WEEK 7

### Missionary Kids

by Debby Witmer, IM Global Coordinator for Missionary Kid and Family Care

Jesus, please empower each missionary kid with the strength that only your Spirit can give. When they feel like giving up; when they are struggling because life is hard; when they are uncertain or doubting you... in whatever they face, may they know the unending, limitless power of your Spirit to bring strength and peace to their hearts and minds. May their trust in you deepen every day. Help them comprehend the width, length, height, and depth of your love for them. Establish yourself in their hearts and accomplish your good work in them for your glory and their well-being. Amen.

## WEEK 8

### Volunteers & Mission Partnership Teams

by Jeni Pedzinski, Mission Engagement Director

Lord, in Matthew 9:37-38 you tell us that, "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few," and you invite us to ask you to send out workers into your harvest field. We ask you now to do just that. Please call, equip, and send workers into your harvest field to be your hands and feet around the world. We ask that you call short-term volunteers, long-term global servants and mission partnership team members to join you and our sisters and brothers in faraway places to build your kingdom... on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

The **World Mission Offering** provides an opportunity for individuals and churches to participate in God's life-changing mission around the globe. A special thanks to IM Global Coordinators for Spiritual Care David and Joyce Reed for their contributions to the content of this guide.



Flip this guide for  
a Spanish version.

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la versión en Español.

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1003 W 9th Ave, Ste A,  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210  
[www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)