

Kailean and Kim Khongsai

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The call in action

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Dear friends,

Greetings in Christ's name! We have again found ourselves in a festive season by his grace. A holy season and a time for reflecting on the past and hoping for the future. Christmas is a season of great joy!

The year 2021 has been a tough year for our family. Our parents have been seriously ill with COVID, and some of our relatives in India passed away. Over this past year, our whole family have been infected with COVID-19. But on the other hand, we are extremely fortunate and thankful to God that we are able to emerge from the situation and can look forward to a new hope and renewal during this festive season. We do hope and pray the same for you!

Reflecting on 2021, despite COVID cases still present in our surrounding areas, our work continues to progress, and I cannot thank you enough for your financial and prayer support. There are so many things to be grateful for; after the eco-church demonstration event last summer at Wolf Fields, the site witnessed more visits from churches, groups and individuals, and especially some of our local churches are encouraged to take up eco-projects in partnership with us. So my daughter Limmy and her mum and I are intending help the churches with their projects. We are encouraged and excited about it!

This year, we've partnered with over 30 local groups to provide a number of events and outdoor services for the local community. Activities have included completing some of our art projects (see photo), constructing two raised beds with a special path for wheelchair access and planting over 300 flower bulbs in the sensory garden and wildflower area in partnership with churches and local youth groups.

As we are almost coming to the end of the year, Kim and I organised a barbecue to thank our volunteers who tirelessly help us with much-needed site maintenance work to keep the reserve a good place for people wildlife and people. It was a well-attended event.

Our 2021 harvest event was quite a significant one. It was a joint event with Southall Outdoor Church. Kim and I are so thankful to God that we had enough harvest – apples, potatoes and pears – to give away



Name: Kailean and Kim Khongsai

Location: Southall, West London

Our call: To do all we can to preserve God's wonderful world, which he lovingly created and entrusted to our care.

Our role: Building bridges among different faith communities through environmental projects and activities.



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Volunteers at Wolf Fields

to volunteers and some refugees/new migrants. We had a wonderful fellowship and prayer session with all the participants (who came from various faith backgrounds).

Since last summer, I have been working closely with our local youth groups. It has been an amazing experience to see their passion and concern grow for the global environmental crisis. I had the privilege of running a few activities with them, for example workshops in relation to COP26 and nature ID training events. It is encouraging to see that some young people are keen to make changes individually as well as help with church eco-initiatives.

With some funding from Ealing Deanery, we're able to go ahead with the design and groundwork for the proposed labyrinth project spearheaded by Grace team (Christian community) and Southall Outdoor Church. We intend to purchase most of the essential materials for the project before Christmas.

The reserve has continued to provide a space of worship, enjoyment, learning and community in Southall. Last October, we were joined by two new partners: Southall Mental Health Support Project and Act for Ealing. We're really looking forward to seeing our partnership bloom next year.

In addition, we continue to host people referred by local GPs as part of the social prescribing project promoting mental well-being. One participant said, "I feel free and blessed coming here. I can work and take rest whenever I wish. I can sit quietly or wander around and enjoy the nature. I am happy to find this place".

In October we were informed that A Rocha UK had won a London Faith & Belief Community Award for its work at Wolf Fields. The award is testament to years of work, through thick and thin, by a committed group of local volunteers and national supporters funding the work. In 2022, we look forward to working with new and existing partners in the Southall area, as well as extending our reach further afield in West London, which has many other areas of considerable nature deprivation. Please watch this space for our third Church Demonstration Day where we invite church representatives to come, taste and see what God is doing with our patch, so they can be inspired and go forth and do the same in their own church spaces and communities.

We really value your prayers:

- Thank God that we have more new partners and thank God that some of our local churches are inspired to take up eco-projects.
- Thank God for churches and individuals who have generously supported us with prayer and finance until now.
- As COVID cases are back, pray for protection for us, our staff and volunteers
- Thank God that Wolf Fields won a LFBC award this year.
- As we look ahead and plan for project activities next year, we would appreciate prayer for wisdom.

May the glorious message of peace and love fill you with joy during this wonderful season. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We cannot thank you enough for all your support and love. May God bless you abundantly.

Kailean, Kim, Limmy and Zoui Khongsai



Photos from top to bottom: Path for wheelchair access; Wolf Fields harvest; labyrinth project; receiving the award

GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

We live in a violent world but CMS partners in Africa and across the globe are bringing change, hope and freedom to lives wrecked by war. You can help bring the peace of Christ to lives torn apart by conflict too. Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/christmas2021

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400

You can give to Kailean and Kim at: churchmissionsociety.org/khongsai

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