



# Tim Lee

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**Location:** Philippines/UK



**What I do:** Improving the lives of families living in poverty in the Philippines by supporting Jigsaw Kids to become a sustainable organisation



**Empowering** people pushed to the edges of life to release their God-given potential

Dear friends,

## **New Year greetings from Tim, Kate, James, Rebekah, Grace and everyone in Jigsaw Kids Ministry.**

Thank you for your faithful support through prayer and generous giving. Your partnership enables my work with Jigsaw Kids Ministry, sharing God's love on the edges with children and families living in poverty.

I continue to serve as full-time UK director for Jigsaw, working closely with Jeannette, Jigsaw Philippines director. We are witnessing God at work in powerful ways as Jigsaw grows to meet the needs of vulnerable children.

In 2026, while continuing our full range of ministries and activities, Jigsaw hopes to focus on three key developments:

- ▶ Expanding our child protection community programme and developing Jigsaw's street-children and children-at-risk nutrition programme;
- ▶ A new Jigsaw centre building;
- ▶ Launching Jigsaw's Christian kindergartens, called Start-Up Clubs.

### **Jigsaw's Start-Up (early years) Clubs**

We had a wonderful trip to Manila in 2025 to plan and resource Jigsaw's early years programme and train eight leaders to run the early years clubs. The visit was a great success and Jigsaw is ready to launch the first clubs in January.

The training sessions focused on key areas of learning and child-led learning through play alongside early maths, literacy and phonics (in Tagalog). On the final day of training, we ran a model early years club for 40 children.

Early years education is a key factor in strengthening the life chances and opportunities of children, and truly life-changing for children living in urban poor areas. Jigsaw's early years clubs will support children's learning holistically, focusing on their physical, social, spiritual and emotional and communication skills alongside early reading, maths and writing.

The enthusiasm of the staff during the training sessions was infectious and even though the first early years clubs don't officially launch until January, the staff are already putting some of their new skills into practice in the current kids' clubs.



*Children playing at one of Jigsaw's children and family centres*

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**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**



### Typhoon crisis

Thank you so much for your life-giving prayers during the typhoon crisis in the Philippines. Over just three weeks, two powerful super typhoons struck the country – one in the central Philippines and one in the north of Manila – causing immense destruction. The first storm displaced more than 400,000 people, and the second forced over 1.4 million from their homes. Three earthquakes and three volcanic eruptions since August have made relief work even more challenging.

Although Manila was not directly hit, the city endured heavy rain and strong winds. Two of the communities Jigsaw serves were severely affected and had to be fully evacuated as water levels rose. As soon as waters receded, Jigsaw’s programme manager Jenalyn and the development teams visited the communities to assess needs and create a disaster response plan with local leaders.

Jenalyn described the scene as heart-breaking – people wading through mud, trying to rebuild while guarding the few materials left from their homes. Yet she also witnessed deep gratitude. Families thanked God that the floodwaters had only reached their knees, remembering that in the earlier typhoon the water rose to their waists. Their faith and thankfulness in such hardship is profoundly humbling.

Jigsaw has distributed emergency food packs and hygiene items and is working closely with families as they slowly rebuild. Please continue to pray. Your prayers and support mean more than words can express.

**One of Jigsaw’s main focuses is health and well-being and in October, over 100 women gathered for Jigsaw’s Christian Mental Health Awareness Day.** The event was led by students from Manila University and included teaching sessions and small-group discussions on a range of mental health issues – how to recognise them in children, and simple, practical ways to respond.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Many of the women shared that they had never fully understood what mental health really meant, and that the day opened their eyes to how they can support their children and others in their community who are struggling. Jigsaw staff expressed how valuable the day had been and shared their hope to continue this work in 2026, especially by providing more training and practical tools to help children facing mental health challenges.

The sessions began and ended in prayer, lifting praise to God for his great love throughout the day. Praise God.

### Prayer

- ▶ Please pray for Tim and the Jigsaw leadership team as they continue to direct, lead and manage the ministry. Pray for God’s love, wisdom and guidance as they navigate the difficulties of extreme poverty and the harm faced by many children. As they focus on expanding child protection work and strengthening Jigsaw’s nutrition programme for the children most at risk, pray that they remain centred on Jesus and continue sharing God’s love in all they do.
- ▶ Please pray for Jigsaw’s ongoing work – that children’s vulnerability and risk of harm will be reduced. Pray that through Jigsaw’s ministries, especially the children’s, youth and discipleship life groups, many will come to know Jesus and grow in their faith. Please also pray that each child gains strength, well-being and hope through Jigsaw’s health programmes, children’s clubs and education projects. Amen.

With love and thanks,

Tim, Kate and the Jigsaw team



*Photo: Children and teachers testing the new early years programme; Jigsaw teams sit with families whose houses were destroyed by the typhoon rain and winds*



## Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

**It builds my faith when I hear stories** from other CMS partners working with people pushed to the edges of life. I hope that you’re inspired as you read about Elise and Jon in Thailand who are working to keep families together and children out of care. And about Makol in South Sudan whose life got dramatically saved during a peace rally. You can read their stories, and others, at [churchmissionsociety.org/empower](https://churchmissionsociety.org/empower)

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