



Wilberforce  
International Institute

*Redemptive change, one international student at a time*

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## ***Wilberforce 2023 in Review***

It has been a historic year for Wilberforce International Institute. The biggest event was, of course, the 2023 Global Summit. It was the 5th WII Global Summit and the first one outside of the state of Minnesota. This was the largest in terms of participation. Thanks to the global partners of Wilberforce, we were able to bring more of our wonderful Wilberforce Mentees and Fellows than ever before to the Summit. As Thangboi, the very first Wilberforce Fellow who has been to all five summits said, "There was something special about this Summit, thank you."

In addition to the Global Summit, over the course of the year, WII was able to minister in **Japan, Tanzania, and Singapore** about God's calling for redemptive change in this world. Bob taught three online courses. We had countless hours of one-on-one personal mentoring, and the fields just get bigger! The Tanzania Teaching Outreach in September/October provide not just a wonderful opportunity to minister alongside Wilberforce Fellow Kisongo, but it also provided new insight and vision into the new direction for Wilberforce. There are so many people hungry for a chance to change the world as we see it into the world that God meant this planet to be. Kevin will be capping the year with one final trip to Japan to minister and teach. Please keep him in your prayers.

**As we enter into 2024** we will be celebrating 15 years of Wilberforce International Institute and building redemptive change agents! All throughout the next year we will be celebrating the accomplishments of

the internationals who are serving God as Redemptive Change Agents. Look for it.

**Field Update:** One of our Wilberforce Fellows has built a school in his home country Zimbabwe using entirely his own funds. Now he needs partners to help him run the school. We are currently looking for Godly partners who want to come alongside him. See the pictures below.



# Serving God Where His Voice Still Needs To Be Heard



*-- In the lead-up to our 15-year anniversary in 2024 we have been asking various Wilberforce Mentees and Fellows to describe their Wilberforce journey. Here is a short write-up from "R" who can't be named or pictured because of where he works*

When I encountered Wilberforce International Institute (WII) a few years ago, I was thrilled to learn about the mission of this organization. The mission and purpose of WII greatly inspired me. My involvement with WII over the years has added great value to my Biblical perspective and shaped my thinking as a Christ-follower. It has truly prepared me to be a more effective "redemptive change agent" in my home country and region.

**My background:** For 16 years I worked for a Christian missions organization teaching in various schools on the topic of the Christian worldview. I developed a passion to influence the sphere of government as a Christ-follower in my predominantly Muslim country, which has suffered from an authoritarian government system for many years. When I started sharing my passion with other local believers and fellow mission workers, many people didn't understand why and how I would do that. Since we live in a very oppressive country, it is a normal reaction from many loving people around me to hate those in government. As I started seeking for ways to develop and equip myself for this, God made a way for me to get my master's degree in Public Affairs at the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota. It was a miracle from God that I was able to attend with a full scholarship.

During my second year in Minnesota, I encountered WII which became one of the highlights of my time studying in the USA. It was immensely uplifting that unlike many other believers, WII not only understood my heart, passion, and vision, but it was the organization's focus to bring the truth of a Christian worldview to countries like mine!

I was so encouraged to learn about an organization that was dedicated to helping international students like me to pursue our God-given dream to influence our societies with redemptive change. The courses, materials, and one-on-one mentoring I received from

WII prepared me and deepened my conviction to return to my country as a Christ-centered redemptive change agent. Additionally, my ongoing relationship with WII is a source of continual encouragement and strength while serving God in a strict Muslim context. In my ministry, I have been serving in various leadership roles with YWAM in Central Asia. I have been involved in Christian Training/Discipleship schools, Church Planting initiatives as well as Mercy Ministries in Central Asia during for the last two decades. In recent years my primary focus has been to run a NGO that focuses on working with a marginalized segment of society while sharing Christian values through our various ministry projects.

One of our most successful ministry projects is called House of Hope. House of Hope is a transitional home for women and children at risk. Our full-time Christian staff live with the women and children together helping transform their lives. Over the years, we have seen hundreds of women and children impacted by the Gospel in the process.

Currently God is leading us to move to Turkey and to pioneer a new ministry - a renewal and leadership development center for YWAM's Central Asian national leaders and staff which currently exceeds 300 full-time staff.

Your prayers would be greatly appreciated for our Hope ministry as well as our new ministry initiative. Thank you for being an encouragement to us in our ministry and overall vision to see our countries transformed by the power of the Gospel.

## Upcoming Events

### Short Campus Seminar and Ministry

By Dr. Cooney

December 13-19, Japan

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### Anti-Corruption Course

By Dr. Osburn

1/8 - 2/22 2024

Fee: \$99

Sign up on our website!

# The Blessings of Wilberforce International Institute

## Dr. Thangboi Haokip

-- Wilberforce Fellow,  
Senior Principal at  
Education Department at  
School Improvement  
Network, India



Kimsi & Thangboi

-- Here is a message from Wilberforce's very first  
Mentee and Fellow, Dr. Thangboi Haokip

I am happy to recount the blessings I have received through WII. In any Christian meeting or occasion where there is any need for me to introduce myself, I always say that while I am a second generation Baptist Christian, I never experienced a personal relationship (born again) with Christ until I was in my thirties. My association with WII has given me the perspective of a Biblical Worldview which I needed to find my Christian faith and establish my Christian walk for which I will remain forever grateful.

It was in the Spring Semester of 2009 while studying at the University of Minnesota that I met Bob Osburn in a somewhat unusual way. I was looking for Christian fellowship on the campus. In hindsight, I am convinced that the Lord's hand was there leading me and the subsequent Bible classes that I had with him in his office on campus. It was during these Bible studies that for the first time in my life I heard the phrase: "redemptive change agent" and "Christian Worldview". These Bible studies lead me to aim to become a redemptive change agent in my part of the world.

I was privileged to join the first Wilberforce Global Summit in the fall of 2010 where prominent Christian authors like Eric Metaxas, author of Amazing Grace, and Darrow L Miller of the Disciple Nations Alliance spoke. Eric Metaxas spoke about the contributions and achievement of Wilberforce, a British parliamentarian in whose honor this institution has been named. Darrow Miller spoke on why "Worldviews Matter" with his talk being in perfect cinque with the mission of WII.

Kudos to our WII Senior Fellow and Founder who organized this Summit. The work taken and the commitments made to turn mentees into redemptive

change agents with projects across the globe by is something extraordinary. This is true discipleship. Bob's multiple visits to India were truly priceless in keeping me going. The successive summits have also brought in resource persons who are no lesser than the ones I have mentioned at the first summit. Each summit was a wonderful time of learning and interacting. To put it simply without the Wilberforce International Institute, I would not have learned what it meant to be a Biblical Christian or what Christian Worldview is. I learned how important the Application of God's Word is in every aspect of life to be true redemptive change agent.

For my redemptive project, we founded education ministry in our home state of Manipur in India. This year we have the second batch of High School graduates graduating with God's help despite the political and social turbulence we currently have in Manipur.

In closing, I would like to say that I am happy to say that we are impressed with our new leadership and everything that was in the 5th Global Summit 2023 at Seattle. We were blessed and challenged by the speakers to scale new heights and make deeper commitment in our walk with the Lord and the task that He has set before us. I am confident and with God's help and with Kevin Cooney as leader that WII will continue to march on for His Kingdom.

*Congratulations on Your Wedding!*

*October 14, 2023*

*Lisbeth Pino (WII Mentee, Ecuador) & Victor*





## I've Been Thinking -- Dr. Bob Osburn, Senior Fellow --



The social justice demands of the increasingly irrational political Left and the often-angry politics of the Right is putting a tremendous strain on our American experiment in ordered liberty. However, I believe this anguished and dark moment in American life offers

evangelical Christians a unique opportunity to shine our light brightly.

What I mean is this: ***Why shouldn't evangelical Christians become known first of all for creating solutions to intractable problems in society?*** When confronted with the tragedy of the British slave trade, William Wilberforce leaned into his new-found faith with an ever-more sophisticated plan to stamp out the tragically dehumanizing slave trade around which much of the British economy was built. Wilberforce's marvelous example inspires us in Wilberforce International Institute as we train international students to create God-honoring solutions to problems in their home societies.

My hope is that, likewise, American followers of Christ will become known not for acquiescing to or fighting our culture, but for solving its problems. My friend Gary helps men with housing solutions that reinforce Christian discipleship while launching them as productive citizens. Bill has co-founded a national organization that is helping to depolarize our American society. Kendall and his wife Sheila are creating solutions to problems of single parenting in the Black community. Dwight has solved much of the recidivism among ex-prisoners through a mentoring and jobs program. Matt leads a new classical Christian school that perfectly aligns with the aspirations of home educators. The list of evangelical problem solvers goes on because God has made us in His image with amazing powers of creativity and given His followers a deep well of love for their neighbors.

**When we followers of Christ become known for creating constructive, workable solutions to the existential problems that our neighbors face, we validate the message that God has a genuine**

**solution to their underlying problem of sin: the Cross of Jesus Christ.** Doesn't this help you read Matthew 5:16 in a new light? "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Would you help us in WII champion the message that evangelical Christians, first of all, solve problems, for God's glory and human good?

### Kevin's Corner



I really feel blessed to do what I do. I honestly really love what I do! So few people can say that these days. I believe in the mission of Wilberforce like it was my own. Little did I realize when God called me to Wilberforce that I would meet and work with

so many wonderful people. I really mean that! I have met some of the most wonderful God's children globally, brothers and sisters who have dedicated their lives to serving God and their neighbors. Who are their neighbors, you ask? Just like in the Bible, their neighbors are anyone in need. They serve faithfully and are an example of Christ. I am so humbled to get to work with them. In the coming year I plan to highlight more of them like the two in this newsletter. Look for it.

All donations **MUST** be received or postmarked by midnight December 31, 2023, to be counted as an American 2023 tax year donations to Wilberforce according to an IRS rule.

All the work that Wilberforce does is because of you, our faithful supporters in both prayer and finances. We thank you for your on-going support and ask God's blessing on you. You can give online at [www.wilberforceii.org/give](http://www.wilberforceii.org/give).

