

*Wednesday, August 12th , 2026*



# UEM Weekly International Devotion

**Presented by Cand.Rev.Virdo Manurung**

Topic:

“For I was, you did it to Me”

Matthew 25:35–40

# 1. Votum

In the name of God, our Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today, we gather from different countries, cultures, languages, and ministry contexts, but we gather in the same faith: that God calls us to see, welcome, and serve one another.

## 2. Biblical Text Reading ( *L.Oktavia Sijabat* )

### Matthew 25:35–40 (NRSV)

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison  
and you visited me.

Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave  
you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?

And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you  
clothing?

And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these  
brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’”

### 3. Meditation

Dear sisters and brothers,

Jesus gives us a very concrete picture of what it means to serve God. He speaks about food, water, clothing, hospitality, visiting the sick, and caring for those who are forgotten.

Notice something important!

Jesus does not only speak about extraordinary acts of service. He speaks about ordinary things that meet real human needs.

This is particularly important for us as a global church.



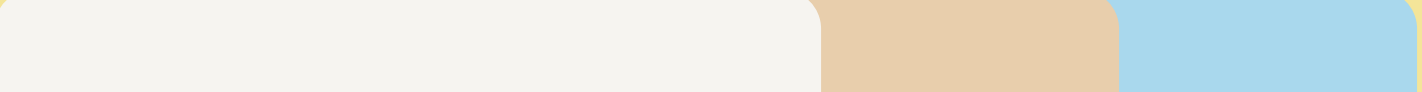
We live in a world where millions of people have different needs. Some need food. Some need shelter. Some need friendship. Some need education. Some need access to opportunities that others take for granted.

Sometimes the problems of our world seem so large that we ask ourselves, What difference can I possibly make?

But Jesus gives us another perspective.

The question is not, “Can I solve the problems of the whole world?”

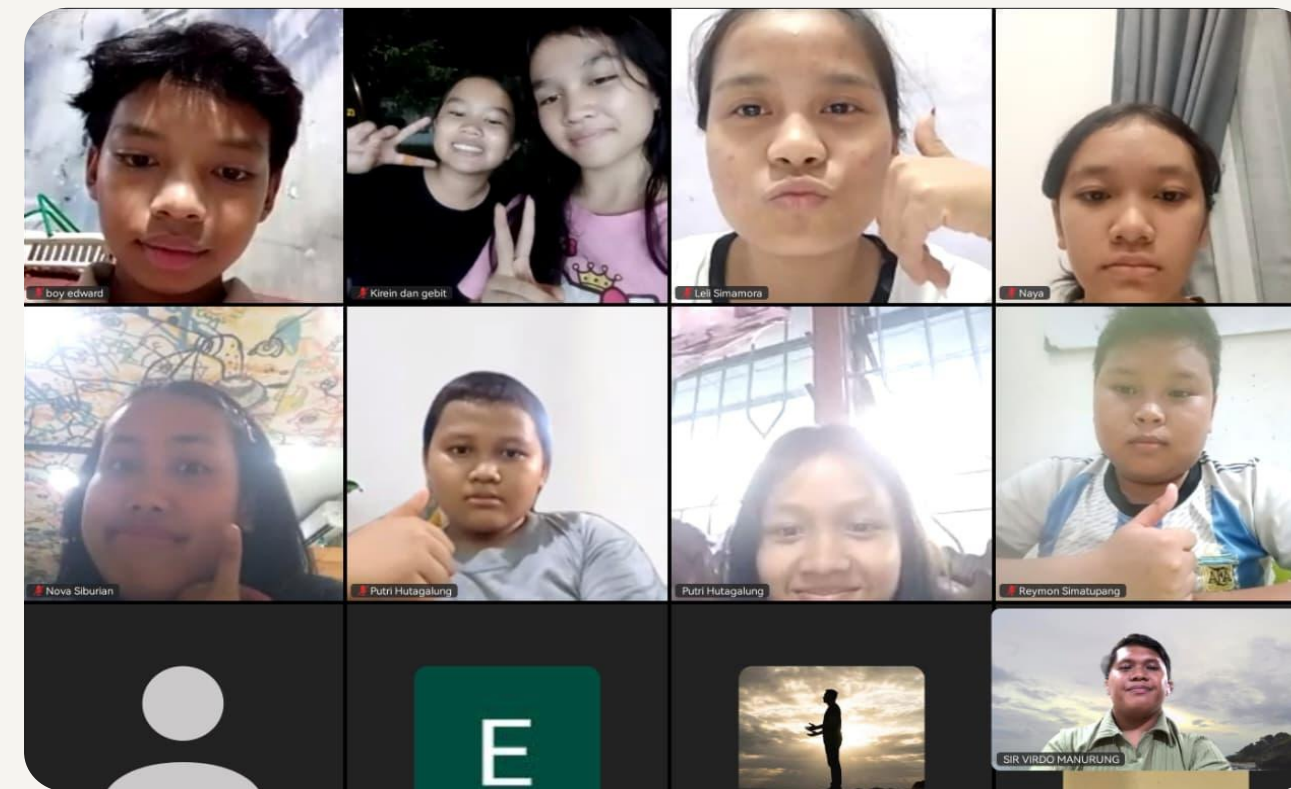
The question is, “Who is the person God has placed within my reach, and what can I do for that person?”

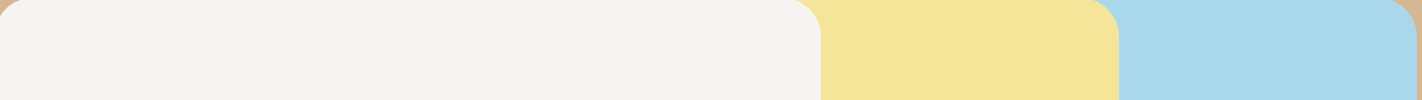


In Indonesia, one of the needs we encounter is access to education, including English education. English can become a bridge to higher education, international communication, information, and wider opportunities. But quality language education is not equally accessible to everyone, particularly to those with limited financial resources.

This is one reason the Huria Kristen Indonesia, HKI, has developed the Ecumenical English Club, offering free English learning to young people

# Ecumenical English Club





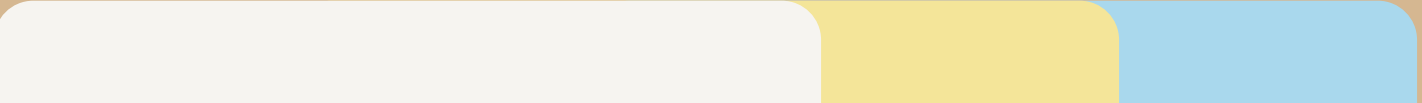
At first, teaching English may appear to be very different from the acts of service mentioned by Jesus. Jesus speaks about feeding the hungry and welcoming the stranger. But the principle is the same: we see a need, and we use what God has entrusted to us to respond to it.

If someone is hungry, we share food.

If someone is lonely, we offer friendship.

If someone lacks access to education, we share knowledge and create opportunities.

Through the Ecumenical English Club, young people are not only learning vocabulary and grammar. Through its connection with Generation Global, they also have opportunities to engage with people and ideas beyond their immediate environment and to participate in conversations about global challenges and different cultures.



This reminds us that ministry does not always have to begin with something big.

Sometimes ministry begins with a classroom.

Sometimes with a conversation.

Sometimes with one hour of our time.

Sometimes with one skill that we are willing to share.

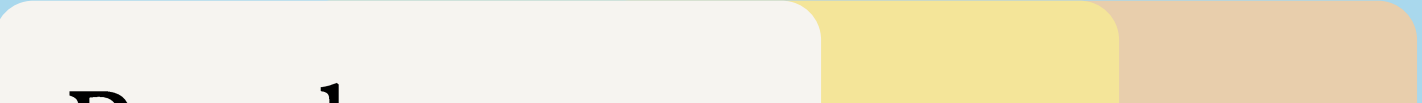
The challenge of Matthew 25 is therefore very personal

Do we notice the needs around us?

Because Jesus says something extraordinary: “Just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.”

When we serve another person, we encounter Christ.

So perhaps today we should not ask only, “What ministry can I build?”



But also:

Whom can I serve?

What do I already have that I can share?

And whose life might become different because I was willing to give it?

May God give us eyes to see people who are often overlooked, hearts that are willing to care, and hands that are ready to serve.

Because sometimes what seems small to us can become significant in the life of another person.

And according to Jesus, when we do it for them, we do it for Him.

#### 4. Prayer / Intercession ( Lisa)

Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God, We thank You for gathering us together as Your people across different countries, cultures, languages, and communities. Open our eyes so that we may recognize the needs of people around us.

Give us compassion for those who are hungry, excluded, lonely, poor, displaced, or unable to access opportunities for education and development. Teach us not to wait until we have great resources before we serve. Help us to faithfully use whatever You have already placed in our hands: our time, our knowledge, our skills, our resources, and our relationships.

We pray especially for young people around the world who have limited access to quality education. May initiatives such as the Ecumenical English Club and Generation Global become spaces where young people can learn, grow, communicate, and discover new possibilities for their future.

Bless every teacher, mentor, volunteer, church, and organization that serves people through education and community. And remind us that whenever we serve those who are often overlooked, we are serving Christ Himself.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## 5. The Lord's Prayer

Now, let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

You may pray the Lord's Prayer in your own language.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from the evil one.  
Amen.

## 6. Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God the Father,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us, with our churches,  
and with all those whom God calls us to serve,  
now and always.

Amen.

