

VISION

empowering communities to
develop their own distinctive
ways of following Jesus



A SEASON OF GROWTH IN CAMBODIA

Eager anticipation for the years ahead.



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LETTER FROM CHRIS



Dear Friends,

Global Interaction works in partnership with Australian Baptist churches, as together we follow Jesus' call to make 'disciples of all nations'. Experience shows us that an effective approach to cross-cultural ministry is to build a team. Global Interaction places

great importance on mentoring Team Leaders, and developing teams who will nurture and support one another during the challenges and triumphs of their ministry. We believe members of a team each bring a diverse range of gifts to the ministry that can enrich and complement the whole team initiative.

This winter edition of Vision shares news of our growing cross-cultural team in Cambodia and reports on the progress of the Bible translation team in Papua New Guinea as they bring the Word to the next generation of followers of Jesus. Enjoy these stories and be encouraged as I am.

Our teams share a collective vision for vibrant faith communities among least-reached people groups. Their work is an extension of our local vision for global mission – to reach those who otherwise have little or no chance to hear the message of Jesus in a way that makes sense to them. This ministry is made possible with the support of an extended prayer and partnership network – our teams are so reliant on the Australian Baptist community.

To all who have partnered with Global Interaction during May Mission Month – thank you. The theme of the Vine and Branches, from John 15:5, was well received. Indeed, He is the Vine and we are the branches, without Him we can do nothing, but as you will read; together we can do so much more!

Grace and Peace,

Chris Barnden
Interim General Director

- > **We believe God's greatest gift is a life-transforming relationship with Jesus**
- > **Our passion is to share the gift of Jesus and see Him embraced by all people around the world**
- > **With deep compassion and cultural sensitivity, Global Interaction exists to empower communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus**

Global Interaction is the international cross-cultural sending organisation of Australian Baptist churches. We send people to share the message of Jesus, establish and nurture faith communities and to provide Biblical training and leadership development.

Operating for over 130 years we have been known as Australian Baptist Foreign Mission (ABFM), Australian Baptist Missionary Society (ABMS) and now Global Interaction. We are an affiliated body of Australian Baptist Ministries. The national office is in Melbourne and there are teams for each state.

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Inside Cover Photo: Silk Road Area, taken by Susan Campbell

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AROUND THE STATES

We invite you to connect with cross-cultural workers in your state who are on Home Assignment or preparing to serve and get involved in state events. Hear exciting stories of what God is doing.

VIC & TAS

Who's around?

Dave and Edwina – Home Assignment from South East Asia (from October)
Paul and Lydia – Preparing to serve in Cambodia
Mick and Tara – Home Assignment from South East Asia
Muana and Villy – Home Assignment from Thailand (returning July)
Ian (Based in VIC) – Malawi

Events

Discernment Weekend

An opportunity for those considering cross-cultural mission to dedicate time to discussion, reflection and discernment.
 Friday 10 - Sunday 12 August

NSW & ACT

Who's around?

Ally - Preparing to serve in South East Asia
Gary and Shirley – Preparing to serve in Malawi
Pat and Joy – Preparing to serve in South East Asia
Mat and Shannon – Preparing to serve in Outback Australia

WA

Events

Friends of Global Interaction

Get together and be inspired by stories and updates from our cross-cultural teams.
 Saturday 3 November, 10am | Shelley

QLD

Who's around?

Jean-Claude and Joyce – Preparing to serve in Malawi
Max and Ezzie – Home Assignment from South East Asia (returning October)
Morris (Based in QLD) – South Asia
Tristan and Megan – Preparing to serve in Cambodia

Events

Brunch with Zest

Hear stories of transformation over brunch from Muana and Villy, cross-cultural workers serving in Thailand.
 Saturday 28 July, 9am | Bracken Ridge

General Resonate

Connect with Max and Ezzie before they return to South East Asia.
 Saturday 8 September, 10am | Nundah

SA & NT

Who's around?

Andy and Rachel – Preparing to serve in Malawi
David and Susie – Preparing to serve in Malawi
Luke and Rachel – Preparing to serve in Cambodia

Campaign

100 people 100 days

100 new partners, supporting SA/NT candidates over the course of 100 days. Will you be one?

For more details on events, or information about ways you can volunteer, contact your state office.

A SEASON OF GROWTH IN CAMBODIA

As we witness the growth of the Global Interaction cross-cultural team serving among the Khmer, we wait in excited anticipation for how God is going use this growing team for His glory.

Teams form the building blocks of Global Interaction's ministry and are key to the long-term sustainability of our work. Teams are formed by individuals, couples and families working together towards a common goal. They serve as branches of the True Vine, reaching out of their comfort zone, to share the Gospel of Jesus.

We believe that teams grow according to God's timing. In saying this, the Global Interaction family prayerfully petitions the Lord to place a calling on the hearts of individuals for cross-cultural mission. We also rely on local Pastors to identify, mentor and encourage their congregation with a heart and vision for the least-reached among whom we are called to serve.

Global Interaction began its work in Cambodia in response to an invitation to join an international Christian consortium engaged in the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the devastated country following the fall of Pol Pot in 1979. From this starting point, coupled with the deep desire to share Jesus with the Khmer people, grew the ministry that God has called us to today.

In 2013 The Centre for the Study of Global Christianity, which researches worldwide demographic trends in the Christian faith, published a report that identified Cambodia as having the ninth-fastest growing Christian community per capita in the world. As encouraging as this fact is, we understand that many Khmer believe they have to separate themselves from their culture in order to find Jesus as often the expression of Christianity is so foreign to them.

We believe, and our experience tells us, that for communities to be truly transformed by the Gospel, the expression of faith in Jesus must resonate within their own cultural understanding and experiences.

Global Interaction's 'Pathway to Service', specifically trains cross-cultural workers for contextualised mission. During their first term in ministry (two – three years) our cross-cultural workers focus on learning the heart language of the community and immersing themselves in the local culture. This forms the foundation of the relationships they build and enables opportunities for deeper conversations and Jesus to be revealed in ways that make sense within the cultural context.

Praise God, the Cambodian team is growing! Ryan Smith, Global Interaction's VIC/TAS State Director has journeyed with Craig and Kim, who arrived in Cambodia in May. They are the first of four families anticipated to join the team in Cambodia this year. Ryan is also supporting Paul and Lydia who are in the final stages of their preparation for service. In Queensland, State Director Bob Rogers is journeying with Tristan and Megan who are also growing their partnership team.

Every team needs a leader and Luke, who served as Global Interaction State Director SA/NT from 2013, has recently resigned from this position and with his wife Rachel is preparing to serve among the Khmer. When in Cambodia, Luke will take on the role of Team Leader.



This page (L-R): Catherine with Khmer friend. Craig and Kim with their children. Rob and Deb.



The team already in Cambodia, including Catherine, Scott and Janelle and Rob and Deb are eagerly awaiting the blessing that comes with new team members. Together they will grow as a family in Christ, nurturing and sustaining one another in their growing ministry.

Catherine shares, "It is exciting, humbling and an incredible privilege for us to be growing in this place, and to be part of His work unfolding here. As new team members arrive, we continue to explore, learn together and deepen our understanding and ways of living, being, and sharing Jesus with Khmer people."

As we witness the growth of the team in Cambodia, we prayerfully anticipate that over the coming years, we will see those whose hearts God is preparing, come to faith in Jesus.

Amid a population of some 16 million, the Global Interaction team has a seemingly humble presence among the Khmer. However, our impact is substantially larger with the extended prayer partners and supporters back here in Australia. **For all who have sown into Global Interaction's work in Cambodia, thank you! Our team is growing and we have candidates preparing to go!**



Top row (L-R): Craig sightseeing with his children. Khmer sunset, taken by Catherine. Deb with a Khmer woman. Candidates Tristan and Megan with their children. Candidates Luke and Rachel with their children.

Middle row (L-R): Angkor Wat in Cambodia, taken by Di Marshall. Scott and Janelle with their children. Candidates Paul and Lydia with their children. Buddhist monks, taken by Di Marshall.

Please prayerfully consider:

The Team Leader

Pray for Luke's discernment, wisdom, and vision in leading this faithful team and for God's blessing for Luke and Rachel to join the team soon.

Do you have a heart for Cambodia?

How might you sow into this ministry? Become a prayer partner by subscribing to Hotline and Pray Daily. Get behind the team's projects and advocate for the ministry by sharing updates within your faith community. To receive the team's newsletters, email: info@globalinteraction.org.au

Is God Calling You to Cambodia?

Speak with your local Pastor. A church with a heart for mission to reach the least-reached can pray with you and support you through this process. You can also call your Global Interaction State Office. We would love to speak to you! Get in touch and begin your journey towards cross-cultural mission. To find out more, visit: www.globalinteraction.org.au/Pathway

ONE STEP AT A TIME

It takes time for the fruit of cross-cultural ministry to be seen, however each day, our teams are taking faithful steps towards the shared vision of vibrant faith communities.

We continue to pray for more workers, more branches of the True Vine, to partner with God in sharing the Good News with the least-reached. So we are asking you to keep your eyes open for more workers for the harvest. You might be sitting next to someone at church who God is calling to cross-cultural mission... You may recognise this in them before they see it in themselves.

Is God calling you to be an encourager for His mission? If so read on...

The Flag

Global Interaction's vision is to see growing vibrant faith communities among least-reached people groups. This flag at the top of the mountain is extraordinary in its 'bigness'. There are followers of Jesus all over the world, but among least-reached people groups, there are very few. Among these communities, there are cultural, religious and spiritual barriers that work against people understanding and accepting the Gospel. Yes, the task is big, but it is the one we have been called to by an even bigger God and we believe it is possible.

Does this flag, or vision, resonate with you or someone you know?

The Mountain

To fulfil this vision, the foundation on which the flag stands is our mission of empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus. This mountain is the foundation of our cross-cultural ministry. We believe vibrant faith communities will be established as the least-reached meet Jesus and develop ways to express their faith from within their language and culture.

Do you, or someone you know, have a faith-calling built on this foundation?

The Path

Core values form the path that Global Interaction cross-cultural workers journey with up the mountain and towards the flag. This path is where the 'bigness' of the task becomes a series of small, everyday moments building on each other towards the vision. It is far from a linear path. It's winding with steps sideways, backwards and forwards but ultimately always moving up the mountain.

While the path may look different for each cross-cultural worker, the steps they take are guided by the same core values of being attentive to where God is already at work, developing cultural competency, establishing authentic relationships and sharing the Gospel.

Are you, or someone you know, ready to explore the path?



Top: Team member Cam and Yawo man walking in Mozambique.

Left: Street scene, South Asia. Photo taken by Andrew Palmer.

1 Attentiveness

A core starting point for Global Interaction's ministry is the belief that God is already there and actively at work. God has called us to these places, not to 'take' Him, but to partner with Him in the work He is already doing. This means that the first step in the path towards vibrant faith communities, is being attentive to where God is moving.

In Cambodia, a major obstacle for Khmer people to meet Jesus is that they do not feel they can find Him within their culture. They believe to follow Him would be a betrayal of their family as it would take them out of their culture.

Deb, cross-cultural worker in Cambodia, is attentive to where God is already at work among her Khmer friends and seeks ways to connect God's stories with aspects of their culture. Over time, she began to recognise the value Khmer people place on water and this prompted her to share about Jesus as the 'Living Water'.

2 Cultural Competence

Our cross-cultural teams are committed to life-long learning, but particularly in the first years of ministry, significant time is dedicated to culture and language learning. At a basic level, there is only so far a friendship can develop without a common language. More deeply though, the act of learning another person's language and seeking to understand their culture and what's important to them, works to break down barriers. The experience of making mistakes and initially struggling to communicate in even the simplest language is humbling and demonstrates to the local language nurturer the value that the cross-cultural worker places on the local language and culture.

In the Silk Road Area, there is an undercurrent of superiority of the R people. In response to this, the K people hold strongly to the identity of being K people and not R people. As the majority of R people are Orthodox Christian, it is culturally important for K people to separate themselves from this and identify as Muslim.

As the team on the Silk Road live and serve within this culture, they are intentional about being known as 'followers of Jesus' rather than the label of 'Christian' as they know this will be a cultural barrier for their K friends.

3 Authentic Relationships

Relationships are at the heart of Global Interaction's ministry. It is likely that a person in a least-reached people group will have no close friends or family who identify as a follower of Jesus. We believe, that it is in an environment of a mutual trust that people will be most open to exploring Jesus and questions of faith.

Particularly in the city, the Ethnic Thai are very suspicious of Christians and their perceived ulterior motives. Muana and Villy, cross-cultural workers in Thailand, recognise this and seek to demonstrate the genuine care and interest they have in their Ethnic Thai friends' lives, and only share stories from the Bible as the Spirit opens opportunities.

4 The Gospel

As authentic relationships develop, it is only natural that our cross-cultural workers share the Good News with their friends. It is an underlying belief of Global Interaction, that the Gospel starts at Genesis and encompasses God's whole story. The pinnacle of Jesus' death and resurrection is a core part of the Gospel, but it is not the whole.

As our cross-cultural teams live among communities, they share hope through being, doing and saying the Gospel. Through their being, they exude character traits that reflect Jesus' heart. In response to their friends' practical needs, they demonstrate Jesus' love by what they do and by what they say, they ground it all through sharing God's stories.

Please be praying with us, for our teams to be attentive to where God is already at work, be growing authentic friendships and be open to His leading as He uses them to build His Kingdom.

If you're excited by God's activity among the least-reached, then get in touch with your State Office team. We would love to keep the conversation going!

AROUND THE TEAMS

Stories from our Global Interaction cross-cultural teams serving among least-reached people groups.

K people of the Silk Road Area

From Eliza

I attended my neighbour's birthday. She had prepared a celebratory 'bish barmak', noodles and meat served with tea with great chunks of floating cream... yes, I did enjoy the company! We talked about past prophets of this region whose power people still call on today for healing. The conversation prompted the friend to ask what religion I am. My neighbour quickly responded on my behalf, stating, "She follows Jesus." Woohoo I thought, there's a win!

The conversation went on and led to a discussion about Noah. Curiously, the friend knew the story and together we shared the story with my neighbour. This whole experience encouraged me and I am so inspired to continue in my language learning, to share more stories in the heart language of new friends... Connecting with people, in their heart language and learning to share culturally appropriate stories are the first steps to sharing Jesus.

H people of Central Asia

From Pete and Nomes

Over the past months, we've had a number of opportunities to spend time with the family of an H friend, Mr A, who we met at a local café not long after we arrived. His parents live with him and his family in their small apartment and they have a son who is only a few weeks younger than ours. Our work here is to share the love of Jesus, and we know that this takes time. As we build relationships and settle into this new place and culture, we are experiencing new things each day, but we are also offering new experiences to the friends we are making here. With this particular family, we have played tennis together, which was a first for some of them.

With every opportunity to share something new, to teach something new, we know that we are stepping closer to the time where God will open the opportunity to share Jesus, to teach from the Bible and to speak of a new life in Christ.

"In His own ministry, Jesus illustrated the essential principle of teamwork and being a team player. His small team of just twelve were a truly successful team that went forth to spread the message of the Gospel.

We must learn to become team players. Whether leaders or members of the team, each plays a significant role. Our cross-cultural teams, are invested in multiplying themselves; growing as a team, together witnessing the glory of His Kingdom."

Val Holt, Director of Member Care

Yawo of Malawi and Mozambique

From Melanie

Mama Shakila sits under a shelter made of bamboo. She has been there since sunrise and will stay until evening. She feels blessed to have a garden; the soil is fertile and close to the river. Her tomatoes are growing well. She has begun to sell the Chinese cabbage; the money coming in makes her heart swell. She is doing it, making her way in life. Mama Shakila has five children and wanting the best for them, she works to make it happen. Suddenly she jumps, waving her arms and shouting. Rocks flying and goats scattering everywhere, far enough away to miss the rocks but close enough to enjoy Mama Shakila's tomatoes.

She will battle goats the entire day. The hippos will come at night. Can she beat them? I do not know, but we sit together and pray. We pray over the field, for her kids, for her husband and for their future. Mama Shakila trusts God and she won't stop now. I will continue to love Mama Shakila, and help her to help herself. My charity is not needed, my friendship is. We learn from each other, journeying together in our faith and praying for other local women, waiting on God for His answers.

B people of South Asia

After many decades of hard work, in 2017 we celebrated the completion of the culturally understandable translation of the Bible for B People. Now, the translation is also available online. Whilst we do not fear owning a copy of the Bible in Australia, B People are potentially at risk if they are known to follow Jesus or be in possession of a Bible. For this reason, access to the newly developed website featuring the translation is important as people can read the Bible discreetly.

Team Leader Morris is continuing to work with several others to improve the site for easier accessibility and develop accompanying discipleship material. Work is also underway to develop an App which will ensure God's Word is even more accessible. We know God speaks through His Word and we prayerfully anticipate that the increased accessibility of the Bible will prompt many to seek and find Jesus.

B.I and S.I of South East Asia

From Dave and Edwina

For each of us on the field – waiting, hoping, praying for the moment when God opens the door for conversations about Him, or that may lead to a conversation about Him – is a day-by-day reality. Discerning the best response is important and sometimes containing our excitement is not so easy. So when one of our staff at the Education Foundation's office was recently inspired by the music she heard watching a Korean movie, and starting humming the tune well known to us, and less known to her, we knew it was one of those moments!

The song she was singing was Amazing Grace! Edwina had the joy of acknowledging the tune, and in doing so was asked to explain the meaning of the song. What followed was a light but thoughtful conversation, which led to a few questions more, which leads us to thank you for your continued prayer for our work here. It takes time, but we see that questions asked freely, will lead to a better understanding of, "knock and the door will be opened..." Amen.

Khmer of Cambodia

From Catherine

Having recently returned to Cambodia, I continue to be excited in reconnecting with friends. Catching up with Srey Mom and her family, I hear stories and see how they are growing together. Srey Mom's little boy, Seyha, who was not yet one when I returned to Australia, is now over two years old, trying to copy his older brother, and generally sporting a very cheeky grin.

My Khmer friends explore truth, justice and peace for their lives and for their country. Together we share rice, conversations and laughter. We talk about what it was like for me to be back in Australia, and what it is like for me to be here again. They share stories of the Khmer New Year they spent with their families, and a trip on a train, which was a first for their parents. I am so thankful that in the midst of all that has been in the past year and a bit, the roots of these relationships have held and that I am able to be a part of the lives of these women again.

Ethnic Thai of Thailand

From the team

We are encouraged as a team when local people share the impact God is having through our work here. We are blessed to journey with new believers, to witness to their baptism and celebrate their journey with Jesus. Mae Tong of the Ban Luang fellowship has been attending meetings with us for a number of years, however only recently chose to be baptised. Aside from the Ban Luang faith community, there are many others. All come together for a camp once a year, and take this opportunity to share their faith stories and to encourage and nurture one another.

Mr Krai, the husband of one of the faith community leaders has not always been accepting of his wife's decision to follow Jesus. At the camp however, he shared about a car accident he had a few years ago. In reflecting on that incident, he acknowledged God's hand in protecting him and his wife. He thanked God for our team members, Dema and Carolyn, who were there to support him and acknowledged the companionship of others in our faith community when the accident happened.

For more stories of transformation:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/news

Background photo: Silk Road Area, taken by David and Eliza.

HEARING *and* READING THE WORD OF GOD.

Andrea Fleming, Partner Engagement and Communications Manager, uncovers the past, updates us on the present and looks to the future of the life-changing Bible translation project in Papua New Guinea.



Global Interaction's work began in Papua New Guinea (PNG) nearly seventy years ago. While we acknowledge the very real social challenges the local church is responding to, we celebrate that today more than 90% of people in PNG identify as Christian. The Australian Baptist community has contributed to this remarkable movement and today there are over 80,000 Baptist believers who regularly worship across the nation, mainly in the Western Highlands.

Fifty years ago, in 1968, Vision magazine recorded concerns, noting the ongoing prevalence of witchcraft and the spiritual bondage of the local people. Speaking of the impact on new believers, Global Interaction representative Rev. K M Shakespeare wrote, "... with the limited amount of truth that these Christians have, and the strong pressure brought to bear from the non-Christian members of their tribes, it is very difficult for these Christians to stand firm for Jesus Christ." He closed his article asking Australian Baptists to pray constantly for the Kyaka Enga people.

Quite likely, the result of our collective prayers sowed the seeds for the team in PNG to grow and for faith-based ministry to flourish. In the following decades, Australian Baptists in partnership with local people, worked to translate the Bible into the heart language of the Kyaka Enga people.

Knowing that the Living Word of God speaks to empower believers, we can only imagine what it meant for the local faith community, to not only be hearing the Good News, but to be reading it for themselves!

In subsequent years, copies of the original translation of the Bible were widely distributed but since then, many have been lost or water damaged. Recognising that there were very few copies left in circulation, with none available to buy, in 2015 Global Interaction partnered with The Baptist Union of PNG and promoted a Bible Translation Project. This project raised \$70,000 and began the updating and revision of the original shorter Bible. The updated translation is now in its final stages of completion.

One member of the Bible revision team is Pauline Longley. Pauline served God in Papua New Guinea from 1972 and then alongside her husband Andrew from 1985- 2001. Pauline and Andrew's heart for, and understanding of, the Kyaka Enga people contributed to the long legacy of Australian Baptist work in PNG. With Andrew passing in 2015, Pauline has continued their commitment, working with the team to revise the original translation into the contemporary language of the Kyaka Enga people.

The translation team includes; Susan Trapu and Henry Yalu from the Baptist Theological College, Traimya Kambipi a highly respected elder statesman of the Baptist church, former translator Kondopibngi Kupwa, Albert Kukiwa a Baptist Pastor from Mt Hagen and Heather Mapusiya, daughter of one of the original translators, who is a trained teacher and literacy facilitator.

Pauline, together with Sally Burton, former cross-cultural worker and field linguist, has recently returned from a time in PNG working with the team. She reported that 75% of the New Testament has been reviewed and significant progress has now been made on the Old Testament. When Sally and Pauline return in July they aim to work with Traimya, Albert and Heather to finalise the review.

On behalf of the Australian Baptist team members involved with the translation including Sally Burton and Geoff Cramb, Pauline is encouraging Australian Baptists to again dig deep and give generously to support the next phase of the project to raise \$15,000 for the printing and distribution of 2000 copies.

Bottom left: Henry and Susan, Bible translation team members. Photo taken by Geoff Cramb.

Bottom left: The Bible translation team, including Pauline and Sally.





Pauline shares, “What a privilege it has been to work with such a committed and focused team, striving to make God’s Word available to the Kyaka Enga speakers of the Western Highlands. As one member of the team shared when reading God’s Word in their language, ‘... it speaks more clearly.’ ”

The team have commented on how relevant the teaching is today for the Enga church facing similar issues to the early church. God’s Word is definitely relevant for 2018. Interest in the project is growing and as soon as the publication is ready for print and distribution people are expressing their desire to purchase a copy of the Bible, one that they can fully understand!

To hear the Word of God and to read the Word of God in your heart language is a different experience of the Truth. Together let’s give thanks to God. We have seen God’s spirit move in PNG, we have witnessed the development of faith communities, we have journeyed with and mentored local faith leaders and we as Australian Baptists have contributed to the Word of God being available in the heart language of the people.

This is Global Interaction’s vision for all communities in which we work! It takes time, but it does and is happening. Amen.

Top left: Men in Papua New Guinea.
Photo taken by Geoff Cramb.

Top right: Kyaka Enga woman with Bible.
Photo taken by Geoff Cramb.

For more information and updates on this project, or to give towards the publication and distribution, visit: www.globalinteraction.org.au/PNGPublication



Thank you to all WHO BRANCHED OUT THIS MAY MISSION MONTH

"Having already forwarded my usual contribution to the missionary appeal last May... I am enclosing a further 10 dollars, a drop in the ocean, but could help a little and I trust that many others will do like-wise." Yours in His Service, Regular Contributor (Vision 1968)

That "drop in the ocean" 50 Years ago caused a ripple of ongoing generosity today. Just like the editor of Vision was encouraged by the generosity and enthusiasm of that faithful partner, we are also encouraged by your faithfulness.

We are humbled to share with you these messages from churches around Australia. Thank you again to all who partnered with Global Interaction during May Mission Month. Without HIM we can do nothing! Together we can do so much MORE!

"Narwee Baptist Church is a keen supporter of May Mission Month and the ministry of Global Interaction for many reasons – but perhaps the most compelling is this: we are family. And the family supports the family work!"

*Rev Ange Gratsounas - Senior Pastor
Narwee Baptist Church, NSW*

"East Camberwell Baptist Church is a small family oriented church dating back to 1922. Together we have a local and global mission focus, to see the love of Jesus shared with all who seek Him. We branched out for May Mission Month, and were blessed by stories from Muana and Villy who serve amongst the Ethnic Thai community where we are seeing local faith leaders developing their own distinctive ways of following Jesus!"

*Lyn Jerram - Secretary
East Camberwell Baptist Church, VIC*

"One of the May Mission Month Fundraising events was a Trivia Night in which Jean-Claude and Joyce shared us. We also raised money for Jean-Claude and Joyce by way of a Cake stall. The event was well supported by the congregation. We are proud to partner with Global Interaction in global mission."


Victoria Point Baptist Church, QLD

"Morley Baptist Church hosts Mission Awareness Sundays over a couple of months and we have drawn on the theme of John 15 and what it means to be a branch of the True Vine, remaining in Him and completely dependent on Him in the local and global context of John 15:5. We are all part of God's family, and we are reliant on Him, and each other to do our part towards His purpose. Our church members have been encouraged by Global Interaction's resources and we have had a special focus on the call to action to PRAY, GIVE, LEARN and GO!"

*Gillian - Mission Representative
Morley Baptist Church, WA*

"We had a really good month where we renewed our pledge to the Yawo and our people really appreciated the theme. We used all the May Mission Month resources including the overheads and preaching themes each week and it was lovely to have David and Susie share with us at one of our services."

*John Letcher
Hackham Baptist Church, SA*



“Maida Vale Baptist Church in WA is a small church with a big heart. We raised more than \$1000 towards the Ciyawo Bible Translation project. While mission is important to the life of the church all year round, May Mission Month, helps us to think about mission at a global level.”

Rob Douglas - Team Leader
Maida Vale Baptist Church, WA

“Byford Baptist Church celebrated May Mission Month with a Missions Weekend event of national costumes and cuisine. Lucy, former cross-cultural worker, blessed our Sunday Harvest Thanksgiving Service. My sermon spoke to Psalm 67 reminding us that Australia is not the lucky country, we are a “blessed country”, and we are blessed to be a blessing!”

David Juniper - Pastor
Byford Baptist Church, WA

“When looking for a global mission partner, we were more interested in a relationship, than simply an organisation to give funds to. Those we support in least-reached Gospel ministry are not simply names connected to a map of the world on a dusty pin-board at the back of the church – they are family to us. Global Interaction keeps us up to date with real-time prayer needs and we regularly pray for our cross-cultural family members.

Our relationship with Global Interaction has also been integral for the discipleship of our people and as a direct result has grown our collective heart for God’s mission locally, regionally and globally.”

Rev Craig Corkill - Senior Pastor
Narara Valley Baptist Church, NSW

“Craigie Baptist has been doing Mission Month for over 15 years! This year we hosted some wonderful events including; The Vine and Branches ‘DeVine Dinner’, the Mother’s Day Mission Month Muffin Morning Tea, a morning Buffet Breakfast which was a dedicated time of prayer for missionaries. We enjoyed guest speakers and quizzes, we prayed together, fellowshiped together and funds raised will support our church mission program locally and abroad.”

Julie White - Missions Committee
Craigie Baptist Church, WA

“Our annual May Mission Month Fundraising Dinner is an opportunity for our congregation to come together in support of our vision for mission locally and abroad. The event was well supported and we are proud to partner in prayer and giving with Global Interaction, impacting least-reached people groups in Africa for the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Elaine Davey - Chair, Mission Action Committee
Morisset Baptist Church, NSW

“From Cam and Kath, and Jonno and Heather in Mozambique and Malawi to local missions at our doorstep in East Freo, we remembered and celebrated God’s heart for the lost.”

Ray Forlin - Senior Pastor
East Freemantle Baptist Church, WA

“As a community committed to finding and following Jesus, Beaumaris Baptist Church is eager to learn from the perspectives of other followers of God, most importantly our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters. Resourcing and supporting Indigenous church leaders is vital work and we are proud to be associated with Baptist churches in Yuendumu, Willowra and Ali Curung. We pray that our donation this May Mission Month may be useful to these faith communities and we look forward to more time spent together on Warlpiri, Anmatyerre and Kaytetye country in the near future.”

Andy Mitchell – Associate Pastor
Beaumaris Baptist Church, VIC

“We are so thankful for our home church Camden Baptist’s support during May Missions Month, culminating in a fabulous community dinner. There was a wonderful spread of food by some talented cooks in the congregation. This included a Yawo meal and the group was encouraged to eat it Yawo-style (with hands!). It was amazing to see how much was raised for one of our projects.

David and Susie - Global Interaction Candidates
Camden Baptist Church

IN THE FAMILY

New Candidates

We are extremely excited to introduce these newly accepted candidates preparing to serve with Global Interaction.



David and Susie, SA

David and Susie have been sensing God's call to cross-cultural work over many years, and now, together with their children Anushka and Kyran, are preparing to serve among the Yawo in Malawi.

Part of David's shaping towards cross-cultural work is many childhood years spent in Africa where his parents were cross-cultural workers. Susie also spent many childhood years in Africa. David and Susie are looking forward to joining the team serving among the Yawo.

New Staff



Anna Shibu

Mobilisation, Partnership and Development
Administrative Assistant,
National Office



Chris Barnden

Interim General Director,
National Office



Jane Norman

Executive Assistant,
SA/NT Office



Lisa West-Newman

Young Adults Consultant,
QLD Office



Pip Miner

Partnership Development
Consultant, NSW/ACT Office
(Pictured with her husband,
Soper, and son, Levi.)

Congratulations



Luke and Belle

Judah was born on February 1 to besotted parents Luke and Belle, and big brother Salem. Luke and Belle serve among the Ethnic Thai.



Matt and Shannon

We celebrate with proud parents Shannon and Matt, the birth of twins Caleb Scott and Samuel William on March 3. Caleb and Samuel

are baby brothers to Elizabeth and Peter. The family is preparing to serve in Outback Australia.

Completion of Service

Heather Coleman

Heather began service at Global Interaction as Team Leader in Cambodia from 2010 to 2012. When the vacancy for General Director arose following Keith Jobberns pending departure, The Board was delighted to appoint Heather into the role in 2012 where she has served diligently for the past 6 years.

We are thankful for Heather's contribution to Global Interaction and wish to acknowledge her husband Ron, for many hours volunteering at Moore Potter House. The Global Interaction family wishes Heather well as she seeks God for her next steps in service to Him.



Completion of Service Continued

Anne-Maree Huggett

Anne-Maree joined the SA/NT State Office in the role of Executive Assistant in 2014. She was a wonderfully equipped, servant-hearted person and a joy to work with over her three and half year with Global Interaction. Much of what occurred through the SA/NT State Office over these years has been compliments of Anne-Maree's planning and organisation.

We thank her sincerely for all she has done over her time with Global Interaction and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Craig Wright

Craig first began working at Global Interaction in 2011 as the VIC/TAS State Director, before joining the National Office team as the Director of Mobilisation, Partnership and Development in 2013. In this role, he has led the Mobilisation, Partnership and Development team in Australia in developing church and supporter partnerships through equipping the State Office teams and developing resources for the Australian church.

We are thankful for the gifts that Craig has brought to Global Interaction and for his years of service and we wish him well as he seeks future ministry opportunities.



Luke Hutchinson

Luke began serving with Global Interaction as State Director SA/NT in 2013. During this time, Luke built strong connections and partnerships with Baptist churches in SA/NT with

the fruit being shown through a strong growth in new candidates for cross-cultural mission coming from South Australia.

During this time, Luke and his wife Rachel, felt a call themselves to pursue service cross-culturally in Cambodia. When in Cambodia, Luke will take on the role of Team Leader.

We are thankful that Luke will be continuing with Global Interaction and resigns from this position only to be able to focus on building a partnership team to take up the role in Cambodia. We are thankful for his faithful and diligent service so far and wish Luke, Rachel and their family well as they become cross-cultural workers serving among the Khmer.

Marc and Rachel Jericho

In February, Marc and Rachel withdrew as candidates with Global Interaction. Marc and Rachel were accepted as candidates preparing to serve in Cambodia in 2016 having journeyed a path of discernment over many years. We are thankful for their support of Global Interaction and wish them well as they discern future ministry.

Nathan Reid

In 2009, Nathan took on the Partnership Development Consultant at the NSW/ACT State Office. Nathan worked with many churches, assisting them to expand their global mission focus through Global Interaction and in this position he led numerous group visits to our teams. Nathan also took on the role of interim Young Adults Consultant Team Facilitator from 2012 to 2013.

We are thankful for the gifts that Nathan has brought to Global Interaction and for his years of service. We wish him and his family well as he takes on the role of Associate Pastor for Cross-Cultural Discipleship and Mission at Epping Baptist Church.



Left: Heather Coleman with women in South Asia, 2014.

Above: Candidates Luke and Rachel with their children Isaac, Tahlia and Michaela.



Stamps!

For more than 50 years Australian Baptists have been collecting and selling stamps to raise money for the work of Global Interaction (around \$70,000 each year!). We thank all who have faithfully sent in bundles of used stamps over the years.

Here is how you can help:

1. Cut stamps off envelopes, collect a bundle and drop them in to your State Office. These will be sold to collectors to raise funds.
2. Purchase your postage stamps, or pre-stamped envelopes, from the Stamp Committee to raise money for Global Interaction.

For more information, or to order stamps and pre-stamped envelopes, visit: www.globalinteraction.org.au/Stamps

... Or to speak to an expert, contact one of our Stamp Committee state representatives:

NSW

Trevor Bridges
gia.stampman@gmail.com

WA

Barry Ingram
barryjan@upnaway.com

VIC

Ron Roberts
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QLD

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