

# VISION

*empowering communities  
to develop their own distinctive  
ways of following Jesus*

AUTUMN 2017



## GOD IS BREAKING THROUGH!

New Yawo Bible study groups



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**GLOBAL  
INTERACTION**





## LETTER FROM HEATHER



Dear Friends,

It is autumn! I love this time of year, the hot days are over and life is preparing for the cold, wet days of winter. It is an important time to get into the garden. The soil is warm from summer and the winter rains haven't started. Fertilising, pruning and planting are done now to ensure that plants survive through winter and

flourish in spring. As with many aspects of life, we need to make the effort now for future results.

This autumn edition is full of Global Interaction 'legends', people who have worked and sown in seasons over many years to share the message of Jesus.

Through their dedication we are now seeing followers of Jesus emerge from within Muslim communities. We commend Walt, Morris and Marg for their decades of service.

We thank you too for being a sower - for your prayer and financial support. Our hope is that as you read the life-transforming stories you are inspired and encouraged in the way God has prompted the part you have played, or are yet to play, in sharing the Good News of Jesus among people groups who have never before heard about Him.

Join me in praying that this year's May Mission Month will raise up more workers to cross cultural barriers and present the gift and transforming power of Jesus Christ to least-reached communities.

Blessings,  
**Heather Coleman**

- > *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 in each state.

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taken by Kath Beeck

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# COME AND GET INVOLVED

Are you keen to explore how you and your church can be involved in global mission?



## SERVE

Short-term or long-term - it takes a multi-talented, diversely-gifted team of people to share the message of Jesus in least-reached communities.



## PRAY

Use resources or come to events to uphold the ministry in prayer.



## GIVE

Support our ministry as a whole, a cross-cultural worker or a project. There are candidates in your state that are in need of your partnership.



## LEARN

Receive multimedia material that will equip, inspire and help you grow in your understanding and passion for global mission.

GET INVOLVED

**We have a dedicated team in each state to partner with you!**

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## DISCERNMENT WEEKENDS

Discernment Weekends are designed for those who are considering cross-cultural mission. Together we will focus on how you understand God's call on your life, the realities of cross-cultural ministry and how you might connect with the mission and vision of Global Interaction.

There is plenty of time to discuss, ask questions, reflect and share hopes and fears with others on a similar journey.

### Upcoming Discernment Weekends:

NSW & ACT – June 16-18

QLD – August 4-6

VIC & TAS – August 11-13

SA & WA – TBA or there is opportunity to attend in another state



# GOD IS BREAKING THROUGH!

Visas, work permits, registrations, malaria, finances and staff shortages are obstacles that the Global Interaction Yawo Team have faced in recent years. They are huge challenges but God is breaking through and communities are being transformed by the love and power of Jesus Christ.

Living in towns and villages among the Yawo people in Malawi and Mozambique, the Global Interaction Team can be found interacting with the Yawo in all aspects of life. Whether it be shopping at the local markets, sitting or working in villages, tending maize fields or attending funerals and initiation celebrations, the team is dedicated to learning the local culture and language and building deep relationships with the local people.

Tim teaching Bible stories  
Photo taken by Mel (Below).



It is an exciting time to be a member of the Global Interaction Yawo Team of Malawi and Mozambique. God is moving and the transforming love of Jesus is changing people and communities.

## The Yawo are beginning to reach the Yawo

In Malawi Global Interaction Team member Tim tells of one of the many ways God is breaking through.

Waindi, a Yawo believer, and I were visiting a village group to disciple some believers. A lady asked if we could pray for her sick friend. She had been to the hospital as well as the local witchdoctor and was still no better. Waindi boldly asked her, "Why have you come here today?"

Her answer was equally forceful. "I have heard God does miracles in this group!"

Waindi explained to the woman how God gave power to Jesus and through Him, we may have life. He also asked others who were listening to share how Jesus has helped them. In their gentle yet powerful way, about seven people offered testimonies of the power of God in their lives. Yawo people are from an oral society so they are master storytellers!

**For the next 45 minutes, we heard story after story of God's goodness. Real life testimonies of sicknesses healed, relationships restored, evil spirits cast out and renewed peace - the peace that transcends understanding. If that wasn't amazing enough, the group leader then expressed that he thought a few of them could visit the surrounding four villages and share some of these stories. He said, "God hasn't given us these stories just for ourselves. They need to be told!"**

So in a few weeks, we will go to the neighbouring villages, sit under their big mango tree and start a journey toward Jesus with them.

Prayer, teaching, leadership training and visits to other villages are among the increasing opportunities to disciple and equip the growing number of believers. Tim works with seven village faith groups, ranging from 10 to 50 members in each and he runs quarterly training camps to disciple leaders. A women's group which Melanie has been working with for a few years is now carrying out their own ministry, focusing on children and youth which has 80-100 children coming each week. The Yawo women teach God's Word to the children who bounce in the gate every Monday afternoon. Local youth also meet regularly and their numbers are growing; it's a very exciting time.

Alongside this, the team has been working with the local Yawo to improve their quality of life through health and adult education, developing a Ciyawo/English dictionary as well as facilitating the translation revision of the Bible in Ciyawo which has seen Genesis, Luke and Acts published, with more books on the way. It is an exciting time in the ministry as the team disciples a growing number of believers through prayer, teaching and leadership training.



## Meanwhile over in Mozambique, in a much newer ministry location, Global Interaction Team member Kath sees God at work too!

It all started one sunny afternoon not long after we'd arrived in Massangulo. We headed out to explore our neighbourhood when an old man sitting on his front veranda called us over. He started telling us all about his recent decline in health and the problems he was having with his stomach, legs and more private parts. Then he kindly took Cam inside to show him firsthand! It was an unusual first encounter to say the least. He was speaking very loudly and using a lot of actions to explain what he was saying – we figured he thought we didn't understand Ciyawo at all. We later found out he was deaf from being the guy who shot the bazooka in the war! From that day on, he became an instant friend and one of our greatest advocates in the village, setting in motion a series of connections that are just getting more and more exciting as we meet people hungry to hear the Word of God.

Our friend's nickname was Chidi Kutiwle, meaning the breaker of chains. He was a bit of a local legend known to escape just about any hold the enemy tried to tie him down with in the war. As we went back to spend time with him over the following months, he introduced us to all of his neighbours. Cam helped him out with some of his medical issues and spent countless hours chatting and playing Bawo, a chess-like game. He, in turn, would tell anyone who came across his path that we were wonderful, helpful people who could be trusted. His health continued to deteriorate, to the point where he was no longer able to walk. Cam helped him get a wheelchair bicycle. The day it was delivered, he was overwhelmed with joy, tears streaming down his face.

He was only able to use the wheelchair bike for about a month before he sadly passed away.

We attended his funeral, sat in the room with his body and prayed with his family, cried with women and stood with the men as he was carried away. He'd adopted us into his family, his love and acceptance was the catalyst for others to invite us in. His neighbours became our friends and as trust continued to grow and relationships grew deeper, opportunities to share God's Word slowly started to open up.

**The men who were his close friends asked if they could meet together regularly to listen to Bible stories and a group has formed. There are leaders from the local mosque and respected elders in the community meeting with Cam and Scott, listening to Bible stories and having amazing discussions about God's Word.**

It all started with a stroll through the neighbourhood and that's often how things seem to go here. We ask God to open up our eyes to the opportunities that He has already prepared. It's so exciting to see – God is at work!

The Global Interaction Yawo Team comprises Tim and Mel and family in Malawi and Jonno and Heather, Ben and Sam, Tobias and Heather, Cam and Kath, Scott and Rebekah, Sally and a tribe of kids in Mozambique. Ian is currently based in Australia. Jonno, Heather and the family will shortly move to live in Blantyre in Malawi with Jonno taking responsibility for leadership of the newly combined Yawo Team.

We praise God for His provision of some new workers in preparation – Jean-Claude and Joyce and Andy and Rachel who will be based in Malawi. Opportunities abound for many more!

As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." Perhaps God is calling you or someone you know to this amazing work.



One people group - One team



# 40 YEARS OF SHARING GOOD NEWS



*In April of 2017 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Morris working with the B people of South Asia. Morris answered the call to head to South Asia in 1977 and has never looked back.*

Morris, originally by himself and then with his family, lived in South Asia for 14 years. For strategic reasons the family moved back to Australia but continued to walk alongside the people with whom they had developed strong relationships, while continuing to form many new ones. Morris regards the past 40 years as a time of obedience, learning and growing in love for the people to whom God called him.

During a meeting, which Morris ‘by chance’ attended, the speaker was Stuart Robinson who had just returned from South Asia. Morris heard the need and thought God might be calling him into cross-cultural mission. After applying to Global Interaction, Morris completed a four-year theological degree, which gave him a Biblical base for his future work.

The first four years in South Asia were spent at a university hostel for young men and in a ministry that disciplined individuals. At the end of this time, he suggested that local men should be trained to take over the running of the hostel. Morris believed, even then, in empowering the local people to provide independence from missionary workers in the future.

During home assignment in 1982, Morris married Ros and they later had three daughters. During the 14 years, the family predominantly lived in provincial towns in South Asia. During that time, there were two major floods that left millions of people isolated from services. In the 1988 flood, the family were marooned while their colleagues and their extended family had no idea if they were safe. Thankfully, they lived in a brick house so Morris could block the doors and drain holes to keep the water out of the house. With enough stored food and by boiling the water they could keep their young children safe and healthy.

Morris and Roslyn with first daughter Emma (Top Left)  
Most B people are involved in farming or fishing  
- Photo taken by Phil. (Right)

Morris travelled to rural villages to disciple people, providing weekly and monthly meetings in homes and facilitating a reading room from a rented space in town so people could study the Bible. A team of people began an NGO that continues to work to provide transformation of marginalised B people through education, training and group formation. Morris continues to work in a leadership role with the NGO but from Australia.

**Morris’ ministry among the B people looks very different today than the first few decades. There are now very few foreigners working in the area as local B people who’ve come to faith now share the message among their communities. This empowerment of local people is integral to Global Interaction’s approach that enables people to share Jesus in ways that are cultural meaning.**

Morris’ heart still lies with the B people and his work from Australia involves developing leadership capacity among local people, facilitating short-term volunteers, leading the small team of long-term cross-cultural workers and building partnerships in Australia to help sustain strategic projects.

Another significant change that has occurred over the past four decades is the completion of a culturally appropriate and linguistically accurate version of the Bible. This is the result of a great deal of hard work from a team of people, including many volunteers. It allows the B people to hear and read the Good News in their own language with accessible vocabulary.

Morris reflects on what he has learnt over 40 years and highlights the value of relationships, loyalty and commitment. He has appreciated the importance of maintaining a broad awareness of community issues and how they affect people. A surprising lesson has been how he now reads the Bible with a different frame of reference.







Drawing on his experiences of communal-focused culture, he reads the Bible with an Eastern perspective (which is aligned with where it was written), very different to that of the Post-Enlightenment Western perspective.

**Morris is a humble man who would rather talk of Christ's love than his own talents. Through his many years of service, he has not only persevered in sharing the Gospel to see many come to faith and walk alongside them but he has also rallied authorities to stop violence from outraged religious leaders, saving the lives of countless villagers.** He stood firm with his family in the face of floods that impacted the lives of millions of people (he was the guy heading out in a dinghy to check on the neighbours). His sense of humour and his faith have gotten him through many tough times and these, along with intelligence and encouragement in his service and leadership, have helped many others survive trials thrown at them, both at home and on the mission field.

Into the future, it is Morris' hope that the B people will be able to continue sharing their faith in their own distinctive ways. He hopes he will have further opportunities to share Jesus with others as he continues to work with Global Interaction and the NGO in South Asia.

Morris sitting in on a workshop with local NGO staff  
Photo taken by Phil (Top)

Morris towards the end of first term circa 1980/81 (Right)





# AROUND THE TEAMS

Updates from cross-cultural workers serving with Global Interaction teams among least-reached groups.

## Yawo

On a recent visit to Malawi, Ian reconnected with a good friend and village chief, Mr S. One evening they had a meal together and had a deep conversation about the Holy Spirit before Mr S brought up the passage of 1 Timothy 3, where Paul writes about the characteristics of a leader. Through Mr S's observations of Yawo leaders, he believed them to be religious, though not living out what they teach. He felt that their actions didn't reflect their words.

After a long conversation about this, Ian asked Mr S if he aspired to be a leader in the faith community, if he aspired to being a leader who lived out the characteristics Paul wrote about. Mr S replied, "Yes, very much!" and Ian then anointed him with oil and prayed for him, asking specifically that God would lead him and equip him more for his role as a leader in the Yawo faith community.

## K people

In K culture, the youngest daughter-in-law is expected to carry out all the housework, meal preparation and child-rearing duties. For four young mums on the Silk Road, they support each other by heading to a cafe once a month to eat lagman noodles, salad and drink Pepsi and milky tea. They chat about their husbands, parenting and life sharing how they are feeling for a couple of fleeting hours away from the burdens and expectation of family duties. Recently they invited Eliza along to their special tea-time where they shared their experiences of being mothers and supported each other in life's challenges. Eliza hopes that as their friendships deepen she will be able to share the source of her strength and hope.

## H people

Local H students often connect with ex-pats so they can help each other with language. Recently two students expressed to Kevin an interest in reading the Bible. One of them had a copy (including an English translation) which she shared with her male friend. Kevin agreed to regularly meet them over coffee and read from the Bible so they could practise their English. Kevin checks pronunciation and explains the meanings of words.

Through the studies they have commented on the life-changing experiences that occur through encounters with Jesus. Kevin's new friend has recorded on her phone the passages they have read together. What a joy to hear those recordings!

## Ethnic Thai

Luke and Belle have begun meeting weekly with some of the teenagers from the faith community at their home. One of the teenagers, Jarm, is enthusiastic because she feels it's the first time she has truly studied God's Word. Luke and Belle believe that the Holy Spirit is revealing Himself to her. One of the other teenagers is Frank, who is the son of one of the faith community leaders. He has talked about seeing ghosts and running away from them in fear but Luke and Belle are encouraging him to ask for God's comfort and help when he is afraid. They are praying that Jarm would respond to Jesus as her God and Frank would know Jesus' authority over all spiritual things.



## Khmer

Rob and Deb recently began the adventure of learning Khmer culture and language, based in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Since arriving they have looked for opportunities to build relationships with local Khmer people who are patient enough to help them in their efforts to learn about their culture and begin to speak Khmer. Within a short walk of their new home they have found friendly and patient locals who trade fruit and vegetables and cook rice and there is even a family of coffee baristas!

Enjoying a morning coffee has been a routine of Rob's for many years, so it was a pleasant surprise to find a coffee cart in his street that served a very nice coffee with locally roasted Cambodian beans. But the coffee has only been one of the attractions to frequenting the family's coffee business! Rob and Deb are loving the relationships that are forming. Deb doesn't drink coffee but, being a midwife, has especially enjoyed following the progress of the pregnancy of the coffee cart lady.

Both Rob and Deb have benefitted from the young family's help with Khmer words and sentences. Their cultural understanding is enriched by learning how this family's aspirations are influenced by the unique opportunities and challenges of a life in this Cambodian city. Being welcomed into the lives of Khmer people like the coffee cart family gives Rob and Deb a real sense that God is involved in these interactions as they share some of their own life journey and hopes for the Khmer people.

## B people

Joe came to faith a few years ago and was active in telling others of his new faith in Jesus. However, his wife remained aligned to her Muslim beliefs. They have a great relationship and love one another but their faith differences were becoming a concern. She thought that he was on the road to punishment and he wanted her to experience God's grace and forgiveness. So they reached an impasse.

She said to him, "I can't bear the thought of us being separated in eternity." He said to her, "If you are right, I will be in Hell and you in Heaven and if I am right then vice versa." They discussed the basis on which they believed one goes to Heaven. He said, "By God's grace shown through the death and resurrection of Jesus." She said, "By keeping the rules of Islam." He asked her, "Are you keeping fully the rules of the religion?" After a few days, she said to him, "I realise that I do not keep all the rules of religion and you say that it is by grace. I don't want to be separated from you in life or death, so tell me the way of grace."

Some names changed for security reasons.

Love reading stories  
about lives being transformed?

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AND START RECEIVING NEWS AND PRAYER UPDATES  
DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX.

## B.I & S.I people

Miss I is 21 years old. She joined the café staff last November in a role as a cashier/waitress. She is a very pleasant girl and diligent in her Muslim faith. She has become comfortable to chat with Wanda and others and to bring up topics related to faith. A couple of months ago she asked about getting to Heaven. Wanda followed up this conversation at a later time, seeking to deepen the conversation. Recently she had a motorbike accident on the way home from work so Wanda visited her at home and met her parents. Join Wanda in praying that Miss I will be open to hearing about Jesus and Wanda will be sensitive to the Spirit and be used to speak into her life.



# SERVING FAITHFULLY FOR THREE DECADES

Marg has been serving in both Africa and South East Asia for the past 30 years and the work that she has been involved in has been remarkable. Marg began her cross-cultural journey back in 1988 in West Timor before moving onto Zimbabwe for most of the '90s and then to South East Asia until 2016. With visa difficulties and aging parents, Marg felt that it was time for a new season in Australia.



In West Timor, Marg taught English to four siblings from NSW via correspondence, drawing on her teaching experience from the years before her mission work. In Zimbabwe, Marg taught Sunday School teachers, set up an after-school ministry and assisted in the development of a pre-school. She was also involved in women's ministries and pastoral support. Marg has a gift for building strong relationships with people and through this, many experienced God's love during her service.

**In South East Asia, Marg worked among a least-reached-people group, the B.I people, and spent much of her time teaching English at three different universities. This new role involved a large degree of adjustment as Marg had not lived in a Muslim community previously. However, this did not phase her and she did all she could to learn how to relate. This dedication to learning showed those she was teaching she could be trusted and helped build many significant relationships.**

Marg was a pioneer team member among this people group and was instrumental in setting up an island branch of the Education Foundation. Marg came into contact with thousands of students and their families, lecturers, other English teachers and many more people in the community. Over time, she was invited to be involved in numerous family cultural and religious events. In some cases, Marg was delighted to become the 'Aussie Grandma'.

With diligence and a high standard in the classroom, Marg became very well-known and respected throughout her community.

There were turbulent times for the people in the region, including the impacts of the Bali bombings, downfall of political leaders and the war in Iraq. Marg returned to Australia for a brief period due to the unrest but went back as soon as she was allowed.

Marg was committed to learning about the B.I people and their Muslim faith and culture in order to build relationships and allow for opportunities to share Jesus with her friends. She also shared her experience and knowledge with the younger members of the Global Interaction team.

Marg struggled with poor health due to the humidity and malaria medication but with the support of Global Interaction and her friends from the region, Marg was well-looked after and never felt alone. Visa applications caused some of the biggest challenges for Marg and her team. There were times when all of their hard work was disrupted due to the shifting sands of government regulations.

It was in these difficult times that Marg felt the outpouring of love from the many friends that she had made through her years of dedication to the B.I people.

*Through compassion, curiosity and respect these relationships allowed for conversations of faith to occur. By putting in the hard yards of learning the local language Marg showed the community members how important they were to her and that she really did want to know about them and their culture at a deep level.*





The B.I. describe themselves to be like pineapples; rough on the outside but sweet on the inside and this is something that Marg certainly witnessed. **They accepted Marg and gave her the opportunity to feel more and more like an insider in their community. Through compassion, curiosity and respect these relationships allowed for conversations of faith to occur.** By putting in the hard yards of learning the local language Marg showed the community members how important they were to her and that she really did value them and their culture at a deep level.

Marg's prayer is that the team members and local believers will continue to develop deep relationships.

The future is looking bright for the Global Interaction team in South East Asia and Marg hopes that there will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that brings many into a personal relationship with Jesus. Relationships take time to develop and Marg prays that there will be others willing to work long-term, as she did, to show God's love through compassion and willingness.

B.I. market stalls

Photo taken by Marg (Above).

Marg with some of her B.I. students

Photo taken by Edwina (below).





# THRIVING CHURCHES IN ASSAM

Global Interaction's partnership with Assam continues through scholarships for church leaders, visits for teaching and pastoral encouragement and ministry program subsidies. WA team member and former cross-cultural worker Pam Gallagher recently visited Assam.

**1946** - Australian Baptist Foreign Mission (ABFM, then ABMS now Global Interaction) feels a strong sense of call to the Boro people following many points of connection over a number of years. Assam American Baptist Mission ask ABFM to take over their work in the area and Boro people also ask for assistance.

**1947** - Wilf and Gwen Crofts relocate from East Bengal and are the first Australian Baptists to live and serve among the Boro people in Assam. They travel between 16 Boro churches.

**1948** - Garo churches make contact with the Crofts for assistance. There are 12 isolated churches without any support.

**1951** - Some Australian Baptist cross-cultural workers relocate to the Garo area.

**1954** - Visits begin to Rabha communities to share the Gospel and offer medical help.

**1957** - At the Rabha community's request, Australian cross-cultural workers arrive to live among them.

**1959** - First church forms in the Rabha community with 10 baptised.

**1968** - Political unrest threatens visas for cross-cultural workers so planning begins for how to continue partnerships with Assam churches.

**1970** - All Australian Baptist residential cross-cultural workers leave Boro, Garo and Rabha communities in Assam due to Indian government restrictions.

Global Interaction continues to partner with churches in Assam through schools and education of church leaders and pastors visits. Importantly, the Boro, Garo and Rabha communities accept responsibility for their own churches and they grow.

**Today** - there are more than 30,000 members across approximately 250 churches among Boro, Garo and Rabha communities.

Pam Gallagher vividly remembers hearing stories from her childhood about Assam. She recalls being told of the many people who had never heard about Jesus in a meaningful way. She remembers giving to the ministry and praying that there would be a strong movement of God among these people. At the beginning of this year, she had the opportunity to visit Assam for the first time and meet members of the vibrant Boro, Garo and Rabha churches. For Pam, it was an incredible joy and privilege to witness the thriving churches!

Pam was thrilled to see the answer to her childhood prayers and the prayers of many others through the Boro, Garo and Rabha church communities. She heard about churches supporting evangelists to share the Good News with their own communities and Hindu background people coming to faith. Pam spoke to many people who came from a Hindu background, including one man who is now the area pastor of eight churches. These communities are generous, with families encouraged to set a serving of rice aside at each meal to be brought to the church and sold as a means of supporting the evangelists.

Global Interaction cross-cultural workers only lived in Assam for 23 years before Indian government restrictions closed off the area to Christian workers. Wilf and Gwen Crofts always had the conviction that the responsibility of church leadership should be with the local people and the cross-cultural workers' responsibility was in the training and equipping of these leaders to reach their own people. This attitude helped to set the churches up for the years ahead where there would be limited outside support and no residential cross-cultural workers.

Global Interaction's partnership with Assam continues through scholarships for church leaders, visits for teaching and pastoral encouragement and ministry program subsidies.

Pam returned home overwhelmed with what she had experienced and with the prayer that this would be a glimpse into what we will see among the nine least-reached people groups that are the focus of our work today. She continues to pray that one day there will be strong and vibrant faith communities emerge among each of these people groups as well.



- Right: photo taken by Pam



# EKTEINO

Last year Global Interaction, with the support of Baptist Financial Services, launched its first discipleship app called Ekteino. Mary Ackers, Youth and Young Adults Pastor at Salisbury Baptist Church took up the four week challenge to stretch out - to impact her world and the people around her for good. We asked her to reflect on how the stretching went...

## What did you like about Ekteino?

Ekteino had a definite purpose going through the daily challenges. It really felt like a journey of discovery! I also loved that it was relevant to local and global mission. Regardless of where your passion for missional activity lies, there is something for everyone in this journey.

I also liked the look and feel of the app. I could take notes and save them for future reference and I enjoyed the other media (stories, videos, etc.) that gave insight into the concepts explored.

## What surprised you?

I was pleasantly surprised by how much I got out of the daily challenges. I sometimes struggle with daily devotionals, as they can be anecdotal and superficial, but with Ekteino it was different. A Bible reading with both active and reflective responses fit the bill for a daily Bible time for me.

## How has it impacted you?

In the past, when I've thought about ways to 'stretch-out' into my community, it's felt like a huge challenge and at times has been overwhelming. Going through Ekteino gave focus and direction to my thoughts and I felt much more encouraged about the number of missional opportunities already in my community. I've really begun to think differently but also listen to God's leading. I now do a lot more noticing and thinking about what was happening around me and less getting caught up in my own head. It has been encouraging and eye-opening.

Ekteino has given me some great tools and strategies for engaging with my neighbours and seeking out ways to stretch out into the world around me.

**This was really one of the most engaging devotion-type exercises I've done and I really enjoyed it! I only wish there was more!**

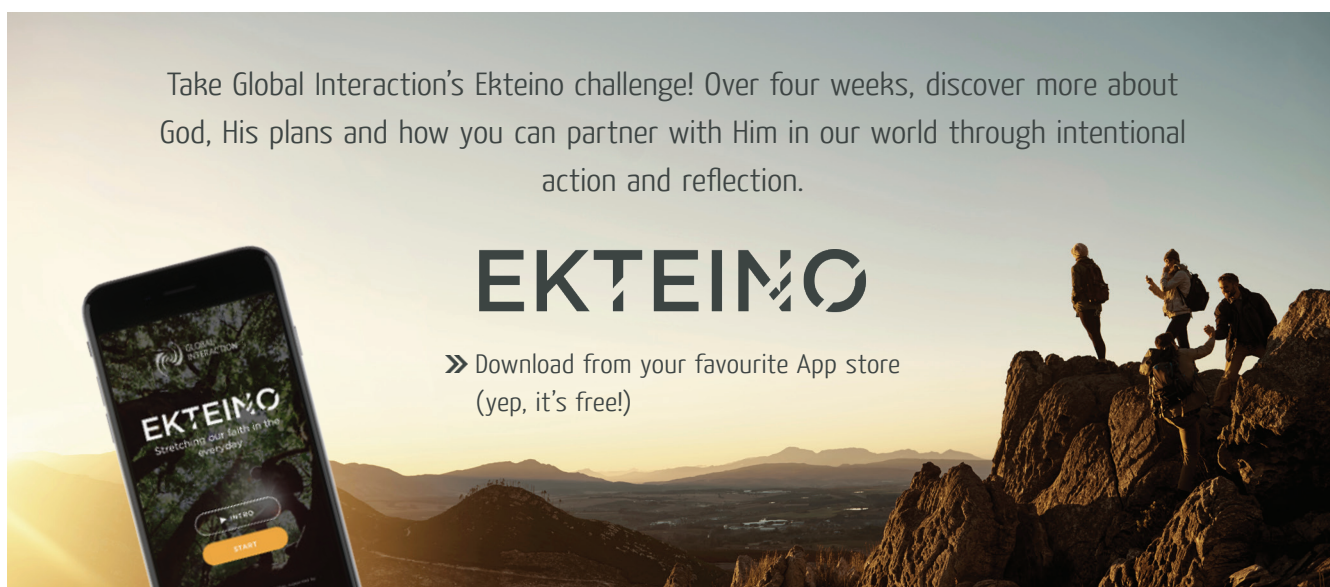


Take Global Interaction's Ekteino challenge! Over four weeks, discover more about God, His plans and how you can partner with Him in our world through intentional action and reflection.



# EKTEINO

» Download from your favourite App store  
(yep, it's free!)





# THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT

This year we celebrate Walt and Jeanine who have served with Global Interaction for 40 years. We received this letter from Walt to share with you:

"Cast Your Fate to the Wind" was a song that captivated my mind and resonated with my spirit as a teenager. I imagined myself drifting from adventure to adventure, unfettered by commitments, in lands "where the stars hung upside down." When I came to two critical crossroads, I instead committed my life first to Jesus as my Lord and second to Jeanine as my wife. **Today, I realise that in fact I did cast my fate to the wind but rather than some random wind I cast my fate to the wind of the Spirit of God.** And God has taken me to incredible people, places and adventures I could never have imagined or engineered myself.

A third critical crossroad occurred and that was saying "yes" to God asking me to join my sending agency for the purpose of being sent to partner with Global Interaction (then ABMS) in Bangladesh.

The formidable Rev. J. D. Williams asked Jeanine and I to meet with him alone in the guest house in Dhaka. We were only in our second year in Bangladesh, very aware of our youth and inexperience and even more aware of 'J.D.'s' formidable reputation. As I had a bad case of hepatitis (is there ever a good one?) I was depressed and weak and expected a word of pastoral encouragement. Instead J.D. informed us that our senior colleagues in Jamalpur, Ian and Barbara Hawley, would soon leave Jamalpur so Ian could become the Overseas Director. As soon as we were alone I burst into tears. How could we survive without their pioneering leadership and support? How could the new fruit among the people grow? Later, Ian assured us that the work was not his but God's and God would complete the good work He had begun in the people of Jamalpur. I am profoundly grateful for and commend the faithful and creative work of people in Jamalpur who continue to serve in leadership and field positions in the development agency and as bold, wise and fruitful followers of Jesus.

**I believe that God instilled a vision in the leadership on and off the field for something new God was going to do in Bangladesh. The secret to fulfilling that vision, I often reflect, is that the whole mission family had a 100% commitment to the vision and a 110% commitment to each other.** Even though there was a very real risk that everyone's tenure in the country could be cut short due to political barriers, there was total support for those team members that were called to the new vision. It was a remarkable family.

Besides one's relationship with God, I used to think that the most important personality characteristic for a cross-cultural worker was flexibility. I later realised that flexibility without commitment yields nothing. Commitment without flexibility usually results in a miserable worker and miserable co-workers. But the combination is powerful. I now add that a commitment to being a life-long learner is the third critical ingredient. All three and you have dynamite!



- (Above) Walt, Jeanine, Jenny, Joy and Jacki

It is a cliché but is so often repeated because it is simply true; the work is not ours but God's. **When I think of my career, it is best described simply by a recognition of the fact that somehow, by the grace of God, when God invited Jeanine and I to sit in a front row seat to see what He would do, we said "yes."**

I have been freed to discover my own gifts with an amazing degree of trust from the leadership of Global Interaction. I have even had the freedom to make mistakes. Of course, without the freedom to make mistakes, there is no real freedom but there has been a remarkable willingness to try new things and learn from them. And I have had the very rare privilege of working with my best friends in the most fascinating places, watching God do astonishing things. What could be better than that?!

**With deepest gratitude to God and the Global Interaction family,  
Walt**

**Walt continues to serve with Global Interaction as a Global Consultant and Team Leader for the workers in the Silk Road Area.**



## NEW CANDIDATES



**Marc & Rachel** - Khmer of Cambodia



**Luke & Rachel** - Khmer of Cambodia

## UPDATES

Candidates Andy and Rachel are preparing to serve the Yawo in Malawi.

We farewellled Michelle Robertson who did a fantastic job as maternity leave for Alison Nissley who has returned to work part-time.

## BACK IN AUSTRALIA

After 14 years serving in Thailand, Paul and Cathy have discerned that God is opening up a new season of life and ministry for their family and have returned to Australia. They are sharing with supporting churches and partners and Paul will be also undertaking some teaching for us until they conclude at the end of June.

After 16 years serving with Global Interaction, most recently in Malawi, Robyn is bringing her service overseas to conclusion and has returned to Australia. She is connecting with her supporters and sharing her story before completing her service at the end of April.

## NEW STAFF



**Allison Lynn** –  
Executive Assistant to VIC/TAS  
State Director



**Zoe Solomon** –  
PA to General Director

## CONCLUSION OF SERVICE

**Join us in praising God for the long-term service of the following people. Their dedication has been critical to the growth of our ministry. We pray for many more workers to follow in their footsteps.**

**Luke and Felicity:** Luke and Felicity worked among the S.I people of South East Asia from 2006 until October 2016. They initiated a café business, which matched their skills in the hospitality industry and in business. This was a huge undertaking which gave them many opportunities to connect with people. Luke and Felicity's aim of employing and training local people was to break the cycle of poverty and give the local staff a stepping stone into a better life. In the midst of this, they maintained their focus and passion for sharing the Good News with their staff and customers. The café ministry continues to run with the oversight of some other team members.

**Lyndal:** Lyndal commenced service in Chiang Rai, Thailand, in March 1998 and completed her service in November 2016. Lyndal was involved with educational programs in schools, jails, detention centres, youth groups and community groups. Working with an organisation called LIFT, she continues to be involved in community development and providing educational programs for orphans and people affected by HIV/AIDS. Through her work and faith, Lyndal has shown God's love for the Thai people.

**Marg:** Marg commenced her service in February 1988. She has served in West Timor, Zimbabwe and, most recently, in South East Asia where she completed her service in January 2017. Her deep faith and assurance of her call enabled her to serve for 28 years despite facing many obstacles, frustrations, uncertainties and periods of loneliness. Many of her former students view her as a surrogate mum and mentor. This reflects her love of people and desire to see them experience new life through Jesus.

**Roger Drew:** Roger commenced work as the Director of Partnership Development in August 2010. In this role he led the state teams in developing church partnerships and mobilising new workers. He moved into the Director of Ministries role in 2013 and provided direction and oversight of our ministries by helping teams develop their vision, mission and strategy. Similarly, his work with the Global Consultants greatly assisted in better understanding and focusing our work. He completed his service in February 2017.

**Belinda Waterhouse:** After 10 years, Belinda Waterhouse concluded her service as Executive Assistant to the VIC/TAS State Director in December 2016. In addition to directly assisting the director, Belinda was often the first point of contact with our churches, pastors and cross-cultural workers, injecting her own unique blend of humour, hospitality, practical assistance and enthusiasm.

**Steph Forman:** Steph commenced work as the Personal Assistant to the General Director and Director of Finance, Administration and Risk in 2006. Following maternity leave in 2010, she took on the role of Projects, Board and Staff Support Administrator. After her second period of maternity leave in 2014, Steph returned to the role of Personal Assistant to the General Director. She was extremely approachable, always willing to assist, thoughtful and demonstrated a gracious and professional attitude. Steph concluded her service in February.



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Address:

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Postcode:

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Mobile:

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☐ A regular gift of \$  each ☐ month ☐ quarter ☐ year

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☐ Project (code)



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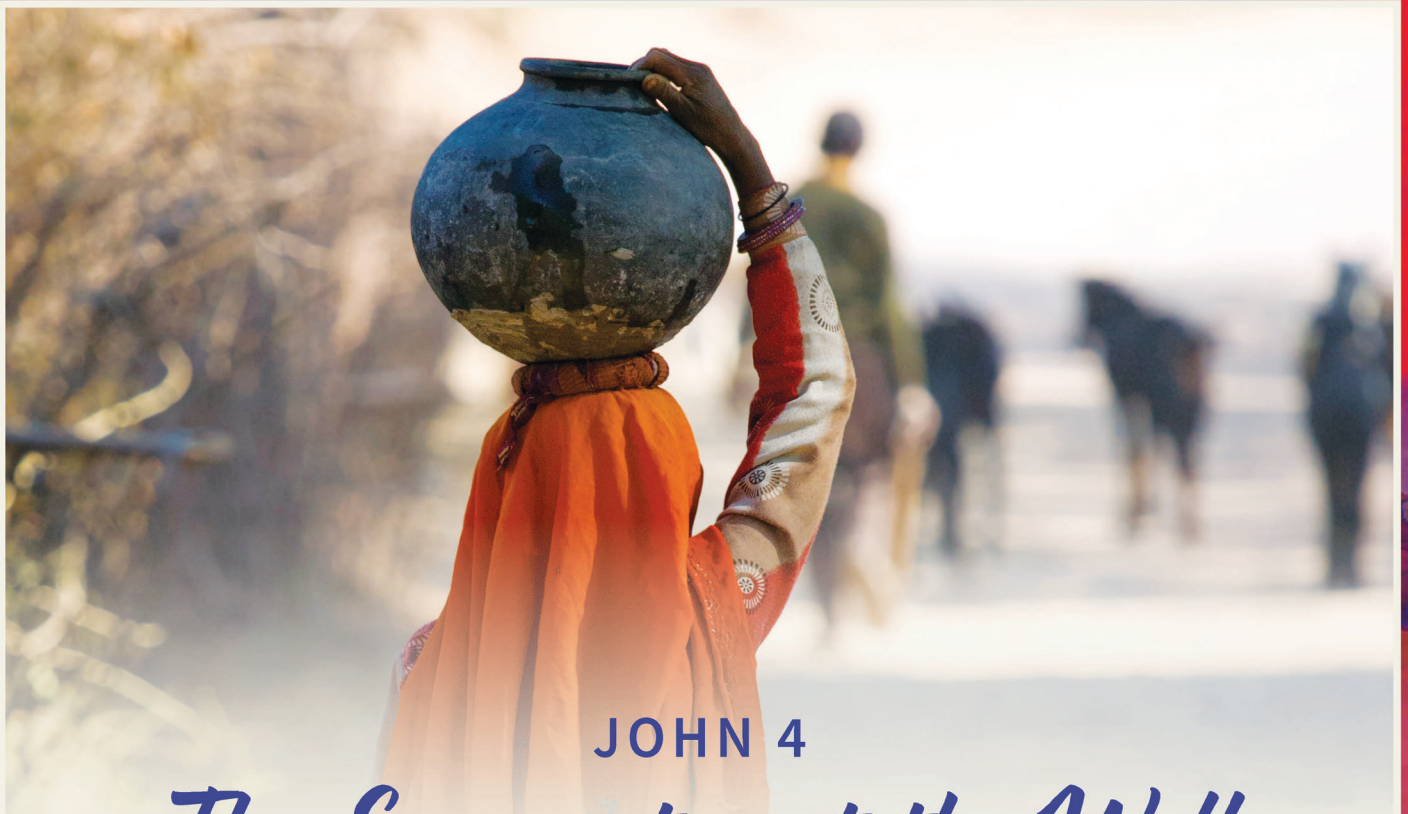
Date

I understand that I will receive an annual receipt in August detailing all my gifts for the financial year.

Global Interaction complies with national privacy principles and our Privacy Policy is available on our website or may be obtained upon request.







JOHN 4

## *The Encounter at the Well*

“‘Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?’

... Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony. ”

Let’s discover how we can cross cultural boundaries to share the love of Jesus.

Join with churches around Australia to focus on praying, teaching and giving to cross-cultural mission. Your partnership is essential to make an impact on the least-reached who have yet to have an encounter with Jesus.

[www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMM](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMM)