



News & Prayer

Prayer and Praise

Thurs 7 March - Wed 20 March

- 7 T **Australia** Pray for the newly formed Australian Intercultural Team led by **Andrew Duncan**. Pray for a strong sense of team unity and vision, even as team members are involved in different contexts and ministries. Pray for Andrew as he supports, leads and journeys alongside the team.
- 8 F **Australia** Paul is settling into ministry with international students at Macquarie University in Sydney. Give thanks for the conversations about Jesus that he has already had with students from all around the world, some of whom have never had the chance to talk about Jesus before. Pray for trusting relationships to grow.
- 9 S **Australia** Pray for **Daniel** as he prepares to spend time with First Nations communities in South Australia next month. Pray that it will be a rich time of connection, relationship building, listening and mutual learning.
- 10 S **Ramadan** As the fasting month begins for Muslims around the world, pray for **people** who are seeking God to find Him. Pray that Jesus will speak to people in dreams or visions, and that they will have followers of Jesus to explore the good news with.
- 11 M **Ramadan** Pray for our **teams** who are serving in Muslim communities. Pray for opportunities for faith conversations during this time of increased spirituality and devotion.
- 12 T **Ramadan** Mel in the Silk Road Area writes, "May our team be bold and courageous, leaning heavily on the Spirit's wisdom, and have meaningful conversations while many of our friends are open to these during the fasting month."
- 13 W **South Asia** Pray for **Phil** as spends time with our team in South East Asia, learning from their projects and offering insight from his experience with projects. Pray that it will be a fruitful time of mutual learning. And pray for Phil as he soon returns to South Asia.
- 14 T **South Asia** Pray for **Lisa** as she leads our partner organisation in South Asia. Ask for wisdom, great communication with the Australian and South Asian based team, and a soft heart that continually responds to the great needs of the B people with the love Jesus.
- 15 F **South Asia** As **Ryan and Suzie**, and **Jacqueline and Anthony** prepare to relocate to South Asia long-term, pray for more people and churches to partner with them prayerfully and financially so they are fully supported to go. Give thanks for their passion to use their skills to share God's love in relevant ways.
- 16 S **Thailand** Towards the end of March, the Ethnic Thai Faith communities are gathering for a **camp**. Pray for the faith leaders and our team, as sessions are planned and camp preparations are made. Pray that the camp will spur on the believers and embolden them to share their faith with their community.
- 17 S **Thailand** Pray for **Margaret** as she teaches English at a local preschool. Lift up her relationships with the children, teachers and parents. Pray that she will continually be growing in her Thai culture and language acquisition.
- 18 M **Thailand** Praise God for all the positive connections that our **team** has within their communities. Pray that they will be attentive to the Spirit's promptings as they seek to build authentic relationships and share the good news.
- 19 T **Outback Australia** Pray for the **Yuendumu church** as they begin a series in Genesis. Pray for great discussions and for God to speak through His Word in a new way.
- 20 W **Outback Australia** Pray for **Beth and Danny** as they support First Nations church leaders through regular phone conversations. Pray for wisdom and a growing understanding of the leaders' culture and context.

Ministry Video

Restoring Relationships

Tim and Melanie, Malawi



In a video update, Tim and Melanie share wonderful stories of Yawo friends mending relationships with God and others through Jesus.

Thank you for your partnership with our ministry in Malawi!



Scan the QR code to watch the video:
[www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/
RestoringRelationships](http://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/RestoringRelationships)

From Scott

Burdened Hearts of Hope

It was after a visit to suffering children in Korea and China in the late 1940s that Robert Pierce wrote this prayer in his Bible: ***“Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.”***

Pierce couldn't let go of the need to do something meaningful for the children that he held in his arms on his Asian visit. Within a few years Pierce would establish World Vision and see its growth across the globe.

Pierce saw a need and God's Spirit grew a deep burden within him. His heart was moved with compassion. He needed to act, and in doing so he was modelling the heart of Jesus that we see in the gospels.

In Luke 7 we read of a woman who has lost her husband, and now her only son. Here, in this culture, at this time, is a picture of desperation and hopelessness. The woman faced a very uncertain and challenging future.

In verse 13 we read: ***“When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her”***. I love that verse.

Jesus sees the woman. He sees her pain. He sees her needs. I take great comfort in knowing that Jesus sees me – in my brokenness and ordinariness. He sees me as I am and as I can still become, as the Holy Spirit is at work in my life.

Jesus sees the woman and He is burdened by her needs. “His heart went out to her” we read in one translation. “His heart overflowed with compassion” is another translation. In the original language the idea of Jesus' being moved at a “gut level” captures the depth of His feelings for the woman. His heart is broken for her and He acts in response, raising the young man from the dead.

And Luke so beautifully writes, ***“and Jesus gave him back to his mother”!***

What do we see here. In the midst of hopelessness, Jesus gives us hope back. In the midst of chaos and turmoil, Jesus places peace back into our lives. Amid darkness, Jesus gives light back. Confronted with death, Jesus places life back in the mother's hands.

Across the world and Australia this week our Baptist Mission Australia team members and ministry partners serve in unique, local communities, bringing the hope, love and light of Jesus by word and deed.

They are on the ground in Kalkarindji in the Northern Territory, in Massangulo, Mozambique, in Chiang Rai, Thailand, in Kapiri Mposhi, Zambia, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on the Macquarie University campus in Sydney and in many other places across the world because of a God-placed burden.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus they have seen people that God has placed a burden on their heart for.

People who otherwise may not have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus in ways that make sense to them. People living with poverty, injustice and distress who need others in their corner advocating for them and standing alongside them. People who feel shunned and disregarded who need to know how much they matter to their Creator God!

Often when I talk with our team members and ministry partners, I am reminded of Robert Pierce's prayer, because I hear the deep heart connection our team members and partners have with the people they lovingly live and serve alongside.

God uses softened hearts, broken hearts, hearts with a burden for others.

And what does the Holy Spirit do with Pierce's burdened heart? He captivates it with missional imagination. The Spirit beckons Pierce to act on his burdened heart and World Vision is birthed.

It's amazing to see what God does with burdened and captivated hearts, as ordinary people imagine the world and their local community different to what it is today. I'm thankful today for our team members and partners who are pursuing Kingdom heart dreams across the globe and around Australia. With broken and captivated hearts they join God as co-menders in our broken world, proclaiming and demonstrating the love and hope of Jesus.

And you're a big part of this. Thank you! Your partnership heart - your prayers and generous financial gifts - make all our work possible.

Pierce's prayer is a dangerous one to pray! But a powerful one.

God, may you continue to break our hearts - across the street and around the world - so we're ready and available to be used by you as shalom seekers, good news people, Kingdom dreamers, change agents!

Grace and peace

Scott

Resources



May Mission Month 2024: Mending!

Joining with God in mending a beautiful, broken world.

Our team is busy developing the full suite of resources for May Mission Month. Explore what's here and what's coming: www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/MMM/Resources

Get in touch with our team if you have any questions or would like to book in a speaker for your church or small group.