

VISION

SPRING 2011

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES
TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN
DISTINCTIVE WAYS
OF FOLLOWING JESUS



GLOBAL | INTERACTION



Women's camp, Outback Australia (Photo: Bill M)

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Cover image: Health group, Malawi (Photo: Robyn H)

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Global Interaction Board: Keith Jobberns, Ivan James, John Peberdy Ken Clendinning, Norm Nix, Ashley Saunders, John Gronow, Gary Le Cras John Hickey, Rachel Bowey, Kaye Walker, Michelle Farrall, (Michael Pittendrigh - absent)



Rural Thailand (Photo: Michael S)

A MISSION, NOT A BUSINESS

A year ago, **John Peberdy** took on the role of Chairperson of the Global Interaction Board. The Board is responsible for: overseeing the spiritual life of Global Interaction; selecting and supporting the General Director; and ensuring effective organisational planning.

Those who have served on the Board prior to my joining a few years ago have provided a wonderful base to enable us to achieve our intent of providing Global Interaction with strategic direction and effective controls.

The Global Interaction Board benefits from the appointment of a diverse group of people with a breadth of understanding and knowledge. Our State Authorities are represented by Rev Gary Le Cras (WA), Rachel Bowey (SA), Kaye Walker (VIC), Ivan James (TAS), Rev Norm Nix (NSW/ACT), Rev Ashley Saunders (QLD) and John Gronow (NT). Rev Ken Clendinning is the appointment of the Australian Baptist Ministries and John Hickey the representative of Baptist World Aid Australia. Rev Keith Jobberns, our National Director, also serves on the Board. We have three people on the Board who are selected for their special expertise: Michael Pittendrigh serves as our Treasurer; Michelle Farrall provides expertise in a range of strategic skills including marketing and communications, as well as serving as Vice Chairperson; and my own background is in financial management, strategic thinking and partnership development. Rev Dr Basil Brown is an Honorary Life Member.

In August 2010, Ivan James completed 10 years as Board Chairperson. Over this period, Global Interaction underwent significant change and Ivan lead the Board in an exemplary fashion. We are thankful that Ivan has agreed to continue on the Board as the Tasmanian representative.

In March 2010, the Board updated Global Interaction's mission, vision and strategic plan and at the same time reviewed the roles of the Board and the General Director. This significant piece of work forms the platform for Global Interaction's activities and provides the Board with an important tool for meeting its oversight responsibilities. **Our meetings are structured around the key initiatives that have been developed from the mission and vision statements:**

- **Partnering with Australian churches and individuals**
- **Intentionally recruiting**
- **Engagement in incarnational ministry**
- **Caring for and developing staff**
- **Resourcing for sustainability**

Two-year goals have been set for each of these initiatives and we are updated regularly on the performance against these goals. At each meeting we invite Global Interaction staff to update on the work taking place in their region. We usually have one National Director, one State Director and a cross-cultural Team Leader present about their work with Global Interaction.

The work of the Board extends far beyond attendance at quarterly meetings. All of our Board members serve Global Interaction in other ways, whether it is via one or more of the six Board Standing Committees or through their support of State activities. Occasionally, it is necessary to ask a Board member to assist more directly in the organisation's activities. Ivan James has been directly involved in assisting the team in Malawi recently to review the partnership relationship with a local group. Ivan's particular skills have proven invaluable as we have sensitively sought to move to a new position with our work in Malawi.

Global Interaction is a mission, not a "business". For this reason we are thankful to Gary Williams from Christian Management Australia for his publication, *CMA's Essential Standards of Ministry Governance*. The Board has adopted these standards which provide a sound governance base for a Christian organisation. The 16 guiding principles give us focus and constantly remind us of our responsibilities as a Board serving under God.

We are very conscious of Global Interaction's history. **Part of the Board's role is to ensure Global Interaction continues to provide opportunities for Australian Baptists called by God to serve in mission.** At the present time, we are seeing an increase in the number of applications for cross-cultural service. For this we praise God. **Our challenge as a Board is to ensure that Global Interaction is resourced appropriately both in people and finance to carry out its mission.**

We thank our supporters for their on-going prayer, encouragement and financial commitment.

JOHN PEBERDY
Board Chairperson



Keith Jobberns, General Director



Steppes of Kazakhstan (Photo: Michael Paech)

WHAT I HAVE SEEN

*In March 2004 **Keith Jobberns** took on the role of General Director at Global Interaction. Keith, along with his wife Marilyn, had served with Global Interaction (then ABMS) in Irian Jaya from 1983-1991. Now, seven years on, Keith reflects on what he has seen take place for Global Interaction over the years. Keith is preparing to conclude in the role of General Director in 2012.*

The Board of Global Interaction is presently in the process of identifying the next General Director, with my term concluding on or before the end of March 2012. As I look over the past seven years, I am aware of the considerable changes that have taken place for Global Interaction.

As an organisation with more than 127 years of involvement in incarnational mission, our core commitment to empowering communities to develop their own distinctive way of following Jesus is still as critical as ever.

To achieve this we continue to be a sending mission, responding to Jesus' mandate to be sent out as the Father sent him. The places where our teams are involved in mission are places where there is not a local church ministering to the particular focus group; whether that is in the towns on the steppes of Kazakhstan, the rice farming villages in north-eastern Thailand or the coastal towns on islands of South East Asia. The people in these communities are dependent on someone being sent to share the wonder of God's transforming love in Jesus. As Paul writes in his letter to the church at Rome, how will they hear if no one goes to tell them? (Romans 10:14-15)

In this, my final year, I have had the privilege of seeing the long-term results of sending out cross-cultural staff. I have represented our Australian Baptist family at the 60 year celebrations of the commencement of the churches amongst the Garo people in the northern Indian state of Assam, as well as at similar celebrations among the Enga people in the Western Highland province of PNG. On both of these occasions I have witnessed firsthand the long-term community transformation that the good news of Jesus has made. I have been overwhelmed by the expressions of gratitude by members of these communities that Australian Baptists cared enough to send cross-cultural workers to share the good news of Jesus' love with them.

Sixty years on, I see the same commitment to mission growing out of the same commitment to Jesus, as another generation of Australian Baptists willingly accept the challenge to go to make disciples in all the nations, and especially those least-reached people who have not had the opportunity to hear.

At a governance level, we have seen the Board go through a renewal process, with a reduction from 33 to 13 members, where we have emphasised the Board's role in setting the vision for the organisation and the staff's responsibility for implementing that vision. What has remained consistent through these changes is the State Baptist church representatives retaining their majority voice on the Board. This highlights the fact that Global Interaction is the global mission arm of the local Baptist churches of Australia. **If there weren't local Baptist churches, Global Interaction would not exist.** It is the current Board that has affirmed the mission of Global Interaction to empower communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus. I have had the privilege of leading the team of over 150 people in 16 countries focused on reaching some of the least-reached and marginalised people groups in our world.

One thing that has not changed over the last seven years is the persistent injustice that many people are denied access to the good news of God's love as manifested in the ministry of Jesus. As we move into the second decade of the 21st century, close to one third of the people with whom we share the Earth with have never had the opportunity to hear the name of Jesus in a way that would make any sense to them linguistically or culturally.

So our vision, to see growing, vibrant faith communities engaging least-reached people groups with Jesus, remains a hope to set our sights on.

KEITH JOBBERNS
General Director



Prayers in South East Asia (Photo: Ros McGarvey)



Prayers in Thailand (Photo: Mark Jessop)

PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

Prayer. From the simple yet often profound prayers of a child, to all the variations of joys and heartache that we share with God as we grow into adulthood, prayer is integral to a growing and vibrant relationship with God.

For me, prayer has been a part of my life for as long as I remember. I know as followers of Jesus, true prayer is the lifeblood of who we are. **Our faith does not survive without prayer.** Yet I have to admit, that I am confounded by it.

The notion that I can be in deep communication with the creator of the universe, and that he would choose to hear, and, dare I say, answer, the deepest stirrings of my heart, is nothing short of astounding to me.

Yet, still so often I come to God with my request list and one eye on the time and expect my relationship with him to grow. While I have been a follower of Jesus for a number of years, I feel like I still have my Learner Plates on when it comes to prayer.

I think maybe the disciples were in a similar frame of mind when, noticing Jesus' practice of prayer, they asked him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1). This request did not come because they had never prayed before; as Jews, prayer would have been a significant part of their life and up-bringing. **Rather they could see in Jesus' communication with God something that they had never truly experienced: an intimacy, a closeness, a oneness as Jesus communed with the Father.** The disciples realised that prayer was something to be learnt, to be discovered, a journey with God.

Richard Foster in his book, *Celebration of Discipline*, says: **"In prayer, real prayer, we begin to think God's thoughts after him: to desire the things that he desires, to love the things that he loves, to will the things he wills."** This is a lovely picture of what prayer is to be: our hearts aligning with the heart of God so that we might be able to partner with him in the bringing about of his kingdom on earth. A kingdom where the poor and marginalised are cared for, the oppressed are set free and all have the opportunity to hear and respond to God's saving message through Jesus.

It is for this very reason that Global Interaction invites Baptist communities around Australia to be a part of Just Prayer on the weekend of 14–16 October. **Just Prayer is a call for churches, youth groups, small groups and faith communities to set their hearts on the things of God and pray for the millions of people around the world who have not yet heard the message of Jesus.**

It is hard to believe that still today almost a third of the world is considered least-reached due to cultural, linguistic or political barriers: this is injustice on a grand scale! So this October let us come together and kneel, stand, walk and create in prayer for those who so desperately need to know the love and grace of Jesus Christ. **Might we together be able to pray: your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

HAYLEE FREUDIGMANN
National Young Adults Consultan



**J U S T
P R A Y E R**

Baptist communities praying for the least-reached people groups of the world

14-16 October



Muana with his wife Villy and their three daughters



Fellowship group (Photo: Muana)

FROM INDIVIDUALS TO A MOVEMENT

Muana and his wife Villy have been part of the Global Interaction team in Thailand for a number of years. As they look back at the past six years, they are amazed at all that has happened: from friendships with a few individuals who came to know Jesus, to the birth of a small fellowship group of believers. Now this group is eager to “go out” themselves and share Jesus with those around them. Muana reflects with wonder at all God has done, and is excited about what is ahead.

Sometimes it seems as if we’re not doing anything really profound – it’s really just making friends with those around us. **It has been exciting to see God use simple conversations and friendships with a few individuals for the growth of his kingdom in rural Thailand.** From a few individuals who decided to follow Jesus, we’ve seen the development of a small faith community of believers discovering their own distinctive ways of following Jesus. And now this fellowship group, like groups of believers throughout time, naturally want to share Jesus with those around them and see the kingdom of God grow and flourish.

A few individuals

Kwi

It seems like a life-time ago when back in 2005 we moved into a small home in rural Thailand. Just like when you move into any new neighbourhood we began getting to know our neighbours, Nok and his wife Kwi. Villy is a hairdresser, so she would often cut Kwi’s hair. As happens in hairdressing salons all around the world, the women’s conversations didn’t take long to progress from the weather to deeper issues, including ideas of spirituality.

One day Villy and Kwi watched a movie about Jesus together. The next time Villy was cutting Kwi’s hair, she asked, “Tell me, what did you find most interesting about Jesus?” Kwi responded, “Jesus rose from the dead – I have never heard of anyone doing that before!”

Kwi started to think seriously about Jesus. After the wet season, Kwi remarked with amazement, “This is the first wet season in my life that the water has not come into our house.” Her friends were also surprised and said to one another, “See, Muana and Villy’s God even looks after their friends.” It was at this time that Kwi started to believe – when she realised that God was helping her.

Nok

God was also revealing himself to Kwi’s husband, Nok. After a terrible fall out of a tamarind tree, doctors suspected broken ribs and internal bleeding, but Nok’s test results came back clear. It was then that Nok remembered that he had met Jesus in a dream. While his family and friends were sure that his accident was caused by the spirits, Nok was convinced that Jesus had protected him.

Inh

Meanwhile, God had also been using dreams to speak to another person in the community, Inh. Our Global Interaction team members, Larry and Jan, had recently met Inh and she told them about her dream where a holy man lifted her in his arms and prayed for her. She woke from that dream with a wonderful sense of wellbeing and peace. It was days later that Inh saw a picture of Jesus in a children’s book. “That’s him – he’s the one who lifted me!” she exclaimed.

Forming a fellowship group

It was exciting times to see God opening the hearts and minds of each of these and other individuals. It was even more exciting to see them drawing together to support and encourage one another and to worship and learn together.

We started a weekly gathering in our home with these new believers.

It was a joy to see the believers grow in their understanding of and faith in Jesus. The gathering times were fairly unstructured. We just wanted to be facilitators, helping them discover their own ways of worshipping Jesus. Usually we would meet for an hour, but sometimes people got really into it so it would go for two hours or more. We would pray and read the bible together and it was also a time to discuss issues and share testimonies.

We spent a lot of time encouraging one another, as many were feeling pressure from family and friends to not follow Jesus. The Thai people see Christianity as a Western religion. People think they



Villy cutting Inh's hair (Photo: Muana)



The village in northern Thailand where the fellowship group meet (Photo: Muana)

would betray their own culture and family if they became Christians. **We wanted to help them figure out how they could still be a part of their society and family, and also come into a new family: the family of Jesus.**

The day that the group no longer met in our home, but in the home of Nok and Kwi, was very momentous. For us, this was a big step in empowering these believers to take on ownership and leadership of the faith movement.

We started running a few leadership training courses. We wanted to develop their capacity to understand the scripture and apply it to their local situation. But it was important to start from where they were at and slowly develop the potential they have in them. The first training was for a whole day on biblical knowledge, qualities of leaders and teaching skills. We even had a practice session where they all got up to teach a lesson.

While there was some initial hesitation, a few members of the group have really stepped up and taken on more responsibility. Different people now prepare and lead short segments of the gatherings. Inh started by doing some bible readings and quickly progressed to helping teach the weekly lessons. It's wonderful when they teach, as they know how to relate the gospel to the local culture in ways we, as outsiders, never could.

You can imagine how thrilled we were in mid 2009 when we celebrated the first baptisms of the fellowship group. We'd chosen an outside venue in a national park a short distance from where we usually met. The storm clouds gathered and the thunder rolled – an exciting setting for an exciting occasion! Two people had planned to take this step of declaration of their faith. But on the day two more came prepared with dry clothing to also be baptised.

As we looked back on the past three years, we could see God working in these people, changing them, growing them and using them.

Going out

The fellowship group has grown because of the passion of the new believers and their desire to share Jesus with those around them.

For them, their experience of Jesus has been life-changing. No longer are they bound by a fear of the spirits that is so predominant in the Thai culture. They now know the freedom brought by Jesus. They want to make sure their family, neighbours and friends know it too!

In many of their conversations with other people in the neighbourhood, Inh and the others often talk about Jesus and the difference he has made in their life. We constantly have new people come to the fellowship group wanting to know more about Jesus.

One of the believers, Lamud, travels from a neighbouring village to attend the fellowship group. One day I casually mentioned that since he lived in another village, perhaps we could start a second fellowship group in his house. The following Sunday he called me, saying, "Where are you? We're all here, we've got snacks and we're ready to go. We're just waiting for you to come teach."

He'd gathered many of his friends who were curious about Jesus. Since that first Sunday, a number of new seekers have come along to this second group. What is even more exciting is that believers from the first group have led a number of the sessions for them.

It reminds me of the early church from the beginning of Acts. Jesus promised those first believers: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **They realised, as do Inh, Neuk, Kwi and the others in the Thai fellowship group, that Jesus isn't just about transforming them as individuals. He's about transforming whole communities.**

They don't see themselves as the final destination of the gospel. They are not the end of the story. They are the beginning of the story of Jesus for many other people in their community.

And so what started with just a few small conversations, with just a few individuals, has now grown into a group of believers who are passionately spreading the love and grace of Jesus.

MUANA
Cross-cultural worker
Thailand



Barry and Fiona with their sons, Visarl and Narin

REFLECTIONS ON LOCALISATION

Barry Higgins, along with his wife Fiona, has been a cross-cultural team member with Global Interaction in Cambodia since 2001. Barry has focused on establishing 'Peace Bridges', a local organisation working for peace within churches, families and communities. As they prepare to leave at the end of the year, Barry reflects on the process of doing himself out of a job.

For the past ten years working in Cambodia, my main obsession has been the development of Peace Bridges. After years of dreaming, planning, working by day and worrying by sleepless night, Peace Bridges is today a 'localised' Cambodian organisation. It has a national director and 15 staff passionately committed to supporting Christians and those of other faiths to deal with conflict in a way that considers the needs of all.

Our goal is to equip people with the vision, tools and support to prevent and manage conflict, based on the Christian values of mercy, justice, peace and truth.

As our family prepares to return to Sydney at the end of this year, the subject of 'localisation' is never far from my mind. Easy to talk about, harder to practice; localisation is ultimately about people from within the culture owning, sustaining and developing the vision and mission of a program.

Not long after we moved here in 2001 we were challenged by a young Christian leader, Seila, who talked of the Cambodian church being a bride, and Christ the groom. Seila suggested that foreign workers might do well to see themselves as simply a bridesmaid or best man, supporting rather than seeking to dominate the marriage.

How might the issue of localisation fit into the wedding analogy? Unfortunately I have seen many examples of localisation happening just before a foreign worker prepares to leave the field: the final stage in the mission project. We march our bride up to the altar of a foreign Christ, fully expecting that the marriage we have meticulously arranged for our bride really does fit with who she is. Yet instead of being self-critical when the marriage ends in divorce, we blame the bride for her lack of faithfulness.

For me, localisation is the tricky business of celebrating the marriage of the bride to Christ, who stands above and within all cultures, calling them to a way of transformation.

Localisation begins and ends with the transformation of people towards the values and practice of Jesus. We see this most acutely in Jesus himself. He did not call professionals for a nine-to-five, clock-in-clock-out mission. He chose unlikely women and men like Mary Magdalene and Peter. His concern was for people who knew they needed a doctor, people who were open to values of the kingdom.

For Peace Bridges, a major challenge was selecting staff and volunteers who had an openness to the values of peace building. Skills and knowledge can be developed over time, whereas the formation of values and attitudes is a much deeper conversion process.

Localisation should begin the day a project is conceived. It should be done *with* local people, not *for* them. Of course I have not always practiced what I now preach! In the early days of Peace Bridges, I stubbornly pushed the idea that we should follow the 'Western' practice of training a pool of independent mediators, so that people across Cambodia could access them when experiencing conflict. It took me almost two years to accept what my patient colleagues were saying: that this model was unsustainable in a culture where people generally seek mediation from those they know. When I finally developed mission 'with' rather than 'to' my Cambodian colleagues, our whole approach changed, to equipping and mobilising people to work in their natural circles of influence.

So how do we help build healthy, sustainable programs? I believe that we must have as a priority the development of organisational structures which support and strategically mobilise movements of changed individuals. Research, monitoring, Boards, policies, systems of governance, participatory decision making processes, programming, succession planning... These are not dirty words sent to contaminate a movement. They are essential



Barry with the Peace Bridges team



Peace Bridges counselling

to ensuring a movement can grow and develop beyond the initial catalyst of the founder.

Yet the localisation of organisational structures is a complicated business. Probably the most challenging part of the whole process is paying sufficient attention to two separate contexts: an upstream and a downstream context.

Downstream, Peace Bridges is all about working alongside individuals, communities and churches to equip them to develop very grass roots movements for peace making. Localisation is about equipping Pastor Sophat to mediate a long, bitter dispute between two key families in his church. It's about helping a community organisation in northern Cambodia develop its own mediation and counselling skills training course for village leaders and prison guards. It's about building Miss Vee's skills in training counsellors to look past stereotypes and really listen to young women trying to escape sex work and build new lives.

Downstream localisation is relatively straightforward, particularly if you are blessed with passionate, committed national staff eager to learn, as the Peace Bridges team is.

But ignore upstream localisation and projects seem to fall apart quickly. Or, maybe even worse, projects continue unchanged for years after the cross-cultural worker leaves. **Upstream localisation is about equipping national staff to continually and critically examine their ever-changing context, monitor what is working and what is not, make changes and adapt to meet new needs and challenges.** It's about ensuring local leaders have the tools to keep up with what is happening in their sector across Cambodia, the region and the world. It's about helping them feel confident when responding to the ever-shifting priorities and requests of donors: confident that what they are doing is best practice, but also confident enough to try new things.

The challenge of localisation is doing both upstream and downstream localisation well. In my experience this requires foreign workers to constantly reflect upon the roles and

responsibilities we play. **The question I've learnt to ask myself is this: if a Cambodian colleague can do this job effectively, then why am I doing it?**

For example, I really enjoyed providing peace-building training, but it wasn't long before I realised that Cambodian colleagues could do this better than me. My role quickly moved from being an upfront trainer to getting behind nationals and focusing upon coaching and supervision. No sooner was I relishing this role than I found other staff were ready to do the coaching and supervision, and my role moved further back to supporting the coaches and supervisors. With each step my role became further and further removed from the action, into the background. The final step was moving out of a leadership role altogether and developing the art of keeping my mouth shut unless invited to open it.

Whilst each of these steps was encouraging, they also involved the loss of fulfilling roles for me. Yet localisation is not about my job satisfaction – it is about developing the job satisfaction and vision of the Cambodian people who are the true owners of the mission.

It is humbling to confess that when I leave Cambodia the team members of Peace Bridges are not likely to be very concerned. There will be little gnashing of teeth. Whilst I hope I'll be missed as a friend, I will not be missed as a work colleague. They have moved on and are thriving.

I've made my mistakes, yet have also seen lots of little successes. I have done my best to set things up so Peace Bridges can have a successful future. Yet ultimately it is the Spirit of God who weaves and builds the Kingdom. With the best of intentions and plans, localisation of an organisation may flounder or fail. Organisations and programs come and go, but the real localisation that lives on is the changes in the lives of people an organisation was set up to serve.

BARRY HIGGINS
Cross-cultural worker
Cambodia



Koe Trapu, Keith Jobberns, Patrick Gaiyer



Reinactment of bringing the first missionary (Photo: Geoff Cramb)

GOING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

There he was seated cross-legged on the ground of his more-or-less traditional house. His adult family and a couple of grandchildren gathered around. He was leading a family devotion from Psalm 90: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

It was the morning of the third day of celebrations at Kumbareta, Baiyer River, Papua New Guinea. Two days before had been 24 June 2011. This day marks 62 years since Albert Kroenert, after trekking from what is today Enga Province, had written in his diary that Baiyer was the place he felt convinced was where God wanted the Australian Baptists to begin a mission presence.

Pastor Trae, who we had sat with on the ground that morning, had been one of those first baptised in 1956. Now he is just one of three surviving pastors from that day.

Nowadays the Baptist church in PNG numbers between sixty and eighty thousand. Tinsley Health Centre board initiated the idea of a 60-year celebration but tribal fighting delayed the event for two years. Now it was under way. And what a program!

Dramatic presentations from among the nearly 2,000 attendees depicted transformations that have impacted lives and brought release from fear: former witch doctor practices attempting to lay blame for a child's illness; birthing mothers now living, together with their babies due to the work of teams of women assisting the birth; improved nutrition through balanced eating; lives transformed by Jesus as people responded to the Good News.

History reenacted: If you'd been watching you may have noticed that the nationals' perspective has some significant differences from Australian official historical writings. After World War II, chaplains asked Australian Baptists to send missionaries to what is now PNG to an area where no missionaries were present. **The Enga people in the Baiyer Valley had decided they wanted missionaries of their own. So, they went off in search of some.** A delegation arrived at the Lutheran station Ogelbang, coinciding with the arrival of Albert Kroenert and Harry Orr.

We watched the drama portray the bringing of the first missionary back to Baiyer. Lumusa Association David Kyaple had written a song that the girls' brigade group had practised and sang.

Many years ago, our forefathers lived, in this land on which we now live. Dark were the days when we lived in fear, fear of the arrows and spears.

In 1949 the missionaries came, they brought with them the Good News of salvation, when God looked down from heaven and saw Kumbareta, he established, the covenant in our land.

Now we see the light, many changes have taken place; the Lord has blessed us over the years, though trouble surrounds us, and our destiny is questioned, the Lord has been the Rock of our Salvation.

Welcome Global Interaction, We warmly welcome you for we are the fruits of your labour.

In the years to come we'll never forget you. It's good to touch the soil of your labour.

Welcome The Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea. Welcome our three Unions. Welcome you who come from Urban Churches.

24th June of 2011 will be a memorable day for us.

Many songs, traditional dress, widows typified by soot-blackened skin – all highlighted former practices. Colourful banners and dress identified various associations of the churches. Some had come from a great distance. Great effort had been made.

Pastor Kiap, from the Sip Association, told me that just a couple of weeks earlier they had baptised 44 new believers. The church is well and truly alive!

Day two of the celebrations focused on future vision future. The foundations were already laid (literally) for a new administration building. **Just as God had shown his presence in the past, now is the beginning of a new phase of moving ahead with God.**

On Sunday, Global Interaction General Director Keith Jobberns, preached the culminating message prior to the sharing of communion. The presence of some former staff conveyed the continuing partnership and interest of Australian Baptists.

GEOFF CRAMB
Consultant with Baptist Union PNG



Elizabeth



Simon



Phil



Richard & Maxine



David



Bruce & Pauline



Ayla



Ben & Petra



Rachel Philps



Melanie Wellings



Craig Wright



Andrew Palmer



Sharlee



David & Shirley Dean



Ken & Veronica

IN THE FAMILY

WELCOME

We're excited to have a number of new candidates preparing to join our cross-cultural teams:

- **Elizabeth** from Essendon Baptist Church, Victoria is preparing to join the team in Malawi.
- **Simon** from New South Wales will join the team in Cambodia.
- **Phil**, son of Graeme and Pat, from Victoria, is preparing to serve in South Asia. He grew up there as a child, and is now returning 23 years later.
- **Richard and Maxine**, from Rowville Baptist Church, Victoria will join the team in Thailand.
- **David C**, from Essendon Baptist, Victoria has been accepted to serve in South Asia.
- **Bruce and Pauline**, who have previously served in the Silk Road Area, will provide administrative support to the South Asia team.
- **Ayla** from Eaton Baptist Church, Western Australia, has been accepted to the Gi6pro program to work in South East Asia.
- **Ben and Petra** from Northreach Baptist Church, Queensland have been accepted as long-term staff, with their placement still to be decided.

We've had two new Young Adults Consultants join the team: **Rachel Philp** in Western Australia and **Melanie Wellings** in New South Wales.

Craig Wright will take on the role of State Director for VIC/TAS in September. Craig is also the President of Baptist Union of Victoria.

Andrew Palmer will commence in the role of State Director for New South Wales in January 2012.

COMPLETION OF SERVICE

After four years serving in Hong Kong, **Sharlee** concluded her service with Global Interaction in April. Sharlee greatly enjoyed her time of ministry and saw many lives changed through her work.

Global Interaction recently completed the teaching ministry in Central Asia, and said goodbye to the cross-cultural workers who had been teaching English there. **David and Shirley Dean, Ken and Veronica**, and **Ruth Dunstan** all completed their service in July. Praise God for the university students they were able to share with during their time teaching. (see article p.10-11)

Garry and Nicola, along with their children, Addison, Elisabeth, Keegan and Imogen, conclude their Gi6pro placement in August after two years service in Thailand. Their contribution was much appreciated by the whole team.

Belinda S will finish her service with Global Interaction in South East Asia in October, after four years with the team there. She will be greatly missed by the rest of the team.

After nine years with the team in South Asia, **Anthony and Jacqueline**, along with their children Reuben, Samson, Isabelle, Lucy and Emerald, will conclude their time with Global Interaction at the end of the year. Anthony's work – with the fish farming and other agricultural projects and training courses – has been instrumental in the development of our ministry in South Asia.

Barry Higgins and Fiona Morgan have been part of the team in Cambodia for 10 years. Barry has been heavily involved in the locally-based organisation, Peace Bridges. Fiona has provided training, mentoring and research support to community based rehabilitation programs. They conclude with Global Interaction at the end of the year and will be greatly missed.

This year we say goodbye to three of our Young Adults Consultants: **Natalie Lammas**, after five years in NSW/ACT concluded in April; **Dave Tidey** after two years in QLD; and **Dan Beasy** from SA concludes in August. They have been able to journey with many young people as they explored their involvement in cross-cultural mission. Praise God for all of Nat, Dave and Dan's passion and hard work.



Ruth Dunstan



Garry & Nicola



Belinda S



Anthony & Jacqueline



Barry Higgins & Fiona



Natalie Lammas



Dave Tidey



Dan Beasy



Mark



Trevor & Gwen Farmilo



Cameron & Katherine



Tobias & Heather



Michelle & Bruce Farrall



Claudia & Mike Morris

Mark concluded as State Director for Victoria and Tasmania in April, after five years in the role. He and his wife Val recently joined the cross-cultural team in South East Asia as team leaders. Praise God for Mark's contribution as State Director and pray for him and Val as they continue to serve in their new ministry.

Trevor and Gwen Farmilo have faithfully volunteered in the National Office for a number of years, sorting the archives. They finished in their official capacity in July, however can't quite tear themselves away from Global Interaction, so will continue to be available as "special consultants" for all who require historical information. We greatly appreciate all of their hard work, and their presence in the team.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all those who welcomed a new baby into their family!

- **Cameron and Katherine** (candidates for Malawi) welcomed their third child, Sydney, on 25 March.
- **Tobias and Heather** (candidates for Mozambique) along with Elijah, welcomed Rachel on 15 March.
- Global Interaction Board Vice Chairperson, **Michelle Farrall** and her husband, Bruce, welcomed their first child, Charlize on 16 May.

And big congratulations to **Claudia Lopez** from the National Office who married Mike Morris on 15 May.

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J U S T P R A Y E R

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14-16 October

For one weekend Baptist communities across Australia will join together to pray for the people groups that are still to know Jesus.

WE INVITE YOU TO PRAYER

There are still thousands of people groups around the world who haven't yet heard the message of Jesus due to cultural, political and linguistic barriers.

Thousands! Is this just?

We invite you to prayer.

It's not just prayer. It's prayer for justice.

Gather with your youth group, small group, in your church service or with a bunch of friends. Whether it's for the whole weekend, or just a few minutes, join our nation in active prayer for the least-reached people groups of the world.

Will you pray?

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