



CHRIS BARNDEN

Director of Ministries

“The greatest news that any person can ever hear is of God's love for them in Jesus Christ. My goal is to help that news get out across the world in ways that are appropriate for every person to hear and receive it.”

A long journey with God and Global Interaction

Chris Barnden became the Director of Ministries for Global Interaction in mid-2004. But his journey with the organisation began when, soon after he finished secondary school, he visited his older brother, Graeme, serving in South Asia. Reflecting on his experiences, Chris believed God was calling him to overseas service, so he applied to Global Interaction (then ABMS). Studies at Monash University and Whitley College (the Baptist College of Victoria), marriage to Julie and the birth of Amy preceded their departure for work in South Asia where they served 1985-1988 and 1991-1993. Renée and Kyle were born during that time. When visa restrictions brought the Barnden family home, they served in church ministry in Victoria.

Back to Global Interaction

Chris and Julie maintained a strong interest in Global Interaction, and were surprised and delighted when Chris was invited to submit an application to be Director of Ministries.

A daunting and diverse role – with the empowerment of God

“The task is a daunting one! It is daunting simply because of the sheer responsibility that is mine to care for our staff in their variety of cultures and ministries. My aim is firstly to be a faithful and loyal member of the team that God has brought together. Equally important, my aim is to help our staff become the best servants of Jesus they can possibly be, wherever he has called them to be, and as Jesus himself leads and equips them for the task.”

Chris' many responsibilities include:

- frequent trips to cross-cultural staff around the world to help with their pastoral care, strategic planning and ministry development;
- constant contact with team leaders and, as needed, individual staff members and families;
- liaison with partner mission and church organisations around the world;
- cooperation with other Global Interaction Directors in Australia; and
- speaking engagements that inform and inspire Australian Baptists toward greater involvement in cross-cultural mission.