

GLOBAL INTERACTION News & Prayer



PRAYER AND PRAISE

Wed 13 Oct - Wed 27 Oct

- 13 W - **Thailand** Pray for **Liz and Glenn** as they establish an English Language Centre in their neighbourhood. Pray that the centre is a place where God's love is experienced.
- 14 T - **Thailand** **Glenn and Liz** write, "Pray for opportunities to share more with our neighbours about who God is and how His Spirit has the power to redeem lives."
- 15 F - **Thailand** Praise God that despite restrictions, many of the local **believers** are able to gather together online to pray for each other and read God's Word. Pray for protection as they begin to meet in person again.
- 16 S - **Thailand** Give thanks for the local faith community **leaders**. Pray for God's guidance as they discern how to follow Jesus in their own distinctive ways.
- 17 S - **Malawi** Following COVID delays, **Gary and Shirley** are very excited to finally book their flights to Malawi. Pray for them as they say their goodbyes and prepare to go.
- 18 M - **Malawi** Pray for the ministry of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Malawi, where **Gary and Shirley** serve.
- 19 T - **South Asia** Give thanks for the incredible contribution **Morris** has made as Team Leader of the South Asia team. In the coming weeks, **Ryan** will begin in the role of Team Leader. Pray for the team during this period of transition and give thanks for Morris' legacy of passionate service.
- 20 W - **South Asia** Pray for **Lisa** as she leads our partner NGO. Thank God for her heart for the people of South Asia. Pray for God's provision in sustaining the life-changing work of the NGO.
- 21 T - **Outback Australia** Pray for **Mat and Shannon** as they walk with believers in their community. Lift up candidates **Beth and Danny** as they prepare to serve and begin to grow their partnership team.
- 22 F - **Outback Australia** Pray for more workers to join the ministry of humbly journeying alongside First Nations believers and leaders.
- 23 S - **Papua New Guinea** Pray for the country as they face increasing COVID cases and very low vaccination rates. Pray for God's hand of protection.
- 24 S - **Papua** Pray for the long-term development of faith community **leaders**. Pray that many will be equipped and resourced to lead.
- 25 M - **Cambodia** Pray for the team in Cambodia as they establish new initiatives among their community, including a cafe and vocational training centre. Pray for God's wisdom and strong relationships with the local people involved.
- 26 T - **Cambodia** Pray for **Rob and Deb** as they build relationships with their neighbours. Pray for growing understanding and opportunities to share stories from the Bible.
- 27 W - **Cambodia** Praise God for His activity among the Khmer people. Pray for **seekers** to connect with our team and for the good news of Jesus to transform their lives.



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MINISTRY STORY



Worldview - Liz and Glenn, Thailand

Glenn and Liz share how an abandoned housing estate is about much more than it looks.

“While most Thai people are Buddhist, their religion and worldview is largely influenced by their animistic beliefs. Animism is the belief that objects, places, and creatures all possess a distinct spiritual essence. **Understanding the animistic world view of our Thai friends has probably been one of the hardest parts of our language and culture experience.**

Coming from our western worldview it’s hard to imagine that our friends would believe that a spirit (or many spirits) can take control of areas of land, and affect what can happen on this land.

As an intercultural worker the best way to try and understand the things that seem inconceivable to us is to ask questions, watch and listen. So let us share with you an example of how this animistic worldview plays out.

In Chiang Rai city about 20 years ago a construction company built a beautiful housing estate on a prime piece of land in town. The houses were big with lovely yards and the community had lots of facilities such a swimming pool. It was the place to live but only affordable to those with plenty of money.

After some of the houses had been built and the community was thriving, a series of tragic events happened which involved two young people drowning in the community pool. After this happened people started to investigate and ask questions of the building company. **They found out that the company hadn’t performed any ceremonies to ask permission from the spirit of the land before they started building.**

Word got around that the spirit that lived there was not happy and that’s why these tragic events had occurred. To this day that community sits abandoned and empty. As you drive the streets it looks like a ghost town. Houses are boarded up, weeds overgrow most of the signs, and fences. It looks like the set of a horror movie.

Why have we shared this with you? As we learn how Thai people see the spirit world it helps us to know how we can share with them the Spirit of God. More recently we’ve been asking ourselves, how does God redeem these beliefs? Can they see the Spirit of God, His light over places as well?”

Pray with Liz and Glenn for God to give them wisdom in how to share the hope of Jesus in ways that make sense to their Ethnic Thai friends. Pray for the Spirit of God to open hearts to receive the good news of Jesus despite cultural and religious barriers.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vibrant Partnerships - Scott Pilgrim

One of the outcomes envisaged in our 2021-2025 Strategic Roadmap is the growth of vibrant, strategic partnerships.

Partnership is at the heart of our organisation. Our workers in Asia, Africa and Outback Australia can only do what they do through the generous and faithful partnership of supporters and churches across the nation.

Beyond these vital support partnerships, we benefit from strong ministry partnerships in a number of locations, including our long-term work in South Asia and expanding missional initiatives across South East Asia.

Looking ahead, we're working to strengthen collaborative relationships across Australia with Baptist State Associations and with other key regional and global Baptist bodies.

Given we have identified a strong Asia focus in the expansion of our ministries, it is very encouraging to have strengthened our collaborative relationship with the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation, a body that represents 65 Baptist conventions in 22 nations.

As part of this collaboration, and with funding support from Global Interaction, an APBF Director of Mission has been recently appointed. A key aspect of this new role will be to harness partnership opportunities across the region.

As we look at the Asia Pacific, it's estimated that 2.8 billion people are yet to hear the good news of Jesus in a way that makes sense to them in their culture.

And further, we see the growing humanitarian needs that exist across the region. In a collaborative response to these great needs and a renewed commitment to integral mission the APBF recently issued a 'Commitment to Holistic Transformation Statement'.

The needs in Asia are huge and we are committed to playing our part in God's mission in the region, but we recognise that innovative and strategic partnership with other mission agencies will be essential in our vision to see vibrant faith communities following Jesus in their own distinctive ways.

Looking beyond the Asia Pacific, Global Interaction is playing a part in the vision to establish a global Baptist mission agency network.

It's an exciting vision; to see Baptist mission agencies from across the world coming together to facilitate learning, resourcing and new partnership initiatives.

This vision is in an embryonic stage, and I have joined a small global steering group with the aim of seeing the network launched in 2023.

These encouraging collaborative relationships are just a few of many other partnership opportunities we are pursuing as a mission community.

We've been partnering with others throughout our history and in a rapidly changing world, we see vibrant, innovative partnerships an essential part of God's preferred future for our mission community.

Thank you for your partnership with us. Across the street, the nation and overseas, we thank God for all our co-workers in the good news of Jesus!

Grace and peace
Scott



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Global Trivia Challenge

Thurs 14 Oct | 7-8:30pm AEDT

Tomorrow night is our Global Trivia Challenge! This event is for supporters, national team members, intercultural workers and anyone engaged with Global Interaction. All ages welcome!

Register to receive the Zoom link:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/Trivia



**JUST
PRAYER**

**12 - 14
November**

What's Just Prayer all about?

Just Prayer is a weekend of prayer for people around the world to meet a Jesus who speaks their language.

You can pray by yourself or with your church or small group, for as much or as little of the weekend as you are able.

Explore Just Prayer resources:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/JPresources



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