

GLOBAL INTERACTION News & Prayer



PRAYER AND PRAISE

Wed 21 July - Wed 4 Aug

- 21 W - **South East Asia** Daz and Bee write, “The COVID situation is out of control. The numbers are rising at a horrific rate, with many people testing positive to the Delta variant.” Pray for God’s miraculous hand of protection in South East Asia.
- 22 T - **South East Asia** Give thanks that God made a way for **Mike** to safely arrive in South East Asia to begin his ministry. Praise God for Mike’s heart to serve in challenging places.
- 23 F - **South East Asia** Pray for **Ando** as he continues to settle in and find rhythms in South East Asia. Pray for his relationships with his language nurturers to grow.
- 24 S - **South East Asia** Pray for God to open the door for **Daz and Bee** to return to South East Asia. Pray for their partnership team to grow.
- 25 S - **Thailand** Buddhist Lent begins today (25/7). Pray that, at this time of renewed spiritual activity, doors of dialogue between followers of Jesus and their Buddhist friends may be opened.
- 26 M - **Thailand** Pray that during this Lent period, the **local believers** would be bold to share their faith in Jesus with others.
- 27 T - **South Asia** Lift up South Asia as the country battles increased cases of COVID and Dengue fever. Millions more people have been thrust into poverty in South Asia since the pandemic began. Pray for the government as they balance economic impact and public health.
- 28 W - **South Asia** Give thanks that **local believers** are meeting weekly with our team to explore God’s Word. Pray for His spiritual and physical protection on these groups.
- 29 T - **Papua New Guinea** Pray for God to be raising up and equipping the next generation of **faith leaders**.
- 30 F - **Papua** Pray for God’s Spirit to be moving among communities, drawing people to Himself and strengthening faith.
- 31 S - **Mozambique** Pray for **Ben and Sam** as they offer hospitality to their Yawo friends and share life with them. Pray for God’s tangible presence in these spaces.
- 1 S - **Mozambique** Give thanks for the opportunities **Kath and Cam** are having to connect meaningfully with Yawo people. Pray that God would turn these relationships towards Jesus.
- 2 M - **Young Adults Event** **Sally** is sharing her story at an Unearthed event tonight (2/8). Pray that God will speak powerfully through her words.
- 3 T - **Malawi and Mozambique** **Jonno and Heather** are currently on Home Assignment and, after nearly 20 years serving among the Yawo, believe God is closing the door for their return. Pray for them as they continue to thank their partnering churches while discerning their next steps.
- 4 W - **Malawi and Mozambique** Praise God for the fruit of **Jonno and Heather’s** long-term ministry. Pray with them for vibrant faith communities of Yawo believers following Jesus in their own distinctive ways.



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MINISTRY STORY



God in the Midst - Phil, South Asia

In the challenges of life and ministry in a pandemic, God is there and opening doors.

“The worst day of the pandemic here so far was the 12 July with 13,700 new cases representing 30% of tests. The daily number of deaths are also as high as they have been, with suggestions the real figures of both infections and deaths are much higher.

One positive is that the government has managed to obtain more vaccine supplies and restart the vaccine program that was suspended a few months ago.

It seems an improvement in the infection numbers will be heavily dependent on a restart of the lockdown. But lockdowns are having huge impacts on the poor, especially in urban and industrial areas. With no access to social security it's a real challenge for many to purchase necessities. The Government is struggling to balance economic needs and public health.

In the midst of all these challenges, there are some positives. My team mate Morris has been running a weekly Bible study group with some local colleagues via zoom. Each Sunday a collection of staff connect in and explore God's Word together. Another study is run for a group of women on a Tuesday lead by another team member.

In the last couple of weeks the leaders of these groups have both noted increased enthusiasm and participation in the studies which has been very encouraging. As you have probably experienced, studies and meetings via zoom have a different dynamic to those face-to-face and so the success of these is encouraging.

This weekly contact has really only become part of the approach since the pandemic started. While in-person visits are the ideal, God is using this regular online contact and it's exciting to see.”

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

God is Good - Scott Pilgrim

At a recent National Team meeting I brought along some oranges to signify the 'half-time' theme. Like me, you may have memories of childhood sporting days and the half-time coach's talk, with quartered oranges to renew team energy for the second half of the match.

The first half of 2021 for our Global Interaction mission community has brought considerable challenge, with the ongoing implications of the global pandemic. On Monday our leaders from across the world came together to take stock of the challenges, learnings and opportunities that the pandemic continues to bring. We're also mindful of the ravaging impact of COVID in some of the places we serve, including South-East Asia and South Asia.

Currently South East Asia is experiencing 50,000 cases per day and so I know you will join with me in praying for this country and our team serving there.



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As our leaders shared and prayed together this week, we reminded ourselves of our Good Shepherd who leads us through the valleys of life and ministry.

And yet in the midst of these challenges, there has been so much to give thanks to God for in the first half of 2021.

As our National Team symbolically shared half-time oranges [in a world of restrictions] we celebrated many things, including:

- » Continuing stories of God at work across the world, as our team members embody the good news of Jesus through word and loving action
- » Stories of individuals and families from Malawi to the Silk Road Area, from Cambodia to Central Australia experiencing the hope of Jesus in ways that make sense to them in their culture
- » New candidates being accepted
- » An amazing response from our partners to May Mission Month, where we have significantly exceeded our target
- » An encouraging response from across our movement to our growing suite of digital resources
- » Positive steps forward in the implementation of our 2021-2025 Strategic Roadmap, including significant work on how we sharpen and articulate our missiology in a changing world
- » A review of our member care strategy and approach

- » Encouraging conversations as we look to new ministry opportunities in Outback Australia
- » New workers being able to join their teams, despite pandemic travel and visa challenges
- » The launch of new roundtables – Global, National and Missiology
- » New National Team staff members and the strengthening of team culture
- » Work done on our communications/brand, governance and intercultural worker budget reviews

Yes, we have many things to be thankful to God for, in the midst of these challenging days. And we have much to pray for in our hurting, broken world.

Thank you for being part of the journey. Your partnership matters. It's vital to what we do.

Grace and peace,
Scott

EVENT

Young Adults Event: Mon 2 Aug



Find out more:

www.globalinteraction.org.au/UnearthedEvent



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