

# GLOBAL INTERACTION News & Prayer



## PRAYER AND PRAISE

Wed 28 April - Wed 12 May

- 28 W - **Papua New Guinea** Praise God for the continuation of His church in Papua New Guinea over so many decades. Give thanks for the faithful **believers** who are reaching out and discipling others.
- 29 T - **Papua New Guinea** As the COVID outbreak continues, pray for transmission to significantly slow and that the fragile health system will not be overwhelmed.
- 30 F - **Zambia and Zimbabwe** Pray for **believers** to be equipped to lead, preach and disciple, and for young people to be raised up to pastor the next generation.
- 1 S - **May Mission Month** Praise God for the active partnership of **Australian churches** and pray for their own local mission to be fruitful and life giving.
- 2 S - **May Mission Month** Pray for God to speak through May Mission Month **resources**, prompting people as they discern how God is calling them to partner in His mission.
- 3 M - **May Mission Month** Pray for more people and churches to commit to **long-term partnership** with our intercultural teams through prayer, giving and advocating.
- 4 T - **South East Asia** **Pat and Joy** are currently in Australia, awaiting the right time to return to South East Asia. Pray that when it is the right time, they will receive the visas they need without complication.
- 5 W - **South East Asia** As Pat and Joy remain connected with local friends in South East Asia, pray that God's Spirit will open opportunities for rich conversations of faith that build trust.
- 6 T - **Silk Road Area** Give thanks for K believer Anna's testimony of faithfulness and courage which is strengthening other local believers. Pray for God's leading for these **emerging groups**.
- 7 F - **Silk Road Area** Pray for **David and Eliza** as they journey practically and emotionally with their neighbour 'Happy Flower' who has just given birth and is experiencing ongoing health issues.
- 8 S - **Mozambique** Recently a door has opened up for **Sally** to regularly visit a Yawo family to pray and share stories from the Bible, something they weren't previously receptive to. Pray for God to open the eyes of this family to His truth.
- 9 S - **Mozambique** As Ramadan continues, **Sally** writes, "Please pray over this month, that we will get to see God's power among our friends here."
- 10 M - **Thailand** Give thanks that despite **Jit and Jan** currently being in Australia, the life-changing work with people with disabilities continues through the LanternLight team.
- 11 T - **Central Asia** Praise God that **Pete and Nomes'** friendships with H people are deepening. Give thanks for the recent conversation about Jesus that Pete had with an H friend, Mike. Pray for ongoing opportunities for faith conversations.
- 12 W - **Central Asia** **Pete and Nomes** write, "Please uplift our friends and teammates R and B who have been trying to get here since before the COVID pandemic began. Pray that, despite all the current obstacles, God would miraculously open the door for their return."



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## MINISTRY STORY



### **Growing Authentic Relationships - Pete and Nomes, Central Asia**

It is our hearts desire that all people, and in particularly our H friends, their families and the wider H community, would come to experience wonderful new life that is found in Jesus.

One of the things we are thankful for since returning to Central Asia in November last year, is just how warmly we have been received by the local people, especially by our H friends and Nomes' work colleagues.

The other thing that has been surprising is that, having returned, we feel more at ease and confident in our ability to communicate than when we left. Many of Pete's H friends have commented that his ability to converse actually improved significantly while we away! The time we spent last year doing online lessons with our language nurturers Mike and Andrew was clearly time well spent.

All of this means that, by our God's grace, we are slowly building deeper friendships and broadening our relational networks. We are so grateful that we are once again being invited to key social gatherings with Mike's friendship group. One highlight was joining six families on a weekend away.

A few weeks later, Pete offered to shout all the guys to a meal out at a nice H restaurant. During this meal, the guys decided that this should be a monthly event and so Pete is now having regular opportunities to connect with this group.

More recently, Mike invited Pete along to his older brother's wedding in his parent's village. This was another wonderful experience of H culture and hospitality.

But even more significantly, over this period Pete and Mike have had a number of significant conversations about matters of faith. In a recent culture and language lesson, Pete was able to give a basic explanation of the Easter story, explaining as best he could the grace and forgiveness that we can receive through Jesus and the fact that we seek to do good in loving response to the grace we've received, not in order earn our way to heaven.

**This was not something Mike had ever heard before.**

While he hasn't brought it up again since, we are praying that the Holy Spirit would be at work and that there will be further opportunities to build on this conversation in the coming weeks and months.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Welcome to May Mission Month - Scott Pilgrim

Wow, time flies by!

This time last year we were all coming to grips with the impact of the COVID pandemic. We were getting our head around living with lockdowns and other restrictions. We were mastering Zoom and becoming familiar with masks. Our churches were quickly learning to embrace new digital approaches.

And our team at Global Interaction did a marvellous job at pivoting so quickly, moving May Mission Month 2020 to fully online, with strong engagement across our movement. We saw our faithful God meet us at our point of need.

And here we are, 12 months later, in a very different world, and we're set to launch May Mission Month 2021 this weekend.

Across the world our teams have entered a second year of living and ministering in the midst of the pandemic and they continue to share wonderful stories of God at work. We continue to learn new lessons, we're embracing new approaches and we're actively pursuing our 2021-2025 Strategic Roadmap.

**Launching with May Mission Month is our new  
Alongside animation with I am excited that  
churches will be able to access as we build  
awareness of our work around the world.**

I am looking forward to sharing with several churches during May, as well as connecting with pastors and leaders and some of our workers back on Home Assignment in Australia.

May Mission Month presents a unique opportunity for our mission community and I am thankful to every person who will play their part in what promises to be an incredibly special time across the country as we champion 'Vibrant Communities' - both locally and globally.

Our May Mission Month roots date back to 4 May 1919 when the first Foreign Mission Day was held and Baptist churches around the nation were encouraged to pray for and support "*our gracious and promising activities in Eastern Bengal.*"

**More than 100 years on we continue to look to our movement; to generous and committed churches and individuals to support our teams across Asia, Africa and Central Australia.**

At the heart of this initiative is still core to our mission today - partnering with the vital, passionate and dedicated people who serve across the world, sharing the Good News with people in ways that make sense to them in their culture, local community and language.

By 1981 ABMS Month was introduced and in 1990 this special focus period became known as May Mission Month.

Three decades later, in a rapidly changing world, facing new challenges and yet exciting opportunities, we step into May 2021, knowing that God's Spirit goes ahead of us.



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Please join me in prayer for opportunities for meaningful engagement across the nation this May.

**In bold faith, let's pray for new workers to be raised up, let's ask the Lord to bring new partners into our mission family, let's uphold our financial needs and that churches will grow in their awareness of and commitment to global mission.**

At the same time, this year's May Mission Month theme seeks to capture the vital importance of churches being committed to joining God in their local communities, as well as across the globe, as we seek to each play our part in building vibrant faith communities, following Jesus in their own distinctive ways.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry. And we will welcome every one of you serving as ambassadors of Global Interaction this May.

Grace and peace  
Scott Pilgrim



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