

The Yawo people of Malawi and Mozambique

The People Group

The majority of Yawo live in South-Eastern Malawi and North-Western Mozambique. They adopted Islam more than a hundred years ago after their interaction with Arab slave traders. Whilst many Yawo have moved to cities in Mozambique and Malawi to access work and educational opportunities, many still live in rural villages. Yawo people are highly aware of the power of the spiritual realm and its impact on their daily lives. Most Yawo live in fear of the spiritual realm.

Social and religious homogeneity are extremely important in Yawo society which means becoming different, even in small ways, is significant. This is one of the key barriers the Yawo face in accepting the truth of the Gospel, as it can be challenging for believers to maintain family and social links after deciding to follow Jesus.

The Global Interaction team among the Yawo

Our intercultural team among the Yawo are an established, growing and vibrant team. They have developed deep relationships within the Yawo community which are built on mutual trust and genuine care. Their everyday involvement in community life has increasingly seen them invited to be a part of important cultural events.

In both Malawi and Mozambique, small but growing groups of Yawo men and women are meeting to explore God's stories. Some are at the beginning of their journey with Jesus and others have chosen to follow Him. They are a witness to God's grace and faithfulness. The team is partnering with others to produce a Ciyawo translation of the Bible and improve adult literacy rates, as well as establishing other projects and programs that respond to the physical and spiritual needs of the communities.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for intercultural workers to develop deep cultural understanding so they can communicate the message of Jesus in ways that make sense to their Yawo friends
- That Yawo believers will discern what it looks like to follow Jesus in distinctively Yawo ways
- For the Yawo believers to seek opportunities to share the Good News within their communities
- That seekers will connect with the team and begin to explore Jesus

Pray for the Team Members

MALAWI

Jean-Claude and Joyce
Jonno (Team Leader) and Heather
Tim and Mel
David and Susie (candidates)
Gary and Shirley (based in Australia)
Gunther and Sarah (candidates)
Ian (based in Australia)

MOZAMBIQUE

Ben and Sam
Cam and Kath
Tobias and Heather
Sally
Scott and Rebekah

Stories of Hope from Malawi and Mozambique

Seeking Truth Together

Scott and Bek share about a group of Yawo men hungry to dig into the Bible, "This year, Scott started every weekday morning sitting with a group of five men reading the Bible. These men reviewed previous stories, read new passages and discussed what it meant for their lives. One of the men, the only follower of Jesus in the group, often took the lead, asking others questions from what had been read and exploring its application to their lives.

These men had been working with the team on a number of building projects, and as that work came to end it was unclear how or if the group would continue. With no decision made by the group and recognising that a number of the men had said they'd be helping their families more now they didn't have paid work, on their last day together Scott informed them that he would be continuing to read the Bible outside every Thursday morning and any or all of them would be welcome to join him.

That first Thursday Scott thought he might be reading on his own, but four of the five men turned up with word that the fifth couldn't make it but would be there the next week. And each week since they've all continued to come! Please pray for these men, that as they talk, pray and engage with the Word of God they would be impacted."

Witnessing Growth

In both Malawi and Mozambique, small but growing groups of Yawo men and women are meeting to explore God's stories.

Cam shares, "I've had the privilege of working through a series of Bible stories with a small group of guys over the last few months. Just last week we finished the story set with the stories of the death and resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit. As we chatted, it was agreed within the group that there is life in the stories of Jesus.

I've been reminded time and time again here that God's Word has power and that it does not return to Him void (Isaiah 55). As we continue to meet, I'm excited to see what God has planted and what will grow and what I will get to learn by seeing these men encounter God through Jesus."

Scott and Bek continue to journey with some Yawo friends and are seeking God to discern what the next steps in these relationships are. They pray that these friends would be open to hearing the truth of Jesus and come to know Him in a way that is meaningful to them.

**>>> For more stories of hope, visit:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/News**

The K people of the Silk Road Area

The People Group

Being Muslim is key to the K people's identity. In everyday life, this means honouring guests, drinking tea and covering tables with meat, bread, salads, sweets and fruit. Life is directed by the seasons, more so than religious practices. There's the jam-making season, leaf-burning season, house renovating season, preparing for winter and thawing out from winter season.

Generally, the K people live for today, believing it has enough worries of its own. This realisation means there's limited energy and money left to plan for tomorrow. K people value friendships but it's a challenge to take that deeper and discuss the need for a Saviour. Many haven't seen a living example of what it looks like to be a K person who follows Jesus.

The Global Interaction team among the K People

As our intercultural workers have established themselves among the K people. Within the context of a mutually trusting friendship, the team has experienced openness for conversations about Jesus. Seeds that have been sown and nurtured over many years, are now becoming small but significant steps of faith.

The team's English Teaching and Community Centre among the K people is thriving. Having a population proficient in English is a national developmental goal identified by the local government. The centre has been embraced by the broader community and the demand for lessons is great. Our team is also building relationships with people in the community through allied health and agricultural opportunities. As our team teaches students, connects with parents and partners with farmers, relationships naturally develop, conversations occur and seeds are being sown!

Prayer Needs

- Pray that there will be a strong movement of God's Spirit among K people
- For God to stir curiosity about who Jesus is and what the team believes among those connected with the intercultural team
- For intercultural workers to grow in their cultural understanding and language skills, enabling them to effectively communicate the Gospel in their context
- That the team's relationships with their K friends will continue to deepen and regular opportunities for spiritual conversations will arise

Pray for the Team Members

Ben and Petra

David and Eliza (Team Leader)

Mel (candidate)

Stories of Hope from the Silk Road Area

God Breaks Through

A friend of David and Eliza's, Anna, who is also a believer, experienced terrible pain in her face which required an MRI and certain medication. Both of these were only accessible in the city and due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, it didn't seem possible for Anna to be able to access them. David and Eliza prayed hard with their friend and God miraculously intervened for her to be able to have the MRI done and placed Eliza in the path of the pharmacy owner who could have the medication couriered from the city.

Another miracle took place while Anna was in the MRI machine. When she entered the machine, she heard a voice saying, "Your suffering is nothing like my suffering," and later, "you will find new friends from this experience". The doctor said he hadn't spoken to her while she was in the machine and her husband told her later that it was Jesus who had spoken to her.

Praise God for His activity in Anna's life and his miraculous intervention in this circumstance. Give thanks that Jesus walks with us in our suffering and pray for Anna to remain courageous in sharing her story so God will be glorified through her testimony.

Good Neighbours

Over the summer, David and Eliza got to know a seven-year-old boy from their street as he often played in their backyard with their kids. Heartbreakingly, the little boy died. Their neighbour came around to their house to let David and Eliza know what happened and to invite them to go over to the family's house whose son had passed away. Together they went to the house, David joining the men and Eliza sitting and crying with the women.

Returning home, their neighbour asked if they would join them again the following morning. David and Eliza said, "We're not sure if we should. We don't want to make anyone uncomfortable." Their neighbour replied, "We are all neighbours. We should all go." So the following morning they journeyed together to the house. David and Eliza felt a strong sense of solidarity... regardless of their nationality, they are neighbours.

David and Eliza share, "What we learnt about K culture, how we were included and the time we were able to spend with neighbours we otherwise didn't know very well was invaluable. We can't begin to understand the depth of grief this family is feeling in losing their son and brother. But the way that God allowed us to be involved in this event is difficult to describe with words. While we pray for the family, we are grateful for this opportunity to share in their grief and support our neighbours. Thank you for continuing to pray for this family and for our street, and the role we have to play in living alongside these people."

**>>> For more stories of hope, visit:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/News**

The H people of Central Asia

The People Group

The H people are relational and hospitable, often centering important moments around food. They are known to be astute business people who love music and good conversation. The H people are a minority people group in a country where the government is continually tightening its regulations on minority groups. Their history of religious discrimination has led the H people to be an insular community who hold tightly to their belief system. The vast majority of H people are Muslim and there are very few known followers of Jesus.

The Global Interaction team among the H People

Our intercultural team in Central Asia is in transition. Pete and Nomes (currently in Australia due to the Covid pandemic) are in the early days of their culture and language learning which is equipping them for effective ministry among the H people. God is opening doors for them to be involved in the community in formal and informal ways. We trust that as their language skills and cultural understanding develops, so too will their relationships with H people.

Former intercultural workers R and B are preparing to return to serve among the H people. They return with years of ministry experience among this people group and a heart to build relationships and share Jesus. They will return to teach at the same university they previously taught and will seek to build relationships with H students.

Prayer Needs

- Pray that God will be raising up more workers to join the team in sharing the Good News
- For God's Spirit to be opening opportunities for relationship building and faith sharing conversations as the team connects with their H friends
- That the team will be growing their culture and language learning every day so they can build relationships and share the Good News in culturally understandable ways
- For God to be placing seekers in the path of believers who will journey with them towards Jesus
- That the team will be wise and bold as they seek opportunities to share faith within a challenging environment

Pray for the Team Members (secure names used)

Pete and Nomes

R and B

Stories of Hope from Central Asia

Strong Foundation

Pete and Nomes have been intercultural workers among the H people for two years. Pete spends 20 hours a week with his nurturer Mike and they have become close friends. They share openly about culture and faith. Mike has welcomed the whole family into his community, inviting them for meals, celebrating birthdays and even inviting Pete to important cultural festivals.

Pete shares, “Mike and I have had numerous opportunities to chat about culture and faith, mutually sharing the meaning behind religious festivals, stories from our Holy books and worship practices. Throughout these conversations, one thing has become very clear, while Mike’s faith is central to his identity, it can also be a heavy burden. Mike does what he can but is fully aware that he often falls short and at times he even seems resigned to the fact that he may never be able to do enough to win favour with the Creator.

I want nothing more than to see Mike and many other H people come to discover the joy and freedom of the one whose yolk is easy, and burden is light. Having laid a strong foundation over the first two years our hope and prayer is that there will be increasing opportunities for us to share the Good News with Mike and many others.”

Pete and Nomes are currently in Australia due to the pandemic. Pray with us that as they connect with Mike through video calls, their relationship will continue to grow. Pray that God will be preparing Mike’s heart to hear and respond to the Good News.

Together Apart

Pete reflects on God’s faithfulness amidst the challenges of travel restrictions, “Despite the frustration of being unable to return to Central Asia, we are grateful that over the past few months we have still been able to maintain contact with our H friends via messages and video calls. Through this period, we’ve had regular language lessons with our two closest H friends, Mike and Andrew.

This has not only allowed us to keep growing in our understanding of H language and culture, but more importantly, it has meant that we are able to continue investing in our friend’s lives. As a reflection of our Father’s love for us, we want to show our friends that despite our present physical separation, we continue to value and love them and long to return.”

**>>> For more stories of hope, visit:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/News**

B People of South Asia

The People Group

The B people are one of the largest single ethnic and language groups in the world. They also live in one of the most densely populated areas on Earth. B people value family, honour and respect. Their Muslim faith is central to their identity and permeates their world view and social life.

B people reject the perceived religious message of the west. This forms barriers to following Jesus as many see following Jesus as an alignment with the western world. For many B believers, meeting people from their own background who have come to faith in ways that are consistent with our mission of empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus has been integral to their faith journey.

The Global Interaction team among the B people

The intercultural team is instrumental in the operation of a locally-led development organisation. Through this organisation, many local people are being empowered through education and upskilling, which is growing opportunities for meaningful employment and a better life. Through our partner NGO's work, local project participants and local employees also have a safe place to quietly explore and grow their faith in Jesus.

Local believers and seekers are equipped with a translation of the Bible, written in culturally understandable language. The team is seeing believers engage with God's Word and grapple with what it means for their lives. Groups of believers are meeting together, growing in faith and supporting each other.

Prayer Needs

- Pray that God will raise up more long-term intercultural workers to disciple believers
- For protection of believers and safe spaces for them to explore God's Word and encourage each other
- For the Holy Spirit to open opportunities for B believers to share the message of Jesus with people of peace
- That relationships built through our partner NGO's projects will lead to faith sharing conversations
- For the B faith community to be strengthened, growing in their love and knowledge of God as they gather together

Pray for the Team Members

Phil

Lisa (based in Australia)

Morris (Team Leader based in Australia)

Ryan and Suzie (Candidates)

Graeme (short-term visitor based in Australia)

Graeme and Pat (short-term visitors based in Australia)

Stories of Hope from South Asia

Overcoming Challenges

When Amin first began working at our partner NGO in South Asia he chose to join the daily staff Bible study. The discussions were all new to him and he wanted to explore more. Long-term cross-cultural worker Morris recognised this interest and said to him, “If you are going to follow Jesus, there are going to be challenges.” One challenge was the social and family pressure to conform to tradition and another was his entrenched beliefs about who God is and how He relates to people.

However, perhaps the biggest roadblock was the question of what following Jesus meant in his context. How could he follow Jesus in distinctively B ways that enabled him to remain in his community? As a Muslim background B man in a community where there are very few followers of Jesus, it was unlikely that Amin would ever hear the Gospel in a way that made sense to him.

Give thanks that God made a way! God placed him in contact with our team and local believers, in an environment where it was safe to explore Jesus and with people who were living out their faith in Jesus in ways that were born out of their own culture. Over the past six years the team and local believers answered Amin’s questions and journeyed with him.

Recently, Amin chose to follow Jesus! When he spoke to Morris about his decision, Amin reminded Morris of the conversation they had all those years ago, telling him that it was indeed worth it.

Seeking God

Morris met a B woman who recently became widowed. She was struggling to raise and provide for her three young daughters. This is just one story and there are many, many others like it in South Asia. Our partner NGO is working hard to respond to the great need around them and empower B people to better their own lives through a range of projects.

We praise God that many of the local NGO staff are followers of Jesus. On this trip to South Asia, Morris saw the impact of the staff regularly sharing the Word of God together. They are hungry for more of God and a deeper experience of His love and mercy

**>>> For more stories of hope, visit:
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The Ethnic Thai of Thailand

The People Group

The Ethnic Thai people are hospitable, friendly and generally cheerful. They are also polite and respectful, avoiding conflict where possible. They are highly loyal to their nation, religion and monarchy. Their identity is built on being Thai and Buddhist which means it is difficult for them to see how they can follow Jesus in culturally relevant ways. While Christianity is growing among Thailand's minority people it is yet to significantly impact the ethnically Thai.

The Global Interaction team among the Ethnic Thai

God is at work among the Ethnic Thai and He is drawing people to Himself. Over the past years, the team has built relationships within their community, begun to share stories of Jesus and walked with people as they have chosen to follow Him. This journey to faith is by the grace of God. Praise God that numerous faith communities are now regularly meeting and local leaders are being equipped to teach and lead their own people.

As the team journey with the Ethnic Thai faith communities, they are witnessing the believers discerning what being a follower of Jesus looks like in their context. The faith communities are questioning which elements of their culture can be adopted as part of their expression of faith, and which other elements should be modified or rejected in order to remain true to the Gospel.

Prayer Needs

- Pray that the Ethnic Thai faith community leaders will be equipped to lead their own people
- For the faith communities to be sensitive to the Spirit's leading as they discern their identity within the wider community
- For God to prepare the hearts of the Ethnic Thai people the team connects with
- That God's Spirit will open opportunities for intercultural workers to have meaningful conversations and share the message of Jesus
- For Ethnic Thai believers to remain deeply connected to their communities, sharing about their faith in Jesus as opportunities arise

Pray for the Team Members

Dema and Carolyn

Glenn and Liz

Luke and Belle

Muana (Team Leader) and Villy

Petina

Margaret (candidate)

Stories of Hope from Thailand

“Who is the Son of God?”

Glenn and Liz serve among the Ethnic Thai people and have spent the majority of their first term focusing on learning the Thai culture and language. They know that the better they can communicate, the more likely they can introduce their Ethnic Thai friends to Jesus.

Glenn and Liz’s language nurturer, Mrs L, is a Buddhist woman who works with them in the morning and runs a drinks stall in the afternoon. As they got to know each other they began sharing stories about their lives. As time went on, Glenn and Liz started to sense God’s prompting to study Bible stories with Mrs L during their lessons. They used a Thai children’s Bible with simple language and beautiful pictures. Every lesson Mrs L would quickly flick forward to the next story in anticipation and would ask, “Who is the Son of God and how is He the Saviour”? They were amazed at how enthusiastic she was to know more!

When Glenn and Liz return to Thailand following their Home Assignment, they will continue to learn culture and language with Mrs L and are excited to share more stories about Jesus and answer Mrs L’s questions. We pray with Glenn and Liz that Mrs L and many other Thai friends will come to follow Jesus.

Steps of Transformation

Muana and Villy first met Mick in 2007 when he was a monk studying at a Buddhist university. Following God’s prompting Muana invited Mick to attend a Bible study and in 2012 he started attending.

Mick recalls, “A few months later during a Bible study I was reminded of a time in my youth when I heard a voice while watching the Jesus movie. Through the Bible studies I realised it was the one true God that had spoken to me and I wanted to hear His voice again. I asked Muana and Villy to help me.”

With a strong understanding of the local culture, Muana and Villy were able to explain the Good News of Jesus in a way that made sense to Mick.

Muana shares, “By 2017 Mick knew Jesus was real and that he needed to declare his allegiance to Christ through baptism, despite his family’s concerns. Since then, even through some big challenges, Mick has been unwavering in his faith. He openly shares his faith and has become a strong man of prayer. He is such an encouragement to us. It is a joy to see his life being transformed.”

Mick is now one of the leaders of his emerging faith community. Praise God for His activity in Mick’s life and pray for him as he is built up to lead his own people.

**>>> For more stories of hope, visit:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/News**

The Khmer of Cambodia

The People Group

The Khmer hold a deeply Buddhist worldview that is strongly influenced by animistic beliefs. Faith and spirituality are highly valued, as are stories and relationships. It is a communal culture where honouring family and tradition is an important part of life. For many Khmer, it is difficult to see how they can both honour their family and culture, and follow a 'foreign' God. Even acknowledging the existence of a God can be in conflict with the Khmer worldview. While Cambodia has developed more slowly than surrounding nations, development is now happening quickly in certain areas of the country.

The Global Interaction team among the Khmer

Our team is actively involved in many aspects of community life through volunteering at the local hospital, school and other areas. Through this, the team is developing meaningful friendships with local people, staff and teachers. Over time the team hopes to discern God's leading into new relationships in new communities.

Many team members have joined the team in the past three years and are devoting much of their time to culture and language lessons with local language nurturers. Their growing language skills and cultural understanding are essential as they build relationships with Khmer people, become increasingly involved in community life and seek to share Jesus.

Prayer Needs

- Pray that God will continue to move among the Khmer, drawing people to Himself and opening hearts to receive Jesus as the only way
- For the intercultural team to be continually growing in their culture and language learning and remain motivated despite the challenges
- For intercultural workers to have opportunities to share God's stories with their Khmer friends
- That Khmer seekers will see examples of others following Jesus and remaining within their culture and community
- For the intercultural team to discern avenues of community involvement that will bear long-term fruit

Pray for the Team Members

Andy and Cathie

Catherine

Craig and Kim

Luke (Team Leader) and Rachel

Rob and Deb

Tristan and Megan

Stories of Hope from Cambodia

Seeking Peace

Catherine reflects that like so much of the world, Covid is influencing the rhythms of living, working and being. Siem Reap city, developed on tourism, is all but empty.

In the midst of this, there are also the beginnings of conversation around life, strength, peace and hope that would perhaps not be opening apart from this current season. Recently Catherine sat on the floor talking with a Khmer couple, a Khmer language nurturer, and some of her teammates.

Catherine shares, "The couple asked me and the nurturer if we were followers of Preah Yesu (Jesus). The wife shared memories of having heard about Preah Yesu as a child. More recently, a family member living away from Cambodia had heard about Preah Yesu and had been sharing with the couple about how He is bringing a depth of peace and rest into their life that they have not experienced before.

As we talked together, they asked if we could meet again to continue sharing. They have wondered about asking us before of Preah Yesu, but have often found themselves too busy or too hurried in our conversations to do so. Yet as they walk this current season as a couple and as parents, their yearning continues to deepen; 'We want to seek and find the way of peace and rest. We want to seek and experience the way that is not the way of endless habit. We want a way that is for freedom.'

Healing and Hope

Craig and Kim share, "We were asked to come and pray with a friend of ours whose wife was having health problems and being tormented by evil spirits in her sleep. Our friend was not a believer but he was worried for his wife and so reached out to the believers he knew. We gathered around the family along with some believing neighbours and believers from a village over an hour away. It was such a privilege for us to join with them and to see the body of Christ in Cambodia in action as they gathered to pray for this family. We sat on a mat in the dark on the dust and prayed, sang over her and read scriptures.

A few hours in, her husband (our friend) told everyone that he had made a decision and he wanted to give his life to follow Jesus! As the group rejoiced and prayed with him, his legs which had previously been stiff and unable to bend due to an old injury straightened in front of him. God is amazing! We know that this was a long thought out decision for our friend and we are so privileged that we have been able to walk part of his journey with him. Please pray for the family as they grow and learn together what following Jesus is all about."

**>>> For more stories of hope, visit:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/News**

Indochina

The People Group

The people of Indochina are polytheistic and follow Buddhist and Confucian ideas while continuing ancestral worship and joining in with Western celebrations like Christmas. They are well-known for their hospitality and the country is growing economically and in tourist popularity. As a developing country with a huge population, challenges such as education, healthcare, poverty and human trafficking remain present.

The Global Interaction team in Outback Australia

Global Interaction, in partnership with International Ministries, is working in Indochina through Mark and Ngoc who arrived began serving there at the beginning of 2020. As Indochinese nationals Mark and Ngoc are excited to serve among their own people and are passionate about Indochinese people following Jesus in their own distinctive ways.

They are establishing themselves in the community, seeking to build relationships and discerning the ways in which God is leading them to engage with their neighbours.

Prayer Needs

- Pray that God would be going before Mark and Ngoc as they seek to build relationships with people of peace
- That God would be opening the hearts of the people of Indochina to receive the truth of the Gospel and follow Jesus in their own distinctive ways
- For doors to open for Mark and Ngoc to connect with their neighbours and engage in community life
- For God's Spirit to be powerfully at work, revealing who Jesus is and growing hearts to know Him

Pray for the Team Members

Mark and Ngoc

Story of Hope from Indochina

Early Days

Soon after Mark and Ngoc arrived in Indochina, as they settled in to their new home, the impact of the pandemic started to be felt. This is what they shared in those early days, “Two weeks on the ground and it’s been wonderful, however, not without its challenges. We managed to get ourselves an unfurnished apartment and to our surprise, it could take an entire day to run one errand. Imagine how long it will take for us to completely furnish our apartment! At least we have our essentials now.

Starting from scratch has led to a lot of lovely interactions and conversations with the locals and shop keepers. We were quite concerned before we came that we might experience scrutiny from the locals but to our surprise, people have been so kind and helpful once they know we are not from here. We have made a good connection with our local real estate agent who would love to learn English. We are planning to invite him over for tea one night and see what happens.

In the meantime, due to the coronavirus, all schools are closed until further notice, which includes Ngoc’s language school. We take this precious time explore the city and the surroundings as well as visiting some works that have been established to see where the Father takes us.”

Opening Doors

Mark and Ngoc are enjoying getting to know people in their neighbourhood.

Mark shares, “Ngoc and I met Mr T at an English club. He was a lovely young man but was quiet and shy. We did not have any real conversations at first with him and so we were surprised when Mr T sent us a message wanting to meet us. We enjoyed meeting and talking to him. He shared that he wanted us to help him with his English.

Since then, he’s been to our apartment every week. He’s even cooked us a yummy lunch. I’ve been meeting him, teaching him English and getting to know him. He has opened up and shared some of the things with which he struggles. God is definitely working in his heart and many others with whom we’ve had relationships.”

Pray with Mark and Ngoc for God to continue to be at work in Mr T’s heart and that he will come to know peace and freedom in Jesus.

**>>> For more stories of hope, visit:
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The B.I and S.I people of South East Asia

The People Groups

B.I people: The B.I people liken themselves to pineapples, prickly on the outside but sweet on the inside. As a highly communal culture they observe strict societal boundaries around behaviour and religious practices. These boundaries work to maintain honour and avoid shame. 99.99% of B.I people are Muslim and the belief that following Jesus will bring shame to them and their family is a key barrier to the spread of the Gospel.

S.I people: S.I people value maintaining their distinct identity and traditional cultural practices. The vast majority of S.I people are Muslim with animistic influences. Most see following Jesus as a betrayal of their people and culture. The S.I people who are choosing to place their faith in Jesus have come to understand that following Jesus is not about forsaking their cultural identity, but about entering the Kingdom of God.

The Global Interaction team among the B.I and S.I people

The team has established various projects among the B.I and S.I people that are making an impact and expanding avenues for relationships to grow. The Education Foundation continues to offer opportunities for both B.I and S.I people to learn new skills, improve their education and grow their employment opportunities. Likewise, the Café and Creation Care initiatives are providing platforms for local people to connect with wholistic activities that respond to their physical, environmental and spiritual needs.

We thank God that He continues to reveal Himself to people in South East Asia through dreams and visions, which often prompt conversations about Jesus.

The team is witnessing more and more people open to exploring Jesus and responding to His message. Several new believers have been baptised in the past year and are now discerning how to live out their faith within their communities in new ways. God is breathing new life, hope and joy into believers. We know this to be the sanctifying work of God, He takes something that is old and He creates something that is new. As we grow with God's innovation, transformation begins to happen in every area of our lives.

Prayer Needs for the B.I people

- For the team to be sensitive to the Spirit's leading as they build relationships and seek to share the message of Jesus
- That more people committed to long-term intercultural work among the B.I people will join the team
- For B.I seekers to be emboldened to explore Jesus, not only as a prophet but as the Messiah

Prayer Needs for the S.I people

- That the intercultural team will continue to build meaningful relationships in which Jesus can be shared
- For believers to be strengthened, encouraging each other and growing in their understanding of God's Word together
- That believers will remain in their communities without experiencing opposition
- For God's Spirit to stir in the hearts of S.I people a desire to meet Jesus

Pray for the Team Members (secure names used)

Dave (Team Leader) and Caz

Daz and Bee

Pat and Joy

Max and Ezzie

Ally (candidate)

Ando (candidate)

Kate (candidate)

Mike (candidate)

Simon and Widya (candidates)

Stories of Hope from South East Asia

Witnessing Multiplication

Dave and Caz share an exciting story of taking opportunities and witnessing multiplication, "Mrs S is a young lady from the majority faith background here who works as a teacher at the Education Foundation. A western family she teaches recently sent a food package to her house using a motorbike taxi. The delivery man couldn't find Mrs S' home despite getting directions from her via her phone. Mrs S called her supervisor, Mrs N, who is a new believer to ask her advice. Mrs N suggested they pray together in the name of the Living One.

After praying they both felt Mrs S should just offer the food to the delivery man. When Mrs S called the man to tell him this he broke down crying. He explained that he has a wife and three small children and no food in the house. Mrs S subsequently sent them money to buy more food. And the family sent another food package to Mrs S... that arrived with no trouble.

Mrs S comes from an extremely orthodox family with no known believers. She continues to learn more about the Living One from Mrs N and is now praying in His name. Mrs N came to faith through Widya, another of our staff (and now a Global Interaction candidate). Mrs N plans to get baptised soon and is praying her husband will join her – he has just believed. Pray for generations of believers to multiply."

Deep Conversations

Daz and Bee spend time connecting with their community and running a café employing local staff. As they engage with people, they look for opportunities to have spiritual conversations in which they can listen to their friends and share about their faith in Jesus.

Bee shares that they are often thrown into deep conversations, "There are times here when we are so thankful for our theological training. Last week Daz was asked if he believed that the God of Muslims is the same God as ours? Thankfully, Daz had already pondered this question in great depth during one of his assignments, so was already prepared with a carefully considered answer.

Also, recently in one of our language sessions Mrs N asked us whether we thought faith alone is enough? Or do we have a responsibility to work as well? We had been looking at a verse in the Quran with her for our session that day. Our conversation was very insightful, and Daz was able to share from James 2 that the good things we do for others proves our faith in God. Mrs N was so excited that there was a verse in the Bible that spoke to this so clearly. The verse she shared from her book was a perfect bridge to point to the one who saves. What a privilege and joy it is to be able to speak on behalf of Jesus in these precious moments."

**>>> For more stories of hope, visit:
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Outback Australia

The People Group

Since 1946, Global Interaction has had a presence among the Gurindji and Warlpiri people in Outback Australia, particularly among the communities of Kalkaringi, Lajumanu, Ali Curung, Willowra and Yuendumu. The team is committed to walking alongside people, sharing faith, discipling believers and empowering leaders.

Over the past year, we have been particularly encouraged by believers sharing Bible stories with those in their community and beyond. The unity of church leaders from different communities, the weekly church meetings and Bible studies that recommenced in Ali Curung and the fruitful women's camp where a group taught Biblical truths through a culturally meaningful dance, are all recent expressions of God's hands at work.

The Global Interaction team in Outback Australia

Respect, time and the demonstration of genuine care are the foundation for authentic relationships where faith and life can be shared. The team spends time meeting with local people, chatting over a coffee and investing in everyday moments of friendship.

Today our team is serving alongside local faith leaders in five indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. Bible teaching, encouragement, leadership training and empowering one another to share the Gospel with the broader community is the ongoing and growing ministry.

Prayer Needs

- For local faith community leaders to be strengthened and equipped to lead their own people
- That the believers will demonstrate Jesus' love within their communities through their actions and words
- For the intercultural team to disciple and journey with believers well
- That local believers will reach out to their communities, investing in authentic relationships and sharing the message of Jesus

Pray for the Team Members

Mat and Shannon
Vivian (Team Leader)

Stories of Hope from Outback Australia

Yearning for Hope

Mat, Shannon and their four young children are in their first term of service with Global Interaction. They are living in Yuendumu, one of the largest Indigenous communities in central Australia, approximately 350 kms north west of Alice Springs. Mat and Shannon are focused on learning the Warlpiri language and culture as well as building relationships with the local people. They see many opportunities for discipleship, assisting church leaders in contextualised theological reflection and supporting a community that faces many social challenges.

Recently one man in Yuendumu shared his story with Mat. He grew up with Christian parents, but he told the story of how his life was impacted by addiction and violence. He has lived through much community unrest and bitter violent community conflict. He has suffered much trauma, but he desires change in life and for his community. He yearns for hope, he was keen to explore the difference Jesus could bring to his life.

Let's be praying for this young man and all his story represents – challenge, opportunity and hope! We can all play a part in supporting what God is doing in the Northern Territory.

Workers for the Harvest

Global Interaction has been seeking to share Christ with remote Indigenous communities across the Northern Territory since the 1950's. Currently, there are six communities in which Global Interaction ministers, alongside existing Indigenous Baptist fellowships. The Indigenous believers in these fellowships have identified a need for leadership development and evangelism so that their remote faith communities can reach out to their own people, in their own distinctive, culturally appropriate ways.

However, this training work is virtually impossible on a consistent, regular basis, with Mat and Shannon being the only workers. The Outback team is praying that the Lord will raise up more workers for this part of the harvest because God continues to be on the move.

Shannon shares, "We recently celebrated the baptism service for two men who are new believers. They have been considering this step for a while and were able to complete a Bible study with some of the Indigenous church leaders and Mat. The church was packed with family members from the area. It was an exciting day and we pray that these men will continue to grow in faith, witnessing to others the transformation that Jesus brings."

Praise God for the movement of His Spirit and pray with the Outback team that more workers will be raised up for this ministry.

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