



Baptist  
Mission  
Australia



# *crossing the street*

Living alongside with the hope of Jesus

## **Pastor's & Leader's Guide**



[www.baptistmissionaustralia.org](http://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org)

# *crossing the street*

Living alongside with the hope of Jesus

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As followers of Jesus, we are called to cross the street, step out, build bridges and meet people where they are.

We are called to live alongside our neighbours with the hope of Jesus. That's what our intercultural teams around the world do! And it's what church communities in Australia are called to as well.

Through this four week Crossing the Street series, we will explore stories of Jesus from the Gospels, learn from His example and see how passionate people in Australia and around the world are living it out.

**Explore more Crossing the Street resources:**  
[www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/CrossingTheStreet](http://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/CrossingTheStreet)

# Crossing the Street...

## Sent Like the Son

Watch Scott Pilgrim's sermon: <https://vimeo.com/691282800>

Listen to Scott Pilgrim's sermon: <https://missioning.buzzsprout.com/1029217/10307937-sermon-sent-like-the-son-scott-pilgrim-may-mission-month-2022>

## Scriptures

### John 20:1-23

#### The Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

#### Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

#### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

## Mark 1:9-15

### The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

### Jesus Announces the Good News

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

## Explorations & Takeaways

### 1. We are sent like the Son

- » Jesus tells His disciples, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (Luke 20:21)
- » We are sent to cross the street, to build bridges, to meet people where *they* are and to share the good news of Jesus in ways that make sense to them.
- » It’s God’s mission! We are not responsible for mission, however, God graciously invites us to partner with Him in His mission. He is already at work in every place and every person we encounter.

### 2. We are loved by the Father

- » At Jesus’ baptism, the Father declares to His Son, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:11) Jesus identity is secure as one loved by the Father. And *then* He is tested.
- » This is a template passage for us. Secure in our identity as children of God, with the love of the Father and following the Son, we too can step out.

### 3. We are empowered by the Spirit

- » We are not sent alone. Not only are we in partnership with each other, but we also have the Holy Spirit as our guide, advocate and comforter. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to His disciples saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit...” (Luke 20:22)
- » We need the Holy Spirit at work in our lives to develop the fruits of the Spirit, to cultivate Christlikeness and to open our eyes to people of peace we can come alongside in our communities.

## Questions

These can be used for small groups or with the congregation as part of a sermon.

- » What stands out to you in these passages?
- » Is there anything that makes you uncomfortable? Where do you think this discomfort comes from?
- » What does being sent mean to you in your life?
- » How are you challenged to engage with the world around differently through the lens of being sent like the Son, loved by the Father and empowered by the Spirit?
- » Who is someone who inspires you as they live out their call? What can you learn from them?

## Mission Stories

These stories relate to the theme and can be used as examples in sermons.

### 1. Suzanne, Silk Road Area Baptist Mission Australia Candidate

Video: <https://vimeo.com/681109233> (contact for password)

### 2. Mel, Silk Road Area Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Worker

Mel is a young woman who is passionate about life. She's a police officer from New South Wales who's recently taken the trip of a lifetime. She's headed to a country where few travel. She's gone across the world to the Silk Road Area.

**Why? Because she's been sent by the Son.**

She knows she's loved by God. She loves God and she's responded to God's gracious invitation and calling in her life. She's obediently and sacrificially stepped out in response to that call. She's crossed the world. Because she's been sent by the Son.

God is already at work in the Silk Road where Mel has gone to. He is at work in your community, in your town and in your street. **The invitation to us, is to open our eyes afresh and to hear again God's gracious invitation to mission. We are invited, like Mel, to step out in faith across the street or across the world - sent like the Son.**

We're not called to mission alone, but we're called to mission in community. Mel doesn't go to the Silk Road Area alone, but she joins a team. And she's crucially supported by people across this country who have invested in the vision of Baptist Mission Australia. We are a mission community and mission people.

**Knowing she is loved by God, and knowing the Holy Spirit's with her, Mel has stepped out to cross the world.**

### 2. Dave and Caz, South East Asia Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Workers

Dave and Caz are a wonderful couple who have been serving God in South East Asia for 20 years.

As a couple they so capture what it means to be sent by the Son. They embraced God's gracious invitation to mission well before they went to South East Asia, they'd crossed the street in their neighbourhoods in Australia.

Caz and Dave serve in a challenging place where very few have heard about Jesus in a way that makes sense to them. But they are resilient in riding the highs and lows of ministry. **What keeps them going? The knowledge that they are not alone, that their identity is secure in God, that He loves them and that the Holy Spirit is with them each day.**

Years ago, with her eyes open to God at work, Caz sees a woman named Alice. They form a relationship. They come from different religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, but Caz humbly engages with Alice and naturally breaks down barriers and builds bridges.

Alice is offered the first employment opportunity in a new English training school that Dave, Caz and our team established. Alice grows professionally and personally. **The relationship continues to develop with Caz and she becomes a follower of Jesus.**

**Suddenly she discovers grace and freedom in that culture.**

She knows her identity is a child of God, and Caz, Dave and others help her to understand what it means to discern the Holy Spirit.

**She's out there finding people of peace in her own community. She becomes a disciple maker herself.** It's such a wonderful story.

Dave and Caz have been sent by the Son, and now Alice is crossing streets... also sent by the Son.

### **3. Pete, Melbourne**

Pete is an ordinary Aussie who goes to a local Baptist Church. He's in his 50s and lives alone. He's done evangelism before, but he doesn't really like that word. Actually he feels like he's failed in sharing his faith and it's kind of become almost a weight on his shoulders. He goes to a training course run by Baptist Mission Australia and he learns more about contextualised mission. He learns about what it means to live in his neighbourhood and share the hope of Jesus in ways that make sense to people.

He leaves the training with a new sense of hope and energy. Then, during a lockdown of the pandemic, a neighbour moves in next door. Normally, Pete would have closed his eyes and not thought about that neighbour. But with a new sense of call, Pete sees that a young Vietnamese man with broken English has moved into the unit next door.

And for Pete, there's a sense of God at work.

He shares, "It wasn't rocket science. There was Mark, and there was a man who seemed to have needs and here was I saying, 'God, use me with my hands and feet to embody Christ.'"

What does Pete do? Pete simply begins a conversation across the fence. He begins to break down barriers and seeks to build bridges and forge a relationship. They begin to chat.

Mark comes from a Buddhist background and, for the first time in his life, Pete reads about Vietnam and its history, and he reads up on Buddhism. He even starts to cook some Vietnamese dishes.

Pete begins to mow Mark's lawn and they come together to share a meal. Pete asks Mark what his favourite Vietnamese dish is, and Pete cooks it.

It's a story of simply, in small but tangible ways, living with the hope of Jesus in your local neighbourhood. It captures mission and the heartbeat of God. Pete's an ordinary man with the hope of Jesus in his hands. He knows He's loved by the father and that the Spirit is with him, and day by day, he builds a relationship.

And what's happening now, a couple of years on? Mark is still on a journey towards Jesus. Pete and Mark meet in Mark's lounge room with two men from a local Vietnamese church who speak the language. And together the four of them are opening up the scriptures to read about Jesus.

Mark is moving closer and closer to understanding what it means to follow Jesus in a way that makes sense to him.

# Crossing the Street...

## Meeting People Where They Are

Watch Scott Pilgrim's sermon: <https://vimeo.com/693806745>

Listen to Scott Pilgrim's sermon: <https://missioning.buzzsprout.com/1029217/10307947-sermon-meeting-people-where-they-are-scott-pilgrim-may-mission-month-2022>

## Scripture

### John 4:1-38

#### Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—<sup>2</sup> although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.<sup>3</sup> So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

<sup>4</sup> Now he had to go through Samaria.<sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

<sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.<sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

<sup>19</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

<sup>21</sup> "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

### The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

<sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” <sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

<sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

<sup>34</sup> “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. <sup>35</sup> Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup> Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

## Explorations & Takeaways

### Meeting people where they are...

#### 1. Models the incarnation

- » In Jesus, God broke into human history. He physically entered a particular culture and context, and He engaged with that culture and context. Just like He did with the Samaritan woman and so many others, He met people where they were. And He *crossed the street* to do so.
- » This is our example to follow. When we step out of our comfort zones to go to people, rather than expect them to come to us, we follow in Jesus’ footsteps.

#### 2. Is motivated by love

- » Jesus’ motivation for engaging with the Samaritan woman is love. Non-judgemental, compassionate, dignifying and barrier-breaking love that responds to the innate longings of the woman - to belong, to find peace, to find community.
- » Jesus’ love extends to ALL. Not only did Jesus converse with the Samaritan woman, He also drank water from her bucket (a bucket that would have been seen as unclean by the Jewish community). Everyone can come to Jesus.

#### 3. Opens Gospel opportunities

- » This kind of non-judgemental love breaks down walls and opens opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel.
- » Our Baptist Mission Australia intercultural teams know that it is in the context of relationship that people are most open to faith conversations. When we listen to people, respect their beliefs and demonstrate that we genuinely care for them, then doors open for us to share the reason of our hope.



## Questions

These can be used for small groups or with the congregation as part of a sermon.

- » This story of Jesus calls us to cross the street. What streets do you need to cross in your life in order to meet people where they are?
- » What is stopping you from crossing streets in your life? Are there any new steps you can take this week?
- » What brings you life, joy, encouragement or hope in the way Jesus engages with the Samaritan woman?
- » Who is someone who has met you where you are? What can you learn from them?

## Mission Stories

These stories relate to the theme and can be used as examples in sermons.

### 1. Sally, Mozambique

Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Worker

Video: <https://vimeo.com/679018586>

### 2. Pete and Nomes, Central Asia

Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Workers

Video: <https://vimeo.com/689909326> (contact for password)

### 3. Jennifer, Brisbane

Jennifer and Azita live only 100 meters apart. They live across the street from each other in suburban Brisbane. However, the reality is that their lives are far apart in terms of their backgrounds and the culture in which they've grown up in. Jennifer grew up in suburban Brisbane, and Azita and her husband and children are refugees living in Australia from Iran.

While their worlds are very different, they innately both yearn for friendship, belonging and community. The intrinsic things that we all yearn for as human beings.

Jennifer knows that in order for her and Azita to develop a genuine friendship, there are barriers that have to be broken down. She's not looking for a quick fix. She's looking for a genuine friendship. And so over time, the ethnic, religious, cultural and even dietary barriers have been broken down, and Jennifer and Azita have built a beautiful friendship. Jennifer's husband and Azita's husband have also become friends and their kids play at each other's houses.

Azita and her husband have started to come along to a Sunday afternoon Life Group that happens in Jennifer's backyard. Jennifer is not seeking to change Azita's religion, however, slowly and gently, she is intentionally seeking to draw her friend towards the good news of Jesus.

It's a beautiful story of what crossing the street in Jesus' name and meeting people where they are actually looks like. It's in simple, everyday choices that conversation can occur, bridges can be built, friendships can grow and the good news can be shared.

### 4. Cam, Mozambique

Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Worker

Cam is an ordinary Aussie man who has felt the call of God upon his life to live in the back blocks of Mozambique. Recently he walked 10 kilometres to spend time with a Yawo friend. Over a long period of time, a relationship has developed between Cam and this Yawo mate. They can talk life.

On this particular day, Cam walks to meet the man with his Bible translation of Luke's Gospel. This man has heard about God, but he wants to know more about Jesus, who he knows as a prophet. When Cam arrives to sit down with this man, he realises that his friend is hard at work making mud bricks to build a new kitchen for a family member.

What does Cam do?

He puts down the Scriptures. He rolls up his sleeves. And he says to his mate, "I'm here to help you." And together they get their hands dirty with red clay. And together they create bricks to build this new kitchen.

Cam shares, "There's nothing better than two men working together to have a genuine and real conversation about life." They talk about family. They talk about their different cultural backgrounds, and Jesus naturally comes into the conversation and this man, like the Samaritan woman, wants to know more. He's thirsty. He yearns for genuine hope in his life. He wants to be a better husband. He wants to be a better father. It's a different world and a different culture, very far away from us in Australia, but he's a man with some of the same innate needs that we all live with.

**And what is Cam doing? Cam is crossing the street. Cam is meeting his friend where he is. He is getting his hands dirty, forming mud bricks to help his friend build a kitchen. And he does it in Jesus' name.**

Together, as Australian Baptists, we have the opportunity of sharing the hope of Jesus by word and deed with people who otherwise might never hear the good news in a way that makes sense to them. Thank you for partnering with Cam, Kath and all our team members around the world.

Crossing the Street...

# Modelling the Heart of Jesus

Watch Scott Pilgrim's sermon: <https://vimeo.com/692056968>

Listen to Scott Pilgrim's sermon: <https://missioning.buzzsprout.com/1029217/10314515-sermon-modelling-the-heart-of-jesus-scott-pilgrim-may-mission-month-2022>

## Scripture

### Luke 7:11-17

#### Jesus Raises the Widow's Son

<sup>11</sup> Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. <sup>12</sup> As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

<sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

<sup>16</sup> They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” <sup>17</sup> This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

## Explorations & Takeaways

### Modelling the heart of Jesus leads us to...

#### 1. SEE the need

- » We read in verse 13 that Jesus saw the woman. He saw her despair, her pain and the hopelessness of her situation as a woman in the culture who no longer had the protection of her husband or son. He saw her. And the hope for us today, is that Jesus sees us too. We serve a God who is not afraid to meet us in the midst of our messiness and pain.
- » Following Jesus means following Him across the street and into spaces we might be uncomfortable in. It means opening our eyes to the injustice, pain, oppression in our world and neighbourhood.

#### 2. FEEL the experience of the other person

- » In Jesus' encounter with the woman in Luke 7, it's more than just seeing. We can see the needs around us without engaging with them. In the Good Samaritan story, the religious leaders see the man in the ditch, but they pass by.
- » Jesus sees the woman... and then He feels. The Greek texts reveal that Jesus' gut was moved. In compassion and love, His stomach turned with emotion. We serve a God who is not distant or detached.

#### 3. ACT in loving response

- » It's not enough to just see the need and feel the experience of the other, we also need to act. In the story, Jesus acts. He raises the young man back to life. Jesus is about making all things new. He is about bringing life where there is death, hope where there is hopelessness and joy where there is despair.
- » As we embody the good news, this is our mission too. Around the world, our Baptist Mission Australia intercultural teams are crossing the street to see communities wholistically transformed in Jesus' name.

## Questions

These can be used for small groups or with the congregation as part of a sermon.

- » What needs or injustices do you see in your community? In the world?
- » Are there any that you shy away from actually seeing? Why do you think that is?
- » What is your natural response to the injustices or needs you see around you? Do you think this models Jesus' heart?
- » How is God prompting you to see, feel and act? What are your next steps?

## Mission Stories

These stories relate to the theme and can be used as examples in sermons.

### 1. Crossing the Street Short film

Video: <https://vimeo.com/700701817>

### 2. Creation Care, South East Asia Baptist Mission Australia project reflection

Video: <https://vimeo.com/681739568>

### 3. Petra, Silk Road Area Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Worker

Petra and Ben are a young Aussie family who've crossed the street, in fact, they've crossed the world in service of Jesus. They're modelling the heart of Jesus in a community where so few people know the good news of Jesus in a way that makes sense.

Petra has a heart for kids with disabilities. She's trained in Australia as an Occupational Therapist and she senses God has been preparing her to be working with children with disabilities in the Silk Road Area.

Petra sees kids in her community who are pushed to the margins because of their disabilities. She sees their need and the lack of support they receive from the inadequate health system. She sees the way they and their families are isolated from the rest of the community.

**She sees and then she feels. She has compassion. She knows that these children have been created in the image of God and she wants to uphold their dignity and improve their wellbeing.**

And so she acts. She recently spoke at a significant conference in the language of the local people. She spoke about a different way of responding to kids with disabilities. There was a good response to her talk and it's opening up conversations with other organisations and health professionals in the country.

Petra knows God's love in her life. And her desire is to cross the street in Jesus' name and to see, feel and act. To bring hope - the Kingdom now and not yet.

### 4. Megan, Melbourne

Megan is a nurse in Melbourne who has a heart for refugees and asylum seekers, particularly women and children. There are so many asylum seeker and refugee women in our communities who have lost their husbands and, with their children, are trying to make sense of how they can do life in Australia. They live with strict restrictions and the reality of racism and hatred.

How does Megan respond? She humbly and quietly, crosses the street. She collects clothes and blankets from friends, organises meals, helps people pay bills and sign up to get a telephone. In the most practical ways, she offers friendship and shares God's love.

**Simply, day by day, she's modelling the heart of Jesus.**

## 5. Ben, Mozambique

### Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Worker

Ben and Sam serve in Mozambique with their young children. Ben recently shared the story of a road. Yes, a road! Where they live, it's 144 kilometres from their community in Mozambique, to where one of our teams works in Malawi. On a good day, that 144 kilometres takes four or five hours to drive on. On a bad day, eight hours! It's a road full of potholes and huge craters. When it rains, half the road is washed away.

And yet it's the only road to get from point A to point B for the local community and for our workers. Over the last two years, a new road has been laid down. It's taken a long time. There's been detours, disappointments and setbacks. But the road has finally been built. And this means they can get from point A to point B in less than two hours!

**The local people call it the road of dreams. This road, a piece of infrastructure, has changed that community.**

Ben shares that on the first day he drove on that new road, he pulled over to the side of the road and lay down with his back flat against the bitumen. Ben felt the road beneath him. As he looked up and saw the expanse of the place God had called him to, he was suddenly struck by this reality - it's Jesus who makes all things new. It's Jesus who brings about transformation.

**Life has many bumps, detours and disappointments. Sometimes we might even feel like the road has been washed away. However, whether we are on the mountaintop or in the valley, it's Jesus who makes all things new.**

Crossing the Street...

# Being the Good News Together

Watch Scott Pilgrim's sermon: <https://vimeo.com/692103024>

Listen to Scott Pilgrim's sermon: <https://missioning.buzzsprout.com/1029217/10307871-sermon-being-the-good-news-together-scott-pilgrim-may-mission-month-2022>

## Scripture

**Luke 10:30-37**

**The Good Samaritan**

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii[a] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

*Crossing the Street*

## Explorations & Takeaways

**God calls us to...**

### 1. Get our hands dirty

- » In the familiar story of the Good Samaritan, we see two religious leaders see the need and pass by. It's the most unlikely one who sees the man and actually engages with him. The Samaritan picks up the man's battered body, helps him and takes him to an inn. It's sacrificial, uncomfortable and messy action that is motivated by compassion. Jesus too embraces this same humility to get down in the ditch in order to lift others up.
- » God is already at work and He calls us to partner with Him in bringing His transforming love to all.

### 2. Embody the good news

- » We embody the good news of Jesus through our words and actions. Wherever we are, we have the opportunity to share the hope of Jesus through the way we interact with people, do our work, see the injustice around us, spend our money and listen to others. In the most basic (but not easy) way, the Good Samaritan embodied God's love.
- » It's a matter of justice that 40% of the world's population still live in communities where few have heard the good news in a way that makes sense to them. It's in these communities that our Baptist Mission Australia teams are called to.

### 3. Do it together!

- » The Good Samaritan didn't work alone. While he funded the longer-term work, it was the innkeeper who cared for the man. They partnered together to bring healing and transformation to this man's life.
- » We are called to partner with God *and* each other. Our teams can only do what they do around the world with the partnership of Australian Baptists who invest in their ministries.

*Theme 4: Being the Good News Together*

## Questions

These can be used for small groups or with the congregation as part of a sermon.

- » How have you experienced others ‘being the good news’ in your life?
- » What do you find encouraging in the story of the Good Samaritan? What do you find challenging?
- » What’s been your experience of partnership in the Gospel?
- » Reflecting on the full Crossing the Street series, what are your next steps in mission engagement and partnership? In your local community and around the world?

## Mission Stories

These stories relate to the theme and can be used as examples in sermons.

### 1. Mike

**Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Worker**

Video: <https://vimeo.com/681138517> (contact for password)

### 2. Whitehorse Churches Care

**Local church example**

Video: <https://vimeo.com/701013032>

### 3. Hope of New York

**USA church example**

There’s an organisation in New York, called Hope for New York, and their story is one of partnership.

Hope for New York was founded by the Redeemer church, which is Tim Keller’s church in New York City. **It was founded with a vision of partnership.**

Rather than just Redeemer members being out on the streets, engaging in ministry on their own, the Hope for New York vision was that Redeemer would partner with other churches to minister across the five boroughs of New York City.

**It’s an amazing story. Churches invest in projects that are not their own, they work side by side and collaborate. Across the five boroughs of New York City, hundreds of projects are initiated, people are mobilised, partnerships are formed, local government and business get involved, 1000s of volunteers are engaged.**

And it began with a spirit of partnership. That people would reach out together, to be the good news of Jesus, to embody the word and deed of Jesus in the communities of New York City.

### 4. Tim and Melanie, Malawi

**Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Worker**

Scott Pilgrim shares the story of receiving two pieces of communication on the same day. One, a handwritten note from a man in his 80s and the other, a video from Tim in Malawi sharing the news of a ministry milestone. Together they told a beautiful partnership story.

The handwritten letter came from a man who had just lost his wife of 62 years. **In grief, pain and love he wrote to tell Scott about his wife, who for every day of their marriage prayed for the Baptist Mission Australia team and ministry in Africa. She was a faithful and powerful prayer warrior who had a heart for Africa.**

It was an emotional letter. It was a beautiful letter. Scott shares that he wipes a tear away from his eyes as he read it. He says, “I was reminded about the level of passionate commitment and partnership our people across our movement have with our workers.”

And then came in the other piece of communication. An email with a video from Tim in Malawi.

For more than 10 years Tim and Melanie have been serving in Malawi. As faith communities have grown, their goal and vision in recent years has been to pass on leadership to local believers.

That the local leaders would be equipped to build faith communities and lead their own people, Tim and Mel would step back into mentoring support roles. It's disciple making at its best.

**And in this video, Tim tells the story of a young man who had just led his first Bible study. He came to Christ through Yawo believers and now he was leading his first Bible study.**

Tim shared, "This is what it was all about. We, as Aussie Baptists have played our part in God's mission that Yawo would come to Christ." Here is an example of that disciple making in action. And it's also an example of the power of partnership.

**Go back to the letter. Everyday this faithful woman had prayed for the team and ministry in Africa, and here was the fruit of her faithful partnership.** Yes, God was at work in this Yawo village well before Baptist Mission Australia showed up! But we know he uses us as part of His mission and we know He hears our prayers.

Scott finished, "It's a beautiful story of partnership. Tim and Melanie and the team in Malawi can only do what they do when people like this older couple, when people like you and me, as co-workers in the good news, invest together in what God is doing around the world. Thank you!"





[www.baptistmissionaustralia.org](http://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org)  
[info@baptistmissionaustralia.org](mailto:info@baptistmissionaustralia.org)  
1800 329 165