

Resonate

ISSUE 39

Crossing the Street in South East Asia

God's at work as
our team steps out
to share His love.

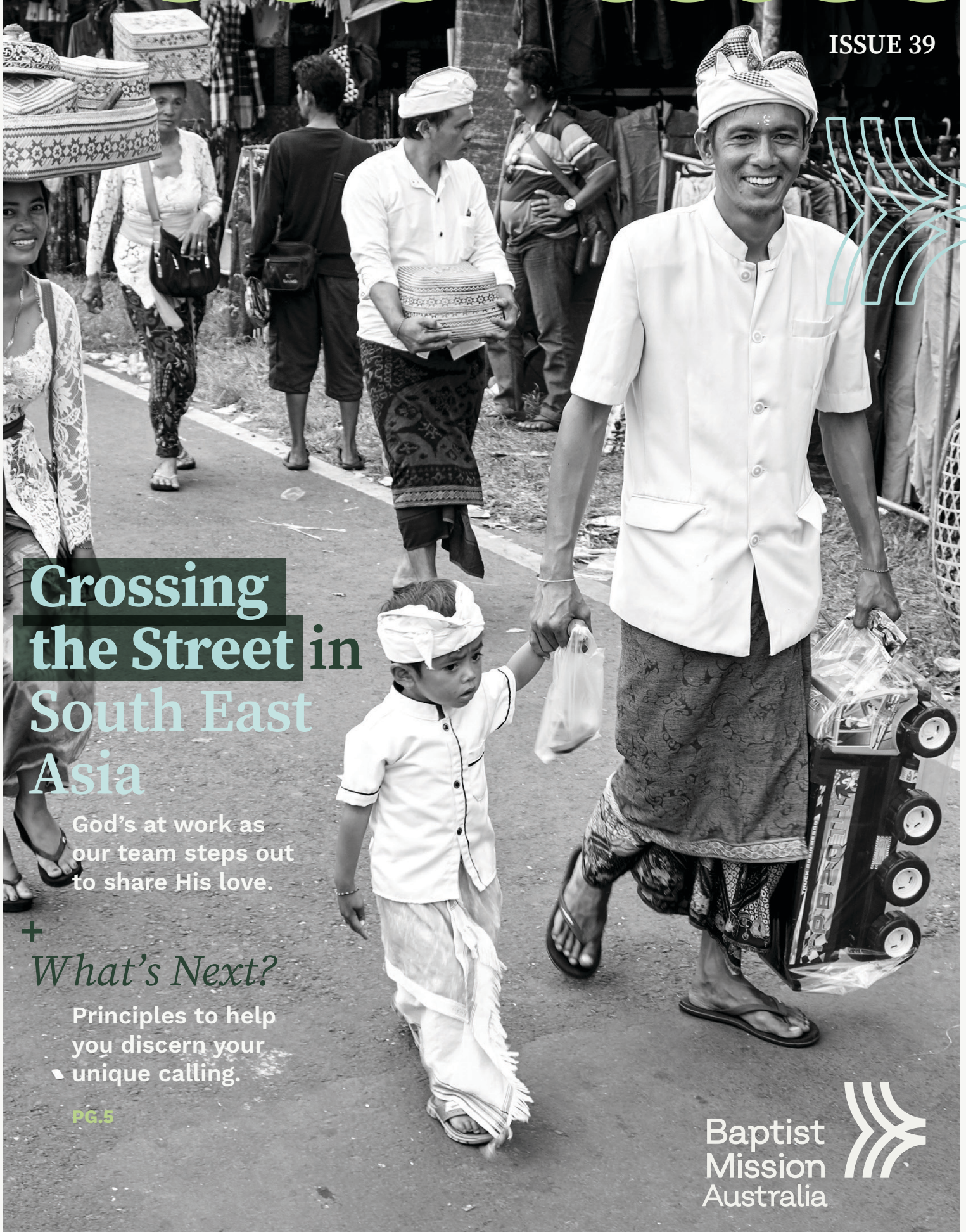
+

What's Next?

Principles to help
you discern your
unique calling.

PG.5

Baptist
Mission
Australia



hello



Scott Pilgrim is Baptist Mission Australia's Executive Director. He is passionate about seeing vibrant communities following Jesus in their own distinctive ways, in Australia and around the world.

Welcome to Resonate and welcome to the first edition as Baptist Mission Australia!

We have been very encouraged by the positive feedback to our new name as we seek to strengthen partnerships across our Australian Baptist movement.

We are at our best, partnering together as Australian Baptists, when we are focused on mission; when with courage and imagination we embody the good news of Jesus by word and deed in the places we live, work and build community.

Throughout May Mission Month we celebrated the joy and power of partnership. It was so encouraging to see so many churches make the most of May Mission Month opportunities and the myriad of great online resources.

After more than two years in my role, I finally had the chance to visit all states across the country in May. And everywhere I went our partnership in the Gospel was front and centre. On behalf of our Board, National Team and most importantly our intercultural team members around the world – a very big thank you – to everyone who engaged with us during May.

In the first chapter of John's Gospel, we read of the wonder of God moving into the human neighbourhood in the person of Jesus. Our team members seek to model this incarnational approach in their locations across the world.

In this edition of Resonate we celebrate what is happening in South East Asia as the team embraces God's gracious invitation to mission. We praise God for the stories of lives being transformed by the hope of Jesus.

In November this year we launch an exciting new initiative called Walk the World. You can read more about this special prayer-focused community event on pages 9 - 10.

Let me encourage you to mark the Walk the World weekend of 11 - 13 November in your diary and plan to walk, run, ride or wheel your local community as you pray for our teams.

As I move around the country it's always exciting to chat with women and men of different cultures and ages, each considering God's unique call on their lives. However, we know discerning God's leading can be challenging. On pages 5 - 6, be empowered by Jodie MacCartney's discernment reflections and principles.

If you are considering intercultural mission, then get in touch! We have experienced, wise and passionate people ready to journey with you in your discernment.

Grace and peace

Scott

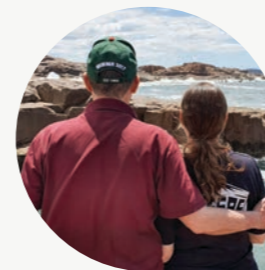
Baptist Mission Australia is the intercultural mission arm of the Australian Baptist Church. We long to see vibrant faith communities following Jesus in their own distinctive ways.

www.baptistmissionaustralia.org | info@baptistmissionaustralia.org | 1800 329 165



Crossing the Street in South East Asia

The passionate team in South East Asia crosses the street with the hope of Jesus every day. Here, they share about two avenues for impact, the Education Foundation and Creation Care initiatives.



Dave and Caz have served with the team since 2000. Ten years ago they established the team's Education Foundation. Their mission is to make Jesus meet-able to their local friends.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION Dave and Caz

When our team established the Education Foundation ten years ago, Adam was one of the first employees. A widower with three young boys and minimal education, he was struggling to make ends meet and provide for his family. He lived in a small dwelling with his sons and extended family members.

Flash forward to today, and Adam has blossomed and grown in confidence as a loved staff member. He has been able to care for his boys and make sure they attend good schools. He has also been saving regularly and was recently able to buy a small house for himself and his sons.

He is so happy and grateful that he could do this.

Adam eagerly participates in the weekly devotion times we run with the local staff, and we know the Lord continues to work in his life.

This is just one story of many. Over the past ten years, we have witnessed God at work through us and in the lives of the local staff and students.

There are now Education Foundation branches in three provinces and partnerships in other provinces. Employing around 45 local staff, the foundation provides courses for expatriates and local people.



Prefer to Listen to Resonate?

We have recorded an audiobook style read through of this edition of Resonate. Scan the QR code to listen at www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/ResonateRead



Intercultural workers from many organisations study culture and language at the Education Foundation. In this way, the foundation is having an impact far beyond itself as it helps equip new workers who will be serving God in many communities.

The foundation also has a benevolent purpose to relieve poverty and distress. Most of the local staff come from the majority faith community and were struggling with poverty prior to working within the foundation. The foundation provides them with stable employment, fair wages, health insurance and a safe workplace where they experience dignity.

All the staff participate in weekly devotion times where they discuss spiritual matters. Several have come to faith in Jesus and others are on the journey.

For our team, the Education Foundation also provides a natural place to develop rich relationships with local people. Pray with us that through these relationships, we will be making Jesus meet-able.

CREATION CARE Max and Ezzie

Creation Care has been a ministry platform for the South East Asia team since 2016. The initiative runs activities for social and community development among underprivileged communities, along with environmental campaigns and activities.

Under Creation Care there are two regular programs that we run, which are the Reading Garden and the Trash Bank.

The Reading Gardens are a signature program that combines the objectives of child literacy and environmental education.

The two Reading Gardens are in underprivileged areas where children have little access to books. The initiatives also provides rich opportunities for the team to build relationships with the parents and others in the community.

The Trash Bank is set up to connect and serve the Scavenger community, who are seen as very low on the social ladder in South East Asia.

During 2021, the Trash Bank collected around 133 tonnes of trash from its network of Scavengers.

Why?

1. To contribute to waste solution and help protect the environment
2. To support and empower Scavengers and their families by purchasing their collected recyclable trash for a fair price
3. To build relationships with the Scavengers and bring about emotional and spiritual transformation

Praise God that some Scavengers are gathering as a faith community through the Trash Bank. They meet every week to study the word of God together.

One of them is a man who has a deep passion to share about Jesus and reach out to new people. One of these new people is Abel, who has gone through various challenges in his life but was brought to Jesus by this man.

Before this, Abel lived a life of heartache and pain. He had even considered ending his own life. Now he has been transformed by Christ. Praise God!

Pray with us that the good news of Jesus will be shared with many throughout this community.



5 things I've started doing

As Mike celebrates one year of living on location in South East Asia, he shares five new things he has started doing since the big move.

1. **Using another language to communicate.** While English is definitely still the language I am most comfortable using, I try to use it as little as possible.
2. **Reading books on a Kindle.** I really enjoy sitting down with a good hard-copy book. Practically, though, a Kindle is the best option for a booklover like me who travels. My Kindle is the thing I'm most glad I brought with me.
3. **Riding a motorbike.** I still occasionally drive a car, but rarely. And if I have the choice, I always choose the motorbike. It's quicker. It's so much easier to park. And it's cheap!
4. **Being 'late' to events.** I never used to be late to anything when I lived in Australia. If anything, I was always too early! In South East Asia, however, people are more relationship-oriented than time-oriented. This means the event starts when all the people are there – even if that's an hour or more 'late'!
5. **Going to coffee shops at night.** Here in my location, most coffee shops don't open until 4pm in the afternoon. But they stay open until almost midnight! Most of my local friends here love to sit and chat late into the night. Fortunately the caffeine doesn't seem to affect me too much.



Ezzie and Max seek to share the love of Jesus in all they do. They have been serving with the team in South East Asia since 2011 and work through the Creation Care platform.



w n

?

h e

a x

t t

?

's

?



Jodie MacCartney is a Mission Mobiliser at Baptist Mission Australia. She's an experienced intercultural mission practitioner and loves journeying with people as they discern their unique calling in God's mission.

What's next?

Some years ago, my husband Chris and I were invited to join a Christian community that lived and worked among the poor in Bangkok. We were full of fervour and passion, and ready to follow Jesus wherever He wanted us to go, but I recall feeling completely overwhelmed with the enormity of this decision.

Was God really inviting me to relocate my life, together with my children, to a marginalised community with a reputation for violence and neglect? Where do I even begin to make such a decision? What if I get it wrong? How can I tell the difference between my dreams and what God has for me?

Discerning God's will for our lives can feel like an impossible task. It can feel like we are left to navigate an unknown path without a map. But does it need to be like this? Or can we frame discernment in a way that is as freeing as God's love and acceptance of us?

According to Ruth Haley Barton, discernment is our "capacity to recognise and respond to the presence and the activity of God - both in the ordinary moments and in the larger decisions of our lives."

It is about having eyes to see God at work in and around us. It is recognising the ways God has shaped us, and uniquely placed us in the world.

And it requires patience, as we listen to the still, quiet voice of the Spirit, revealing the work of God in our past and what He may be inviting us into for the future.

When we were faced with the enormity of our decision to relocate to live among the poorest in Bangkok, we began a period of discernment.

It was a process that began with trusting that God wanted to show Himself to us, and was inviting us to join with Him in something new. **We carved out time away from the busyness of our day-to-day lives, to still our hearts and minds and listen to what God might be saying, but just as importantly, we invited friends and family to join with us in our discerning, and to speak into this decision.**

At the end of our discernment period, there were no lightning bolts or audible words from heaven. But there was a collective peace and assurance that God was for us, and with us, whatever the next step was.

When we take time to look back at our lives, we can see that God has been gently guiding us at each turn. He has been preparing us for this place and these people.

Parker Palmer helpfully suggests, "before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am."

Perhaps life-changing decisions about God's will need not cause fear or panic, but rather hopeful anticipation of seeing God at work in us. Perhaps, the task of discernment in our calling or vocation is more about faithfully and boldly following the threads of our lives that have led us to that point.

In our pursuit to discern the will of God we may not hear a clear voice from heaven, but we can trust that the God who revealed Himself to us in Jesus will continue to guide us in our pursuit of Him.

When facing times of discernment may we be filled with faith like the Psalmist, boldly declaring, "I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants" (Psalm 85:8a).

Keen to explore what's next? Contact Jodie or Chris to find out more about tailored mission coaching and discernment retreats. There is a team at Baptist Mission Australia ready to reflect and journey with you.

www.baptistmissionaustralia.com/Contact



Crossing the Street Moments

People from across our mission community answer the question... *How are you crossing the street?*

Doug
Hamilton Baptist
Community
Church, VIC

I am crossing the street through our local Parkrun. Over the last four years, we've built friendships that are now producing regular Gospel conversations.

Emma
Narrogin Baptist
Church, WA

As a nurse I get to minister to those in my community after hours. Also, as a foster carer, I support other foster carers.

Melanie
Baptist Mission Australia, Malawi

Inviting people to come to hear God's word is always scary. What if they say no? Navigating this in a different culture complicates things even further.

I met two ladies recently and wanted to invite them to the women's group, but an opportune moment hadn't arrived. So I committed to praying about it.

That very next day I met both husbands whilst walking to the market. This was my moment! They already knew about the group of women who met regularly, so I explained that we studied God's word.

Both men responded positively and expressed that they were honoured that their wives should be invited.

Later that week, both of these women turned up to the group (and they haven't missed a week in the last four months!).

Deb
Baptist Mission Australia, Cambodia

Crossing the street is the essence of what we are doing daily here in Cambodia.

I recently joined a group of Khmer women who exercise publicly on the side walk. While communal dance aerobics is not really my preference for a fitness regime (!), I do love the coming together of women of many backgrounds, economic status and stories. Communal exercise is a leveling and unifying experience.

For me, the experience didn't translate into well-coordinated in-sync moves, but it did provide an opportunity to be with and learn with a community of Khmer women, expressing care, joy and abandonment. And as we become more than familiar with each other, we became an exercise family.

Marg
Lakeside Baptist Church, WA

I've actively joined many groups that already take place in my community. My mission is to show people Jesus through my interactions and attitudes.

I want to see all my contacts have the love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control which only comes from Him.

I am seeing God at work through the relationships I am building. It's not like they have said, "Thank you Marg, I'm following Jesus now", but I get told of my attributes which I know come from the Holy Spirit. I trust He is working in their hearts.

Ayla
Eaton Baptist Church, WA

I cross the street with school mums, my neighbour, our community mums at Mums and Bubs, and with the non Christian friends God has blessed me with!

Tobias
Baptist Mission Australia,
Mozambique

One of the translation team members sadly lost his grown son recently. I attended the funeral along with some of our translation team colleagues. In this culture, it is not really acceptable for men to express their grief openly.

There were a couple of hundred people in attendance at the funeral and despite these numbers, the grieving father chose to walk with me from the residence to the cemetery, and back again.

We crossed the street together walking partly in silence but also partly in conversation as this man expressed his grief to me. It was obviously a very sad time but it was also a beautiful time to walk in grief together. Jesus walked with us as well, that much felt certain.

Elsie
Crosslife - A
Baptist Church,
QLD

Jesus is with me every step of the way. Once upon a time, I would run and hide from any kind of conversation with anyone outside my close knit circle of friends. But now, God has given me the confidence to cross the street and speak His truth.

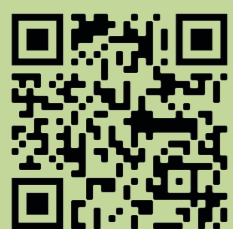
**Walk the World
is an interactive prayer
event that Baptist
Mission Australia
is launching this
November.**

Walk the world is about praying for your local community, and the world, as you get out and about in your neighbourhood.

On the weekend of November 11 - 13, 2022, lift up our Baptist Mission Australia intercultural teams whenever you walk, run, wheel, drive, imagine or cycle around your local area.

**Pray for the world,
as you walk *your*
world!**

Across the street and across the world... let's pray for **all communities** to be transformed by the good news of Jesus.



Find out more, register and watch the promo video by scanning the QR code or visiting: www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/WalktheWorld



**How can my church
and I get involved?**

1. REGISTER

Register at www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/WalktheWorld

You can register as an individual, family, small group or church.

It's totally free to get involved, but if you want to make a donation to support our teams, then you can do that when you register.

2. WALK THE WORLD

On the weekend of **November 11 - 13**, get out in your local neighbourhood in whichever way works for you, and pray!

Pray for God to be at work in your local community and communities around the world.

Use our resources to equip and inform your prayer time.

3. REPORT BACK

Let us know how you went!

As a global community... how many kilometres will we travel!?

Thailand



Scan the QR to find out more about the ministry and partner with the team.

The Ethnic Thai

- » In Thailand around 75% of the population or 57 million people are ethnically Thai.
- » There are three pillars of Thai society: Nation, religion (Buddhism) and monarch. If you are not loyal to these three things, you can be seen as a traitor to the nation.
- » While Christianity has spread through minority communities of Thailand, very few Ethnic Thai people are known to be followers of Jesus.

Let's Pray

- » Pray for the Holy Spirit to rain down on this nation and produce strong fertile crops for God's Kingdom.
- » Praise God for the Ethnic Thai faith communities that have grown out of years of ministry.
- » Pray for courage and wisdom for the Ethnic Thai believers as they share their faith in Jesus with their friends and family.
- » Pray that the team will find genuine ways to share the truth of Jesus with people in their community who are open to that truth.
- » Pray for the team to continue to gain deeper cultural understanding so they can communicate the Gospel in relevant and understandable ways.
- » Pray for the team's own spiritual walk with Jesus as they follow Him and seek to humbly share God's love with those around them.



The Team

In Thailand, our vision is to see more communities of faith established as new followers of Jesus come together to learn what it means to worship God in their own distinctive ways.

Our team is engaging with the communities where they live and work through many practical ways. Besides teaching English at local Thai schools, our team is involved in gardening and fruit picking with neighbours, providing free beauty services and joining in sports games and competitions. These activities give the team the opportunity to build genuine friendships and engage in meaningful conversations about life and faith.

Through these opportunities the team is seeing God soften the hearts of local friends towards His Kingdom. They are also seeing people interested in the story of hope that they share. We celebrate that in addition to the other communities of faith, a Bible study group is developing in Chiang Rai.

Who's in the team photo?

Row 1 (back): Grace, Zoe, Libi, Muana, Luke, Villy, Glenn, Liz, Carolyn, Petina, Daniel, Seb

Row 2: Yindii, Dema, Salem, Ollie, Belle, Isaiah, Judah, Levi

Insets: Margaret (preparing to serve) and Jit and Jan (serving in another part of Thailand)

Sharing the Gospel

The Ethnic Thai people are predominantly Buddhists and this, along with a strong sense of community, deeply impacts their identity. Most Thais however, also have various beliefs in the spirit world and have superstitions mixed in with traditional Buddhism.

The fear of spirits and deep Buddhist traditions in the concept of karma and merit making are factors that make putting their faith in Jesus difficult for a Thai. When as believers we share stories of the way Jesus provides peace and protection from the fear of spirits, we offer a whole new way of thinking.

Sharing the redemption story of Jesus with our friends offers them an opportunity to surrender the religious 'must do's'. Accepting the gift of Jesus which is not based on our good works or deeds, can feel like stepping outside of community norms and expectations.

Uncle G, one of the Ethnic Thai believers shared about his faith in Jesus in a beautiful way. He said, "My life now with Jesus is like sitting on a sofa. I don't need to sit on a tiring stool anymore." Sadly, Uncle G passed away shortly after. We are thankful for the hope and peace that knowing Jesus brought to him in his later years of life.



Looking like Jesus



Beth Jackson is the Chair of the Baptist Mission Australia Board and the Lead Pastor at St Ives Baptist Church in NSW. Here, she explores how we can all see the world more like Jesus

I was a teenager during the glorious height of the WWJD wristband craze. My friends and I had every colour of the wristband - purple, green, patterned, tie-dyed- often wearing more than one at once with the more unique colours being a hot trading commodity. **Fashion trends notwithstanding, the purpose of donning the bracelet was to remind ourselves throughout our day that we should ask ourselves, 'what would Jesus do?'**

It wasn't long before the wristbands were no longer an acceptable fashion choice and the acronym became cliché and parodied.

In fact, it became so trite that in the years since I have worked hard to find different language to convey the same message. And, yet, so often isn't the most appropriate question for disciples of Jesus is just that, 'what WOULD Jesus do?'

The Gospels paint us so rich a picture of the heart of Jesus in His everyday encounters with unnamed and otherwise unremarkable people.

We see Jesus 'moved with compassion' as he heals a man from leprosy, we see Him marvel at the faith of a Roman centurion, and we see Him grant forgiveness and healing to a man who was brought to Him on a mat because he could not walk.

We are privileged to witness the moving encounters with the haemorrhaging woman, the widow at Nain, and the Samaritan woman at the well.

When I read these Gospel narratives, I often imagine what it would have been like to have experienced the gaze of Jesus in those moments.

To be Jairus' daughter and to wake up to eyes of Jesus looking at you with compassion and warmth. To be the haemorrhaging woman who had been invisible for 12 years and to whom Jesus 'turned and saw' (Matthew 9:22). They saw Jesus' heart.

In Matthew 6, Jesus says, 'the eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.' Some biblical scholars suggest that, in the ancient world, the eyes were seen as the channel from which the thoughts and attitudes of the heart flowed. It was in the eyes that the character of the person was best reflected. The eyes demonstrated generosity, sincerity, and goodness (or lack thereof!).

If we are seeking to model the heart of Jesus, it begins with how we see the world. Looking with grace and kindness to those that surround us each day- our friends, family, colleagues and neighbours. Looking with forgiveness to those who have wronged and hurt us.

Looking with 'eyes that see' towards those who have long been invisible. Looking with compassion and generosity on a community that is suffering.

Maybe one day a new trend of 'HWJL' wristbands might just catch on.

How would Jesus LOOK?



What we're learning... from our ~~mistakes~~



After 10 years in Mozambique, Bek and Scott know that stepping out and serving interculturally will lead to mistakes, misunderstandings and awkwardness! In this article, they share some of the mistakes they have made as well as some of the lessons they have learnt from them.

Be encouraged to take risks for the sake of the Gospel!

Three Mistakes

1. The message came that a nearby chief had died. Arriving to visit the family, I (Scott) was surprised to see no other mourners there. After some time, a familiar looking man emerged from the house and walked towards me. As he approached I realised that either the deceased chief had a twin brother, or there had been a misunderstanding and this actually was the chief. "You're not dead?!" I blurted out in surprise.
2. We love opportunities to share Bible stories, and one day I (Bek) was invited to share a story with a group of girls by the Yawo leader. Wonderful! I shared the story and some reflections. Then, the Yawo leader retold the story and drew further reflections and applications... the only problem was, they were completely different, and sometimes in opposition, to the message I had been sharing!
3. Arriving to teach at the girls' coming of age camp, I (Bek) walked across the yard to get the drum the women used to accompany songs and dances. Starting to play the drum I saw a concerned look on our friend's face, which became gesticulations and a command to stop. It turns out Thursday afternoons are spiritually significant times, during which playing the drum is forbidden.

Three Lessons

1. **Sometimes we just need to apologise and laugh with others.** Moving into new communities and building relationships requires courage and humility. Courage to take risks, be uncomfortable and make mistakes. And the humility to listen deeply and live as a learner, recognising that we don't have all the answers (because we definitely don't!).
2. **Making no mistakes isn't the goal.** We may think that when we've been somewhere long enough we won't make mistakes. But that isn't the case. We should seek to make fewer mistakes, but perfection is not the goal. Our goal is to reflect and reveal the Kingdom. And that Kingdom is one of grace, forgiveness and humility. It's one of entering other people's worlds, even when it's hard.
3. **Our mistakes actually help us build relationships.** Our mistakes give us opportunities to ask for forgiveness, to create relationships built on grace, to laugh with others, to remind ourselves and others that we're all the same and we're not God. So, lean into awkward and uncomfortable new things!

What might God be doing that He wants you to be part of? Are you willing to be uncomfortable for that to happen?



How did I get here?



Hi! I'm Ngoc and I serve with Baptist Mission Australia in Indochina with my husband Mark and our young daughter Maia.

Here are six key moments in my story of call.

1 I became a Christian at 30 years old. I thought this was just a personal, quiet decision that wouldn't change my life much. I thought I would just pray to Jesus instead of Buddha and go to church more often now. **Little did I know that in three years, my life would be completely changed!**

I was able to get a new job and pay off my debts, and my relationships with my friends and family became more intentional and meaningful. Then, God gave me a new purpose and called me to the mission field.



2 I was born in Indochina but grew up in Houston, Texas and had a Buddhist upbringing. In 2016, I went back to Indochina on a mission trip. I felt unequipped and like the new kid on the block. I wasn't sure if I should even go since I was a new believer. How could I share the good news when I was just learning about it myself?

That's when I realised that God uses my life experiences to be His hands and feet. My experience of growing up in a strict Indochinese Buddhist family and then coming to Christ, is a testimony to others. **I don't have to know everything about the Bible to share about God's love and how He transformed my life.**



3 In 2017, my Dad passed away. At first I didn't want to feel anything but sadness and anything about God made me cry. I got on my knees and asked, "Why? Why now?" I was just starting to get to know my Dad again. I cried out to God but I wasn't ready to listen.

Finally, after a few months, I decided I was ready to listen to God. I also remembered that my Dad had always wanted me to know more about my people and heritage. So I began to research and I found that the Indochinese have endured so much and are very resilient. Their culture is rich and beautiful, but they are missing the hand of God in their lives.

What my Dad encouraged me to do and what God was saying to me came together – I was being called to reach out to people in Indochina. That's how I can empower the people of my heritage.



4 Mark and I met on the first short-term mission trip I went on. As God's call to serve in Indochina became clearer for each of us, we decided to live His call out together. We got married in 2019, prepared to serve and were on location by January 2020... just before COVID hit!

As newlyweds, we were stuck inside an apartment for four weeks. It was challenging and we were limited in the ministry we could do. We connected with believers online who supported and encouraged us.

Later in 2020, we began ministry initiatives and built some strong relationships. We were starting to see fruit.



5 In 2021, Mark's mentor, Hoa (Peter), sadly passed away. We had both spent time volunteering at the organisation Hoa established in Indochina that works with people with disability. After he passed away, we were asked to take over running the organisation.

While we were honoured to be asked, we were sad to have to leave our city in the north. We knew we would have to move to the south of the country in order to serve through the organisation. We were disappointed to leave the friends we had just made and the ministries we had started.

However, after lots of praying, we sensed the Holy Spirit guiding us down south. We know that our 'labour in the Lord is not in vain'. **1 Corinthians 15:58**



6 As we made this decision, we found out I was pregnant. Despite our best preparation, COVID lockdowns had us unexpectedly stuck between the north and south cities for four months. We finally made it to our destination with just enough time to find an apartment and a hospital to give birth at!

Here we are today – working at the organisation with a baby in tow. **Only God could have orchestrated and timed this journey for us to be here right now. Praise the Lord!**

Leisha

Leisha Spowart (right) is a Pastry Chef from Bendigo who partners with Kate in South East Asia (left). We had the privilege of chatting with Leisha to hear her thoughts on giving, partnership and generosity.

On Kingdom Partnership

Everyone has a different calling on their life. I love that I can partner with someone who's got a calling on their life to go. I might not be called to go, but I have faith that the support I am giving is helping to spread the word of God. My husband and I pray that the gifts we give will mean that people hear the good news of Jesus.

Partnership is more than just financial giving. Moving to another country is daunting, so it's important to support people through ongoing communication.

Your financial support means they can go, but it's your encouragement and prayer partnership that will help them stay.

On Partnering with Kate

It was easy to decide to partner with Kate. I have known her for a long time and I have seen her go through the process of preparation and then head off to South East Asia. I want Kate to do well and do what God's calling her to do. Partnering with her financially is one way that I can support her in that. We talk as well, but I want her to have the peace of mind that there are people looking out for her and supporting her.

I also love that it's not just us! There is a whole community of people and churches sending Kate.

I don't partner with Kate and others to feel good. At the end of the day, people coming to know Christ is the best thing that can happen as a result of my giving.

That's the hope that I have every time I give. Is this going to be the thing that will enable them to have a conversation or reach out to someone and share Jesus?

On Her Giving Journey

Before I started working full-time I didn't give on a regular basis. The challenge to start doing that was a bit uncomfortable for me. I had just started earning money and I worried about potential things that could happen, what if I needed the money for this or that? Something that helped me to get over that was knowing that if I gave money to God through giving at church or to other ministries, that He would bless and provide for me regardless. I was spurred on by verses like Corinthians 9:6-11.

The small group I was in when I first started earning money also challenged me. I remember there was a conversation about giving and one person shared how she was giving until it hurt. At the time, I wasn't giving regularly and the conversation made me think that I should be.

That's when I started the habit. It was a small amount at first, but once I established the habit, the amount grew over time.

On Generosity

I believe that we should be generous with what we have. My husband and I support a few different ministries and we pray about how much to give and decide on an overall total, and then give from that. We also pray that the funds will go to where they are needed.

Ultimately our money is never going to be ours. It's always God given. So at least some of it should be going back to God and His mission.

If someone asked me if they should partner with someone like Kate, I would say, "Just do it!". I mean, if you're able to, you should. Use what you've got, to help other people use what they've got to share Jesus with the world.

Who is Baptist Mission Australia?

»» We're Jesus followers, good news sharers and people lovers. »» We're go-ers, risk-takers, adventurers and senders. »» We're the teams on the ground, and the people partnering with them. »» We're for relationships, building bridges and finding common ground. »» We're about word and deed. »» We're all of us working together, embracing God's gracious invitation to mission. »» Listeners, learners, alongsiders. »» Ordinary people with the mission of God in our hands.

**Baptist
Mission
Australia**



www.baptistmissionaustralia.org | 1800 329 165

© Copyright 2022: All material appearing in Resonate is copyright.

Reproduction in whole or part is not permissible without the written permission of the publisher. All Bible passages quoted are from the New International Version (NIV).

Editor and Designer: Teagan Dwyer-Riviere