



News & Prayer

Prayer and Praise

Thurs 31 Oct - Wed 13 Nov

- 31 T **South Asia** Pray for those impacted by sudden flooding in northern parts of the country. Pray for the **South Asia team** as they continue to journey alongside those struggling with the damage of homes and crops.
- 1 F **South Asia** Pray for **Lisa** as she spends time with team members and local colleagues in South Asia. May the Spirit guide and inspire her as she takes part in important meetings.
- 2 S **Australia** Pray for the wisdom and protection of **church and community leaders** in Outback Australia. May God guide them as they grow in faith and teach others.
- 3 S **Australia** Pray for **Danny and Beth** as they begin piloting some discipleship and leadership training in various communities. Pray that they will develop content that connects and unifies people.
- 4 M **Malawi** Pray for **Joyce** as she continues to teach Yawo women how to sew and set up small businesses. May these women experience the love of Jesus and find their hope in Him.
- 5 T **Malawi** Pray for **Jean-Claude** as he visits four emerging faith communities, teaching and nurturing them. Pray that God will go before him and work in the hearts of those living in nearby villages, and may the Yawo believers be empowered to speak the Word of God.
- 6 W **Thailand** Give thanks that despite the devastation of the floods many **followers of Jesus** and people from different provinces have stepped out to provide help, shelter and food for those in need.
- 7 T **Thailand** Praise God for the 50th anniversary of the **Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship (TBMF)**. Give thanks for the diverse range of ministries and people that God is using to share the hope of Jesus in Thailand.
- 8 F **Walk the World** Pray for **Australian church communities** as they gather together, walking and praying for their neighbourhoods. May this be a time of fun, reflection and growth. May people from different groups and generations be united in a shared hope for our world.
- 9 S **Walk the World** Pray for **local communities across Australia**. Gives thanks that God is working in the lives of local people and pray that all communities will be places of safety, love and respect. Pray for local churches as they reach out in the name of Jesus.
- 10 S **Walk the World** Pray for **Baptist Mission Australia's intercultural teams** around the world. Pray that through our team members, people will encounter the Gospel through word and deed. Pray that each ministry will bring holistic transformation in the lives of local people.
- 11 M **South East Asia** Thank God for bringing many customers to Daz and Bee's cafe. Pray for the **café staff** as they adjust to the busyness, may the team grow in strength and trust as they work together. Pray for Daz and Bee as they seek to develop Kingdom values within the team culture.
- 12 T **South East Asia** **Daz and Bee** have spent the last 9 months creating a sustainable foundation for the cafe and are now preparing to launch a barista traineeship program. Pray for them as they search for their first trainee barista - someone who wants a career in coffee but doesn't have the means to access formal training.
- 13 W **South East Asia** **Dave and Caz** write, "Give thanks that Jesus brings hope to those who feel powerless. Pray for new believers impacted by poverty to experience holistic transformation."



Ministry Story

Stories in Spring

Tash, Australian Intercultural Team



Tash shares, 'There are places in our city where churches are closing down and Christians are moving out. Places with few Gospel resources and places where people are very unlikely to ever meet a follower of Jesus. In the past month I've come to see how the community I serve in is in some ways a spiritual desert.

And yet, in this place, God is at work.

In faith, we pray that the Lord, "will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs." Isaiah 41:18b

In early October, a local church held a Spring Market. The church grounds were filled with so many people from the community. People looking through a mass of second-hand goods to find a bargain. Kids getting their faces painted and bouncing on a jumping castle. Women in Niqabs sitting and drinking coffee and chai in a tent, having conversations with followers of Jesus.

Perhaps some had their first ever conversation with a Spirit filled believer.

Others have been in relationship with people from the church for many years. The Spring Market was an opportunity to meet the families of these people and witness God's love to them. I was able to share some stories from the Gospel with women in the coffee tent, some were new friends from ESL (English Second-Language) or playgroup, others were strangers.

I was hoping to share stories while drawing henna tattoos, but I didn't quite feel comfortable with my skills to do this yet!

One woman I spoke to was Sarah*, who comes along to ESL class every week. Sarah is a new friend who is very open to learning about Jesus. When I sat with Sarah in the coffee tent at the Spring Market, I asked her what her favourite story was. She said it was the story of the lost son. I told her that I like to call it the story of the 'lost sons', because both sons were lost just in different ways. She looked confused and replied, "No just the youngest son was lost!".

I was able to explain that the older son was also lost because even though he was good and worked hard, he missed out on the banquet. It is possible to be a 'good person' but for your heart not to be right with God and your brother.

Please pray that Sarah and others in the community will put their trust in Jesus who came to seek and save the lost.'

From Scott

Future Directions



The world is changing!

The global church is changing!

The Australian church is changing!

So, what does this mean for Baptist Mission Australia and our future?

Innovation, change and responding to God's world - as it actually is - has always been part of the Baptist Mission Australia story.

It's an enduring thread of our 150+ years of ministry.

And so, 18 months ago, given the big changes we were seeing across the world and in the global and Australian church, we decided to embark on an intentional discernment process. We have taken time to pray, listen, look, review, research and dream.

We started this process with open hands. In every step, we sought to discern the fresh winds of the Holy Spirit.

On this journey we have asked courageous and prophetic questions, such as:

- » How should change in our world impact the way we participate in God's mission, locally and globally?
- » How does the decline of Christianity in the west influence the future of western mission agencies?
- » How can we generously offer our intercultural expertise and practice to others near and far?
- » How can we increase collaboration with the rapidly growing global church?

This Spirit-led, strategic journey led to the development of a Future Directions Paper. This paper was recently endorsed by our Board. I am looking forward to sharing more about the key items discussed in the paper with our churches and supporters in the coming months.

We will be distributing a video and e-booklet before the end of the year summarizing some key aspects of the Future Directions Paper and where we see God's Spirit leading us.

We look forward to engaging with you, seeking your feedback, and answering questions. For those of you based in NSW & ACT, we are thankful for the opportunity the association is providing us to share more about our Future Directions at the November Assembly.

In our changing and hurting world, people desperately need the hope of Jesus.

More than ever, we need Australian Baptists partnering with us, as we write a new chapter in our wonderful, shared faith and serving story.

Change for us is never for change's sake. It about how we best pursue our compelling vision: "As God restores the world, we see more people experiencing and expressing the transforming love and hope of Jesus!"

Thank you for your vital partnership.

Grace and peace

Scott

Resources

Walk the World



Order Walk the World Prayer Guides for your church today!

Walk the World is coming up soon (8-10 Nov), but it's not too late to grab a stack of Prayer Guides for your church or group.

If you would like printed copies of the Prayer Guide or any other Walk the World resources, let us know. We would be thrilled to mail out up to 100 printed copies of any of the resources for your church or group.

Contact our team to order resources via info@baptistmissionaustralia.org