



# News & Prayer

## Prayer and Praise

Thurs 25 July - Wed 7 Aug

- 25 T **South Asia** Over the past week, there have been violent and deadly clashes between university students and police. Our team members in this region are safe. Pray for a peaceful resolution to the unrest.
- 26 F **South Asia** Pray for Ant and Jac as they prepare to relocate to South Asia very soon. Pray that they will know God's peace and protection as they do final preparations, travel and apply for visas. Give thanks for the faithful people and churches who are enabling them to go.
- 27 S **South Asia** Lift up our team and ministry in South Asia. Pray for God's leading as they seek to build authentic relationships and respond to people's physical and spiritual needs.
- 28 T **Buddhist Lent** Pray for Buddhist people to meet Jesus during this time of increased devotion and spirituality.
- 29 F **Thailand** Pray for the Ethnic Thai believers to have Spirit-led opportunities to share about their faith in Jesus with their friends and family. Ask that they would be bold and wise.
- 30 S **Thailand** Pray for our team as they support each other, serve in their various ministries and journey together with the Ethnic Thai faith communities. Pray for continued good communication and a strong commitment to one another.
- 31 S **Vietnam** Pray for Mark and Ngoc as they serve alongside local workers, training and supporting people with disabilities. Pray also for their ministry among vulnerable mothers. Pray for God's love to be experienced.
- 1 M **Vietnam** Ngoc writes, "Please pray that God would break the spiritual bonds of ancestor and spirit worship that hold the Vietnamese people in darkness. Ask that God would reveal His truth to them."
- 2 T **Cambodia** Deb and Rob are encouraged by the growing mentoring and discipling opportunities they are having in their village and beyond. Pray for God's Spirit to be at work through their conversations and relationships.
- 3 W **Cambodia** Give thanks that Reaksmei and Rours have arrived safely in Cambodia to join the team. Pray for them as they settle in and begin replanting into the soil of their birth country.
- 4 T **Papua New Guinea** Praise God for the encouraging Women's Conference that was recently held. David from Baptist Union PNG shares, "Our time at Tabubil was really awesome. There was confession of sin and brokenness, as well as forgiveness and restoration of relationships." Hundreds of women chose to follow Jesus. Pray for each woman to grow in faith and trust of Jesus.
- F **Papua New Guinea** Lift up the National Youth Conference that is being held at the end of the year. Pray for the leaders and the preparations. Pray that God will be raising up the next generation of faith leaders.
- 6 S **Australia** Danny and Beth have been on the Outback Australia team for three years now, and are encouraged to see the growing fruit of simply being present. Give thanks for the trusting relationships that they are developing with First Nations believers. Pray for ever increasing cultural understanding.
- 7 S **Australia** Pray for the emerging First Nations leaders. Give thanks that God goes before them, and pray for our team and older leaders as they walk beside them.



## Ministry Story

### Life-Giving Forgiveness

Max and Ezzie, South East Asia

God's Spirit opens a Gospel sharing opportunity for Max and Ezzie.



“ ‘I have committed such a great sin, and I can never be forgiven! I pray every night so that my sins will be forgiven but I don't know if I am forgiven until the judgement day,’ said Rachel, a local friend of ours. We (Max and Ezzie) told her that God our Father can indeed forgive our sins. Then we shared about the atonement of sins, forgiveness through the Son and receiving and accepting the love of the Son.

We know this is heavy and a lot to take in but we have been journeying together with her for a while now and felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit. She was open to reading the Bible with us. We are grateful for the opportunity and trusting the Holy Spirit will continue to work so that she will receive and experience the forgiveness of sin through Jesus.

Give thanks with us for all the connections we have made and the opportunities we have share God's love. Pray for Rachel as we journey alongside her, and look for more opportunities to share about deeper issues of faith and life. Pray that she will experience the life-giving forgiveness of Jesus.

And praise God for all you supporters who are journeying with us! We thank God for each one of you. We cannot do what we do without you.”

## From Scott

### Embracing Diversity and Unity



I've recently returned from Lagos, Nigeria, where I had the privilege of attending the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Annual Gathering.

Lagos is a densely populated city of more than 13.5million people and growing. Nigeria with a population of 230million people is Africa's largest country. And the Nigerian Baptist Convention is now the largest body in the global Baptist alliance with more than 9million members.

Holding this gathering in Africa enabled many Baptist leaders from across this vast continent to attend, enriching this global meeting and importantly, amplifying global south leadership voices.

The theme of this year's gathering was *'Ambassadors of Peace'* – a timely theme in a world of brokenness, conflict, violence, climate crisis, food insecurity, persecution, war and religious nationalism. In such a world, in the local communities we live and serve in, we're called by Jesus to live as peacemakers. We're invited to bring the holistic peace of the Kingdom to people and planet.

25% of all Baptist people across the world live in contexts experiencing war, persecution and extreme hunger. And globally, one in three women have or are experiencing gender-based violence.



The gathering unanimously passed resolutions relating to the Middle East conflict, world hunger and the rise of religious nationalism. (Please be in contact with me if you would like to read copies of these resolutions.)

**Beyond global challenges, attending a gathering like this forces you to address your personal call to live and serve as a peacemaker in a world where difference sadly all too often leads to disharmony and division.**

When you get more than 400 people from 65 countries in a room - and throw in that they're Baptists - you're amid a very diverse bunch. Difference is all around you - be it language, skin colour, dress, equity, cuisine, theology, worship style or preferred football code. And given we were meeting in Africa, those who had the dance moves and those who didn't (read me) were easy to spot!

In such a context, I was challenged again to consider my difference default. I was challenged to consider my response to people who don't look like me, who don't think like me, who come from a different cultural background, who don't share my opinions and who arrive at different biblical views on some important issues.

**Surrounded by difference, I'm confronted with challenging questions like:**

- » Do I genuinely celebrate diversity or seek to foster conformity?
- » Do I focus on what unites or what divides?
- » Do my actions and attitudes model respect or disrespect of people not like me?
- » Am I committed to building bridges or strengthening barriers?
- » Do I - as a Baptist - genuinely value liberty of conscience and the freedom of others to hold to different views?
- » Will I champion the things I hold to passionately, but do so in a Christ-like way? And seek forgiveness for when I get this wrong?

- » Will I accept the inherent power that comes with my gender, cultural background and being the leader of a western organisation?
- » Will I intentionally seek to amplify the voices of women, global south and other minority leaders?
- » Will I be courageous in confronting my own prejudice and racism?
- » Will I repent of those things in my life and leadership that hinder genuine unity in the body?

All these questions are being answered in my life, one day at a time. I am a work in progress. And I desperately need the Holy Spirit to be continuing his renewing work within me if I am to live, love and lead more like Jesus and authentically accept others, as Christ calls me to do.

**As I look at our deeply divided world, I am struck by Jesus' calling to his followers to live as peacemakers and people who build loving and just community.**

I come home from Africa enriched by the beautiful diversity of those I have gathered with. And challenged to humbly, yet intentionally, continue to shape circles where different voices are welcomed, heard, valued and celebrated.

That seems to me, to be the way of Jesus!

Grace and peace  
Scott





## Resources

### Stand with Myanmar



Since the military junta staged a coup and took over government in Myanmar in 2021, the situation has continued to escalate with no end to violence, increase in aerial bombings and with the introduction of conscription, causing significant widespread displacement.

Stand with Myanmar is a collaborative Australian Baptist campaign. You can get involved by giving, advocating, praying and/or hosting a special Myanmar Sunday service between Aug 18 - Sept 15.

Find out more:  
[www.standwithmyanmar.com.au](http://www.standwithmyanmar.com.au)

### Buddhist Lent Prayer Guide



Buddhist Lent is a period of increased devotion for Buddhist communities and monks. It extends from mid-July through to mid-October.

This year, our teams in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam have joined together in developing prayer guide to empower supporters to pray for the ministry, our teams and their local friends, during this significant period.

View the prayer guide: <https://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/globalinteraction/media/documents/Resources/Buddhist-Lent-Prayer-Guide-2024.pdf>

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