

Resonate

EDITION 38

Undeniable Impact

Whole of life transformation
in South Asia.

Praying in the Waiting

Do you have faith as small
as a mustard seed?
Keep praying!



+ New Name
Ahead!

hello



Welcome to Resonate!

In this special edition we announce and celebrate our organisation's name change, as Global Interaction becomes Baptist Mission Australia next year.

Over the past 12 months, as we have commenced implementing our five-year Strategic Roadmap, we have been intentionally and courageously asking big questions about our future directions in a rapidly changing world. I look forward to sharing more about this discernment process in coming Resonate editions.

As we've sought to listen to the Spirit, we saw that it was time to refresh our name for a new and exciting season of ministry.

We've chosen a simple name; one that clearly speaks of who we are – Baptist Mission Australia.

We are the intercultural mission arm of the Australian Baptist movement and we're proud of this long and wonderful partnership. We, like the more than 1,000 Baptist churches across the nation, are a mission people. Our heartbeat is to come alongside people in their own community, culture and language, embodying the good news of Jesus by word and deed, in ways that make sense.

Our Roadmap also envisages stronger intercultural partnerships with Baptist churches and associations across Australia. And we're actively strengthening innovative partnerships with our Baptist family across the globe as we look to new collaborative missional expressions.

We look forward to all that our faithful God has ahead for Baptist Mission Australia.

We have a history of bold and innovative faith steps, and we see our new name as another one of these milestones. **And yet we also humble ourselves, realising our need to learn, listen and seek the Lord's leading as the face of mission changes around the globe.**

You can read more about our new name and logo in the centre spread of this edition, and we look forward to rolling out our new identity in the coming months, including a new website.

As a mission community we have a long history of working in South Asia, in one of the poorest and most challenged countries on the globe. **In this edition, Ryan and Lisa share about the ministry in a special South Asia focus.** We also highlight the Yawo of Mozambique and our team of passionate workers as they come alongside their neighbours and friends with the hope of Jesus.

As you will read in coming pages, a key feature of our new logo is partnership.

If you're a long-term partner, thank you and welcome to a new season together! If you're a first-time reader of Resonate, thanks for taking the time to engage with us, and may I invite you to prayerfully consider the difference your partnership will make with us.

Grace and peace,
Scott

Undeniable impact



In South Asia, Global Interaction's ministry occurs through our partner NGO. Over the next pages, Lisa and Ryan share about the wholistic impact of this transformative work.



Lisa has served with her family in Cambodia and as the QLD Young Adults Consultant. In 2020, she commenced as the CEO of our partner NGO in South Asia.

Throughout the pandemic, the value and impact of our development work has been clear. The entire region, including our local team, has been affected by COVID. **Schools were closed for over a year and lockdowns have resulted in poverty rates doubling. A staggering 24.5 million more people were plunged into poverty.**

Our team of local staff has responded incredibly well. They were fast to respond in distributing information through our group networks on how to reduce transmission of the virus through good hygiene and social distancing (although in a country with such a dense population, this is challenging).

Salam, one of our local team leaders explains, "The people in the wider community who are not connected with our organisation do not have the same awareness as our group members."

Our local team spent significant time with the 20,000 group members to encourage them to continue saving or access savings as needed. Salam tells us, "We work with very poor people. But they have savings to help them through this time." These savings are either invested in income generation projects or ready to be accessed for emergencies.

Prior to being part of a group, members would work for their food each day with no safety net.

The 75 community based organisations (CBOs) that have grown out of our work provided leadership within their communities.

By offering additional capital to the CBOs, we were able to bolster their ability to support their most vulnerable members, while they continued to help members access government support, manage their income businesses and address social issues that come from hard times.

As a team we all learned how to communicate via technology which means my Australian based colleagues and I have been able to walk alongside the local NGO staff, even when we couldn't be there in person.

Never have we been more aware of the importance of the work in the lives of the region's poorest and most vulnerable people. It is a delight that our dedicated staff are helping to grow their resilience in the face of these challenges and even flourish.



A year of discipleship

Ryan is the newly appointed Team Leader of the South Asia team, and Suzie is a candidate preparing to join the team. Here, Ryan shares about the exciting and unexpected opportunity COVID opened up.

A word or two here, a phrase there... that's about all I understand at this early stage of my language learning. But our weekly meeting has quickly become one of the highlights of my week!

Every Sunday afternoon at 2pm, I jump onto Zoom to meet with my brothers and sisters in South Asia for our weekly 'Big Book' meeting. Joining each week are a dozen or more (sometimes up to 30) of our local development staff scattered across the country, getting together to study the scriptures and to pray.

It is all conducted in the local language, so much of what is shared still goes right over my head. But I can sense the presence of the Spirit.

This weekly Zoom meeting started around 18 months ago, when COVID made travel to South Asia impossible. From the earliest meetings with just a few participants, and lots of awkward Zoom silence, to the dynamic and encouraging time it is now.

At a recent meeting we explored the story of the woman at the well in John 4. Each of the believers shared how they came to know Jesus, which was mostly through friends. **When the question was asked, "How then will others come to know?" Immediately and unanimously they responded, "We will have to tell them!"**

The B people of South Asia are one of the largest least-reached people groups in the world. Numbering more than 150 million people, most still have little or no access to the good news of Jesus in a way that makes sense to them.

But progress is being made! A new, culturally appropriate version of the Bible was completed with the support and advice of team member Morris.

A 20+ year project, this new version uses language relevant for *this* cultural and religious context. **The new version brings the 'Big Book' meetings to life, giving the believers a translation of the Scriptures that speaks to their hearts.**

Currently, through our development work, our team of local staff connects with a network of more than 20,000 people! By sharing the good news through both word and deed, we look to the Holy Spirit to empower a movement centred on faith in the resurrected One.

Team Project (code: SAWh415):

Sharing the Good News in New Ways

The team is working towards having the new version of the scriptures available through a secure website and App along with culturally appropriate discipleship resources.

What will it mean for this dynamic movement of believers to have the Scriptures in their heart language, available on their personal phones? Let's find out!

Partner with this exciting project at:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/NewWays

Thank You Morris!



Morris has served with the Global Interaction South Asia team for more than 40 years! This year he concluded as Team Leader with Ryan transitioning into the role, and in 2020 concluded as the CEO of our partner NGO as Lisa commenced in that role.

We are grateful that Morris continues as part of the team and a key leader of our partner NGO in South Asia.

Morris is an inspiration to many. His heart to serve Jesus challenges us all to love others more fully. Morris has dedicated his life to sharing the good news of Jesus through word and deed, particularly in South Asia.

We honour you Morris, and thank God for who you are.

Praying in the waiting

David Moyes shares what he's learning about mustard seed faith.



David Moyes is the Senior Pastor of Reedy Creek Baptist Church on the Gold Coast. He is also a member of Global Interaction's Board.

The story about Jesus healing the boy with the evil spirit teaches us the importance of faith and prayer.

In Mark and Matthew's version of this story, Christ's disciples asked why they couldn't heal the boy when they tried earlier. In Mark's account, Jesus told them of the importance of prayer (Mark 9:29). In Matthew's version, Jesus responded to the disciples' question this way: "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:19-20).

I believe in the impacting combination of faith, prayer and the Holy Spirit. I've seen answers in my life and in other people's lives. **However, I'm praying for some big issues at the moment and, to my eyes, things don't seem to be happening.**

I say to my eyes for a reason. I always thought that when Jesus said that if I had faith as small as a mustard seed, all I need is some faith – however small that may be. That is probably right, but here's another thought as to what Jesus might be saying.

A seed knows how to wait. To my eyes a seed looks lifeless. But most seeds wait for at least a year before they start to grow; a cherry seed can wait for a hundred years with no problem.

What exactly each seed is waiting for is known only to that seed. Some unique trigger combination of temperature, moisture, light and other things is required to convince a seed to jump off the deep end and take its chance to germinate.

A seed is alive while it waits. Every acorn on the ground is just as alive as the 300 oak tree that towers over it.

Here's the thing that I'm learning about having faith like a mustard seed. My faith in God, even if its small, is still alive. The Holy Spirit is still moving. Even when I go through those really challenging times where God seems silent, even the smallest amount of faith is still alive.

But here's the other thing that I am learning about having faith like a mustard seed. I may have to wait until my faith germinates into something bigger than I have ever imagined. Sure, my prayers combined with the Holy Spirit may have given life to a seed, but it may mean I have to wait until God's time is right.

If you study the great revivals in Wales, America, Korea, Papua New Guinea – they didn't just happen with thousands coming to Christ, crime rates reducing, and so on. **They all started with two or three people who prayed faithfully for 30, 40 or 50 years. They prayed and prayed.**

Did the seed for revival die? No. It was very much alive. They couldn't see it, so they waited and waited on God in faith and when the time was right, the alive seed germinated, and the power of God transformed lives after lives.

So my encouragement to you? However small your faith may seem... **keep praying.**

Pray with our Global Interaction teams. **Subscribe to resources:** www.globalinteraction.org.au/Pray





Next generations now

When it comes to young people and mission, our time is now.



Sulari Nielsen is passionate about journeying with young people as they explore how God is growing, shaping and leading them.

What does mission look like to you? That's the question I asked a group of wonderful, inspiring young people, and it's an important question for us all to answer. What does mission mean for you in this season? Are your heart strings tugging for people around the world, or in your direct neighbourhood? How are you sharing Jesus in your everyday?

Working for Global Interaction has opened my eyes to the ways we can learn from those who are serving globally as we engage with our community locally.

It has also given me the incredible opportunity to connect with young people and hear their stories, questions, struggles and hopes. Our young people are not only our future, they are our present as well.

I have just finished up my role as Next Generation Specialist at Global Interaction, but if I could say one thing to Australian churches (and parents), it would be this: Listen to your young people, invest in their formation and value what they can do now.

Oh, and model mission well!

I want to be a faithful witness and live a life that shows Jesus in who I am and what I do. For me, this looks like intentionally engaging with my actual neighbours, connecting with the other school parents, mentoring young adults and being attentive to where God is already at work in those around me.

What does it look like for you?

Q: What does mission look like to you?



“Mission to me looks like loving my neighbour. Not only my real next-door neighbour, but also those I meet at the shops, people I work with, local community, family and friends. It looks like asking questions and having the time to listen to their replies.”

Allira, 20 (University student)



“On the basketball court, I try to be a difference by building relationships with my team and helping them see how God has changed my life.”

Tarquin, 14 (High School student)



“It looks like meeting people where they are at, in that moment. Accepting and loving people, as they are. No matter what – whether they are laughing, crying, or taking their frustration out on you.”

Maigen, 25 (Generations Pastor)

“Currently I spend every weekday at University with the same group of people, none of whom are following Jesus (yet). Mission currently looks like being intentional with the people that God has placed in my life. Intentionally praying for them, building deeper relationships, taking the time to hear their stories, and weaving the Gospel into conversations.”

Ashlee, 23 (University student)



“Mission to me is about the world we live in daily and being Jesus for others to see. It is about being the love in the world that we know Jesus has for us and everyone else. We have a responsibility to be different in a good way and be a living example of Jesus' love.

Callum, 29 (Primary School Teacher)



“Sharing our love with others, telling people about the good news of Jesus and telling them how great our God is by sharing our experiences.”

Diana, 24 (University student)

New name ahead!

We are excited to announce that with 2022 comes a new name...

Global Interaction is becoming Baptist Mission Australia!

This change has grown out of the big questions and intentional discernment we're undertaking as we implement our 2021-2025 Strategic Roadmap.

Over the coming months, we look forward to sharing more about the discernment process with you. And look out for a new visual style in our material as we adopt the name and step into a new season of ministry as Baptist Mission Australia.

Our vision and mission remain the same. Our heart is to see vibrant faith communities following Jesus in their own distinctive ways.

In this Resonate spread, let us guide you through our incoming name and logo.



Partnering with God and His mission is, and always will be, our ultimate calling.

Aligned with our Strategic Roadmap, we are looking to increasingly partner with the broader Baptist family in Australia and around the globe.

Baptist Mission Australia: It's a simple name that says just who we are. We are the intercultural mission arm of the Australian Baptist movement. And we are proud of that!

We are looking to put a greater emphasis on mission in Australia. Through partnering with Australian churches and their local mission, growing our Outback Australia work and new local ministry initiatives.

The **Three** Lines

“Together, the three lines are a picture of partnership. This ministry is built on partnership: Partnership with each other as an Australian Baptist movement sending and supporting intercultural workers. Partnership with God in His mission. And, increasingly, partnership with aligned organisations and initiatives globally and locally.

We can only do this together. Thank you for being part of the team.”

Susan Campbell, Associate Executive Director



The **Intersecting** Lines

“These two lines represent our commitment to walk alongside those we are called to serve.

Walking alongside others is core to our mission because it reflects Jesus' example. Compelled by love, Jesus makes His home among us and walks alongside us.

The lives of those we walk alongside originate from different contexts and emanate hues that contrast with our own. Because of this, we spend much time reading between the lines.

But as we journey as alongsiders, our lives overlap theirs and the lines intersect – depicting the convergence of their stories with our stories in the hope of moving forward together in God's grand story.”

David and Carole, South East Asia

The **First** Line

“I love how the first line represents God's Spirit. It reminds me that we follow His lead. After all, He gives and sustains life and the whole universe exists for Him.

This line questions my day to day practice. Am I prioritising His voice over human reason and experience? Am I listening for fresh directions He might be giving, or blindly reproducing familiar expressions of His Kingdom in my context?

Dependence on God takes time and is messy. It doesn't follow recognisable markers of productivity. But it has to come first because He is the direction-setter.”

Susie, Mozambique



WHY?
Because NOTHING
MATTERS more than
sharing GOD'S
LOVE for the
WORLD

Sharing God's love

Three places.
Three examples.
One core belief:
That nothing
matters more
than sharing
God's love for
the world.



Thailand
Petina

English is considered a vital skill here in Thailand. Although taught in schools, most students in Thai Government schools do not have the opportunity to practice real world English.

I am privileged to be able to help stand in the gap for many of the students I teach. Teaching at school means I can give students the opportunity to learn from a native English speaker which enhances their employment opportunities. By fulfilling this need I am helping to share God's love with those who may never have heard it in a way that makes sense to them. As I am not following a set curriculum, I am able to use Bible Stories as teaching resources. My heart is to share the love of God through word and deed with my students.

South East Asia

Max and Ezzie

It's our joy to share God's love with our friends and neighbours here. We visit them, especially during times of sickness or grief, and during festive or ceremonial occasions. Through this, we show that we genuinely care. Recently, we visited a friend's mum after she had a fall. We could see her joy and gladness which gave us the opportunity to share in some spiritual conversations.

When one of our friends lost his parents and grandmother within two months of each other, he was devastated. We invited him to our home, comforted him, prayed with him and shared about the living hope we have in Christ. We share life with our friends and neighbours, loving them and asking the Holy Spirit for opportunities to share about Jesus.



Mozambique
Tobias

I get to spend each day working with a group of Yawo men and women translating the Bible. This project is all about sharing God's love as we work to give people access to His

Word in their heart language. However, as we work on the translation, there's also many opportunities to chat about God and His love. Just recently, we had a multi-hour discussion about what it means to be made in the image of God. Is it something to do with love maybe?

I also travel out of our town regularly to meet with members from the community to check the translation. A couple of months after we started working there, the headperson of the village had a stroke and one day, I wandered over to his house to sit with him. I was able to pray with him for healing and for his wife who cares for him. I know God loves this man and I tried to show that to him by my presence and asking the God of love to be with him.

Photo: Ben praying with Yawo friends.



Country Spotlight:

Mozambique

Getting to Know the Yawo

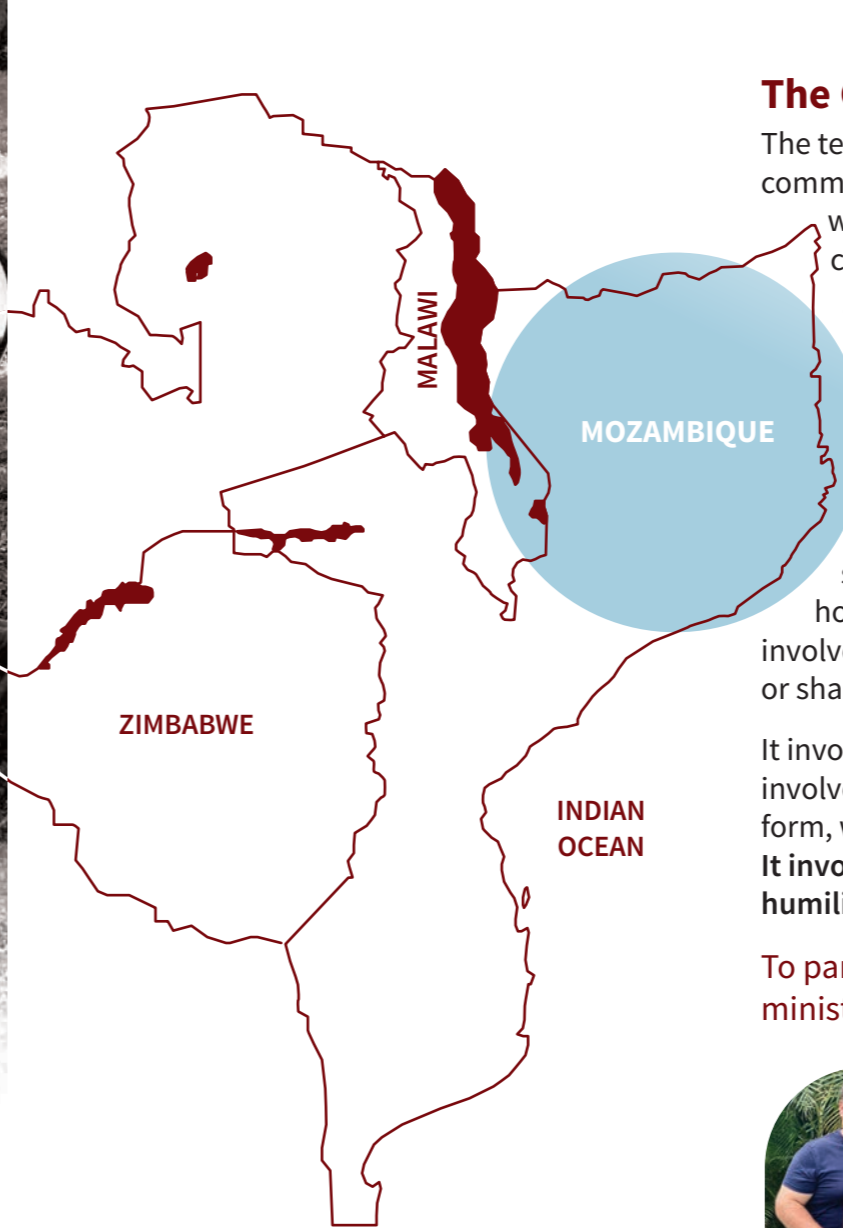
- » In Mozambique, there are 429,860 Yawo people. Another 3 million Yawo live in Malawi and Tanzania.
- » The majority of Yawo live in rural areas and are mainly subsistence farmers. Although there are increasing numbers relocating to urban centres.
- » Most Yawo would agree that to be Yawo is to be Muslim.
- » A well known Yawo saying is, "Alone you cannot scrub your back." This speaks to the importance of community and reciprocal care of one another.

Sharing the Gospel

The Yawo are a communally orientated people, generally living in large family groups, with multiple family groups constituting a village. This is the foundation of Yawo life and society. However, in recent times, there has been an influx of Yawo people, moving from their rural villages, into the city of Lichinga for work and education opportunities.

The mix of urban and rural settings provides unique challenges to Gospel sharing. In rural areas opportunities to encounter the good news of Jesus are limited. There are not many opportunities to interact with others outside of familial groups. In Urban centres the challenge is different. While there is more exposure to the Gospel, it is often clothed in cultural attire that make it difficult for the Yawo to see how they can become a follower of Jesus without leaving behind their own culture and adopting another one.

Fortunately, when Yawo people meaningfully encounter the good news of Jesus they begin to see the world in new ways, and because of their communal orientation, so do their wider families.



The Global Interaction Team

The team in Mozambique longs to see vibrant Yawo faith communities following Jesus in their own distinctive ways, and the wholistic flourishing of their wider communities.

The team is committed to intentionally embodying and proclaiming the good news of Jesus in meaningful ways and forming deep relationships with Yawo people where they are and as they are.

This involves riding bicycles or motorbikes to villages in the bush to visit with people and share stories from the Bible. It involves taking people to hospital when there are no other options available. It involves reading God's Word with people in our backyards or sharing stories and songs at girls' initiation ceremonies.

It involves helping Yawo friends tend to their farms. It involves translating the Bible into the Yawo language and form, which enables us to share God's Word in new ways. It involves listening, learning, curiosity, patience, humility, hospitality, and most of all love.

To partner with the team or learn more about the ministry, visit: www.globalinteraction.org.au/Yawo



Ben and Sam,
Elizabeth, Anna and Finlay
Arrived in Mozambique in 2013.



Kath and Cam,
Jack, Matilda and Sydney
Arrived in Mozambique in 2012.



Sally
Arrived in Mozambique in 2017.



Scott and Bek,
Levi, Josiah, Katelyn, Elliana
and Isaac
Arrived in Mozambique in 2012.



Heather and Tobias,
Elijah, Rachel and Lydia
Arrived in Mozambique in 2011.

Let's Pray

- » Give thanks for those our team is journeying with who have chosen to follow Jesus.
- » Pray for God to place more people of peace in the lives of our team. Pray for rich relationships to grow where the hope of Jesus can be shared.
- » Pray for the team's growing culture and language learning. Pray that they will share the good news in cultural understandable ways.
- » Pray for Yawo believers to be strengthened in their faith. Pray for discernment as they develop their own distinctive way of following Jesus.
- » Pray for protection over the team.
- » Pray for God to raise up more workers.

How did I get here?

Kate is on her way to South East Asia!
Here she tracks six key moments in her discernment and preparation.



1 Ever since I was a child, I had a love for languages and cultures. I wanted to be fluent in another language and, with a family connection to South East Asia, I started learning the language at school and continued at university, including a year of study in South East Asia in 2011-2012.

I can see how even from a young age, God was preparing me to serve in South East Asia.



2 Foundations for faith had been established when I was child, and in 2009, when I moved to Melbourne for university, I came to know Jesus personally.

I lived in a church-run student house and, at a time of upheaval in my family life, I recognised the nearness and love of God.



3 I initially didn't see the need to tell people about Jesus, thinking that each was to their own.

But around 2013, a friend challenged me on that with John 14:6. They said that if I believe Jesus tells the truth, I need to believe His statement that 'no-one comes to the Father except through Him' is also true.



4 After that conversation, whenever an intercultural worker shared at my church, I got this sense of "You're going to do that one day." Over time, I talked about this and asked questions with my small group, church leaders, past workers and visiting intercultural workers.



5 I hadn't known when I would go, but in January 2019 I attended Strategic Mission Week with Global Interaction. **The word "now" was in my head the whole week, so that year I applied and was accepted as a candidate.** Later that year I resigned from my teaching job so that I could study at Bible College in 2020.



6 As well as Bible College in 2020, I began weekly language and culture sessions with a nurturer from South East Asia over Zoom, allowing me to learn and share before I even get there.

I am looking forward to meeting her in person when I get to South East Asia (hopefully) next year.

Want to stay on the journey?

Kate is building a partnership team to pray and give so she can serve in South East Asia.

Learn more and partner:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/Kate

Partnership perspectives

From the earliest days of this mission, partnership was key. And it still is! This ministry God has called us to only works when we do it together.

The State Leader: Andrew Palmer Global Interaction NSW / ACT

As a term, 'Global Intercultural Mission' has a funny effect on people. For some it conjures up comical (and / or colonial) images of pith helmets and safari suits; others see super-Christians who levitate through life sinlessly...and yet others imagine very earnest, slightly awkward folks with overly long PowerPoint presentations and an outdated wardrobe.

The theme that draws these images together is that of 'otherness': whatever global intercultural mission workers are... they aren't like me...

But the truth is that global mission workers are largely very ordinary people seeking to follow an extraordinary God... and until they actually move into an intercultural situation here or overseas, on most weeks they are found meeting with their faith family online or in person, because that is who they are.

Global intercultural mission has always been the mandate of the Local Church, right from the time that the leaders placed their hands upon Saul and Barnabas in Acts chapter 13 and commissioned them for ministry.

It still is.

Partnering in mission with an organisation like Global Interaction helps speed up this discipling / sending process with specialist capacity and care. **Together the church and mission agency act as parents helping their children fly. And it is good.**

The Pastor: Andrew Duncan Thornleigh Community Baptist Church

The Apostle Paul, when speaking of his partnership with the church at Philippi, speaks of a **common heart**, "It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart;" a **common purpose**, "whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me;" a **common joy**, "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy" and a **confidence in God**.

A common heart, a common purpose that produces joy and results in a great confidence in the mission of God. **As a local pastor when I am asked what the benefits of our church are in partnering with Global Interaction, this is it!**

Although geographically and culturally we are ministering in very different contexts, when I speak with Dave and Caz in South East Asia, Pete and Nomes in Central Asia and Mel heading to the Silk Road Area, there is an alignment of heart and purpose in that we, together, are seeking to make the life transformative message of Jesus known.

When it comes to learning and growing in how to become more effective in local mission these are the people I turn to. When it comes to infusing a wholistic and integrated approach to faith, it is often these people who speak most powerfully into the life of our church.

Our partnership with Global Interaction continually fuels and shapes the missional DNA of our church. It is a partnership filled with joy and renews my confidence in the mission of God.



Pictured: Doug Thomson

In Memory

Global Interaction is deeply thankful for the lives of Alexander Thomson and Eleonore Hampton. We are grateful to God for their lives of service to Jesus and commitment to the Gospel.

Alexander (Doug) Thomson

Doug Thomson (pictured above) was born and raised in Katanning, WA. He worked in Perth and Bunbury, becoming quite well known in real estate and car sales.

Doug's life was one of generosity, and consistent with this, he left a gift in his will to Global Interaction. Doug's gift means he's left a legacy of more people hearing about Jesus.

Eleonore Hampton

Eleonore Hampton had a lifelong commitment to sharing the good news of Jesus. From being a counsellor with Billy Graham Crusades, to partnering with her husband Keith (dec.) in ministry in various churches, she wanted to make sure people heard the Gospel.

Eleonore served in the Global Interaction offices (then Australian Baptist Mission Society) from 1983 – 1999. Her legacy of service to the Gospel was continued through a gift in her will.

Would you like to leave a legacy for the Gospel like Eleonore and Doug?

You can contact Tim Collison on 1800 329 165 or visit: www.globalinteraction.org.au/giftinwill



Exploring mission?

Explore context, cultures and calling through our new discipleship course *Exploring Mission*.

Starting February 2022, this course is for anyone asking questions about God's mission and your role in it.

www.globalinteraction.org.au/ExploringMission



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1800 329 165

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