



News & Prayer

Prayer and Praise

Thurs 13 Mar - Wed 26 Mar

- 13 T **Australia** Pray for international students at universities across Australia as they navigate the independence of Australian culture. Pray for Paul and other members of Christian groups on campus as they meet students and invite them to community events.
- 14 F **Australia** Give thanks for the many connections that Paul has already been able to make with new and continuing international students at Macquarie University this year. Pray for ongoing opportunities to invest in the lives of these students, caring for them and pointing them towards Jesus.
- 15 S **Australia** Pray for Tash and other volunteers at her church who are sharing the Gospel with Muslims this Ramadan. Pray that God would bring more guests to their Peace tent on Monday evenings, to enjoy chai and discuss the Bible.
- 16 S **Thailand** Pray for Margaret as she prepares to host her first Kids Holiday Club at the end of April. Pray that she will form great relationships with children and parents and that this will lead to future Gospel sharing opportunities.
- 17 M **Thailand** Pray that God would guide the team as they explore the potential of offering more comprehensive after school English classes at Baan Sawang. Pray that they would continue to notice needs in their communities and respond accordingly.
- 18 T **Thailand** Pray for Glenn and those involved in the Local Income Generation project. Give thanks for the enthusiasm of all taking part and pray that it would grow in success currently, and in the future.
- 19 W **Cambodia** Pray for Reaksmey as she teaches health topics at a school. Give thanks for her relationship with the school principal, may it continue to strengthen as she visits the school.
- 20 T **Cambodia** Pray for the children that Rours and Reaksmey meet with in Sandan village. Many of these children live with grandparents as their parents are working at the border of Thailand or in the city. Pray that the children will find joy in connection with each other and in hearing stories of Jesus.
- 21 F **Mozambique** Sally has had many counselling requests from local neighbours. Pray for wisdom as she discerns how and if she can meet these mental health needs and where she can empower others into these roles.
- 22 S **Mozambique** Pray for a group Yawo women and men who gather on Fridays to read the Word of God. As they understand Jesus' power, they are asking questions. Pray that what they hear would transform their hearts and that together they would grow.
- 23 S **Mozambique** Give thanks that Tobias and the Bible translation team have nearly completed Matthew. Pray for God's continual leading as they prepare to begin the next books.
- 24 M **South East Asia** Pray for Max and Ezzie as they begin afresh in the city. Pray for God to open up relationships with neighbours and staff as they join their teammates in a new initiative.
- 25 T **South East Asia** Each week Mike teaches English classes at the Education Foundation. One of the classes recently started listening to a Bible story. Pray for open hearts as they discuss this story.
- 26 W **South East Asia** Pray for the new staff at Daz and Bee's café. May they form strong bonds with each other, feel equipped for their roles and be encouraged by the Kingdom values they are exploring.



Ministry Story

Witnessing life-changing empowerment

Katianna, National Team

In celebration of International Women's Day, Katianna shares reflections on her recent trip to South Asia.



During February I travelled to South Asia with a Global Exposure team from a local Baptist church in Victoria. We visited inspiring projects run by our partner NGO. From its inception, our ministry partner in South Asia has focused on empowering women and helping to lift families out of poverty. It was amazing to see this transformational work firsthand!

In South Asia, women are among some of the most poor, marginalised and illiterate. They often have no power to change their circumstances. Seeing this reality, our partner NGO created savings groups.

Savings groups are groups of women who learn and save money together. At each weekly meeting they contribute a small amount. As the savings grow, they use loans for income generating initiatives such as livestock or agriculture. They also learn how to read and write, and are taught ways they can positively impact the health, financial position and education of their families.

I had heard about these groups while I was in Melbourne, but it was so exciting to actually sit with these women in person and hear their stories!

We sat in a circle between mud houses, surrounded by rice fields, cows and flood plains. Dressed in colourful clothing, the women shared about their meetings, life in the villages and the money they had saved together.

I will never forget how the women smiled and laughed as they told us of their progress.

When we asked the women what they planned to spend their savings on, everyone rushed to give us an answer.

Each woman had a dream. One group member spoke with excitement about her plans to buy a cow and raise it. This would ensure she could provide her children with a better education and future.

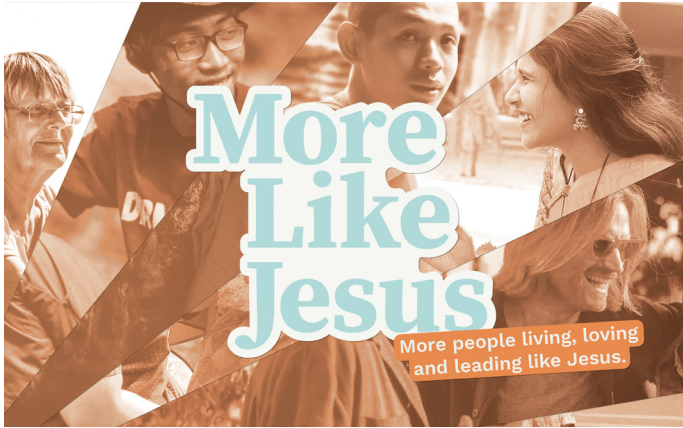
Many of the women in savings groups didn't get to finish primary school, however girls in their villages are four times more likely to finish year ten than girls in other village communities. These groups have a long-term impact for the next generation and beyond!

Through joining together in community and supporting each other, savings group members are being empowered. They are building trust and revelling in the dignity of being able to provide for own families. They are gaining leadership skills and realising that they can make a difference in the lives of others too. They are sharing what they have learnt and ensuring that the next generation of South Asian women are also empowered.

It was a privilege to spend time with these women and witness their courage, joy and ambition. Now I am back in Melbourne, I will keep praying for them.



Resources



May Mission Month 2025

More Like Jesus. That's the theme for May Mission Month 2025. Across the street and across the world - we long to see more people living, loving and leading like Jesus.

We know this is what you are longing to see in your church and neighbourhood, and across our broken and hurting, yet beautiful world. And so will you join us in capturing the theme of More Like Jesus this May Mission Month?



Find out more: www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/resource/may-mission-month/more-like-jesus/

More Like Jesus Children's Resource

The leader's guide for the More Like Jesus Children's Resource is available now!

For each session, a characteristic of Jesus is featured as a way of helping your kids church explore how we can all become more like Jesus. There are discussion prompts, a key Bible story or passage, memory verse and key activity for each session.

Have fun!



Explore the Children's Resource: www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/resource/bible-study/more-like-jesus/children/