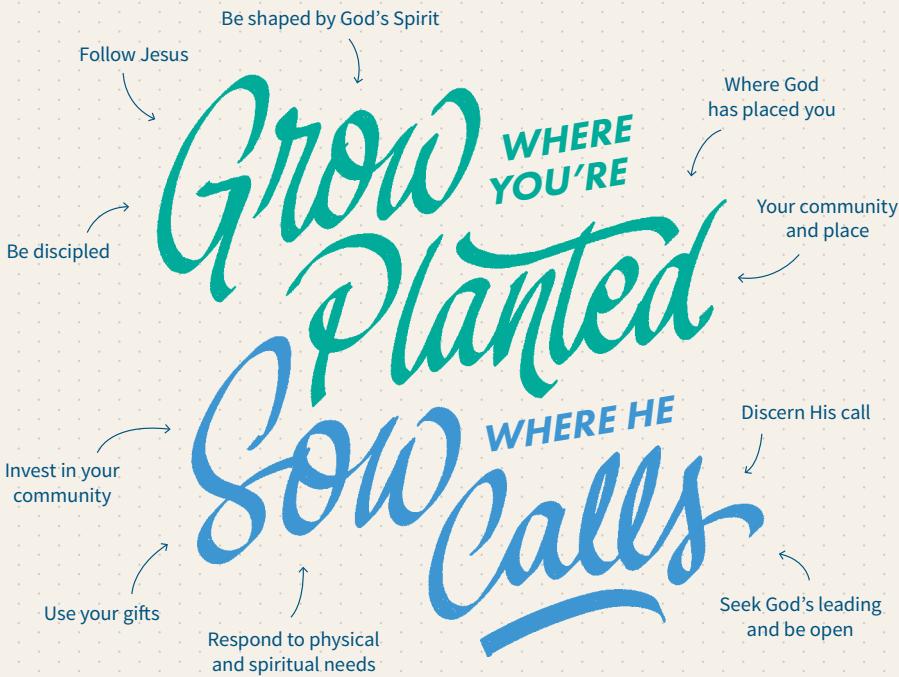


# PASTORS AND LEADERS



GLOBAL  
INTERACTION

Australian Baptists  
together in global mission

# *GROW where you're planted, SOW where He calls.*

**May Mission Month** is a focussed time for Australian Baptists to grow in their understanding of God's missional heart and sow into cross-cultural ministry.

Let's discover together, what it means to grow our hearts to be more like Jesus' and sow into mission as we are called.

While it can be simpler to separate social justice and mission, we believe they go hand in hand. Global Interaction's cross-cultural teams are seeking to see whole-of-life transformation among the people and communities they live within and serve. Through being, saying and doing the Gospel, they are responding to the communities' spiritual *and* physical needs. During May Mission Month please be encouraged to grow your heart response to Jesus' call to "...go and make disciples...", and to sow into the place where He has planted you, or is calling you to.

Global Interaction believes that the greatest gift is a life-transforming relationship with Jesus. We have followed God's direction to focus our ministry on particular least-reached people groups across Africa and Asia, as well as continuing to partner with established faith communities through our Ongoing Relationships.





For over 135 years, Australian Baptists have had a heart to share the message of Jesus among least-reached people groups and we have witnessed God moving powerfully through those who have served and sown. Global Interaction continues to facilitate pathways for Australian Baptists to respond to God's missional heart through prayer, giving and going.

Global Interaction rests in a community of Australian Baptists with a heart to share the Good News locally and globally, through actions and words. This May Mission Month, we invite you to **GROW where you're planted, and SOW where He calls**.

Over the following pages, you will find a four week study with short reflections and practical ideas to spark you and your faith community's exploration of what it means to grow in Jesus and sow into the Kingdom. Each week features a powerful video testimony of a local believer with whom one of our cross-cultural teams has journeyed alongside.



*The 'GROW where you're planted, SOW where He calls' video series is brought to you with special thanks to Baptist Financial Services and in collaboration with CommonGround.*

# Week One – Grow your Heart

## 💡 Food for Thought

To call ourselves ‘followers of Jesus’, we must *desire* to follow Jesus. We must seek to follow His example of living and loving, and to invite His Spirit to grow our hearts to be more like His.

The concept of being a follower of Jesus invokes two ideas. The first is that as a community of believers we are following Jesus’ example of how to live in the world, and how to relate to God and others. Jesus dedicated His time to talking with God, engaging with the scriptures, revealing truth about God and inviting people into the Kingdom. He invested in people, demonstrating radical love, respect and compassion and as followers of Jesus we are all called to do the same.

The second idea that is present in the term ‘follower of Jesus’, is the image of being led by Jesus and of following His leading. As the Spirit grows our heart, we are increasingly becoming in step with Him and where God might be calling us.

But where is God calling us? We know His heart is for people to be in right relationship with Him, through Jesus. We know His heart breaks for the marginalised and oppressed, just as it does for the lost sheep.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

God’s heart for all people, globally and locally, to be transformed by the message of Jesus is still relevant today. He is still calling His people to go to the ends of the earth, and sow into global mission through prayer and giving.

Invite the Spirit to grow your heart to be more like Jesus and be open to following where He leads... you never know where it will take you!

## ▶ Watch: Episode 1 – Mae Ran

[www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos)

### Key takeaways:

- God's Spirit is growing Mae Ran's heart to be more like Jesus' heart, just like He is our heart. Her heart is being transformed from one filled with fear and hate into one of love and compassion.
- Her testimony demonstrates the need for people to respond to God's missional heart and serve globally. She had not witnessed Ethnic Thai people living out their faith in Jesus in culturally relevant ways and had no avenue to explore Jesus within her culture. Her relationship with a Global Interaction cross-cultural worker facilitated the exploration.
- Initially, it was the cross-cultural workers loving actions towards Mae Ran's unwell relative that built the trust and opened the opportunity for faith-sharing conversations. It was through both the actions and words of the cross-cultural worker that Mae Ran's heart was ready to meet Jesus.

### 🏡 Bring it Home

- Pray for God to grow your heart to be more like Jesus', ready to demonstrate the Gospel through your words and actions
- Grow a heart for the least-reached by learning about the people groups our cross-cultural teams are serving among:  
[www.globalinteraction.org.au/peoplegroups](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/peoplegroups)
- Contact your State Office and invite a cross-cultural worker or candidate to share their story of how God is growing their heart for global mission

### ⬇ Go Deeper

- Use the May Mission Month prayer diary to sow in prayer for mission each day: [www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMprayer](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMprayer)
- Be inspired by the ministry and mission of our cross-cultural workers through their update videos: [www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos)
- Subscribe to cross-cultural worker and candidate newsletters, write to them and pray for them: [www.globalinteraction.org.au/Subscribe](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/Subscribe)

# *Week Two - Where you are Planted*

## Food for Thought

God plants each of His children among family, social, personal and professional community networks. Within the context of each of these, He calls us to grow in Jesus and sow into the lives of those around us. God can, and does, use us wherever we are. We are planted in a specific place or community for a particular season or reason, or for a whole lifetime. Our job is to be willing and open to be used by God, wherever we are, and be seeking His ongoing leading in our lives.

**The time and extent to which we remain planted in a particular community or place will vary for each of us as we discern God's purpose and calling in our lives.**

We know that wherever God has planted us, as a community and as individuals, He is calling us to grow in Him and love those around us. Our heart response to the needs of our community will direct how we sow into it. Throughout Biblical history and beyond, there are examples of followers of Jesus who followed His call. In the New Testament, Paul, Barnabas, Mark, Timothy, Apollos and Priscilla to name a few, are all called from where they were planted. God called them to specific tasks, places and people. Our walk with Jesus invites us be both planted where we are... and open to His ongoing leading.



## Watch: Episode 2 – Nan Tong

[www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos)

### **Key takeaways:**

- Nan Tong's testimony speaks of a cross-cultural worker journeying with him and inviting him to meet Jesus. Through this, Nan Tong learned that the path to salvation was not by works, but through faith in Jesus.
- Just as the cross-cultural worker was called and planted among the Ethnic Thai, Nan Tong is planted as a follower of Jesus among his own community.
- While his community and family expected that Nan Tong would remain a devout Buddhist, his story illustrates that Jesus can be revealed in all contexts and followed in culturally distinctive ways. By God's grace, cultural, social and religious barriers can be overcome.

### Bring it Home

- Pray for opportunities to share faith where you are planted, pray for hearts to be opened, by God's grace, to receive the truth of Jesus.
- Grow your vision for empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus, in partnership with Global Interaction. This is our vision and we believe that what is learned in a global context can be adapted to a local context too.
- Is God calling you to cross-cultural mission, to share faith among least-reached people groups? Speak to trusted friends, your pastor and your local Global Interaction State Director to help you discern your call.

### Go Deeper

- Experience for yourself how God is using Global Interaction's ministry to grow His Kingdom through a Global Xposure short-term visit. Contact your State Office.
- Invite a Global Interaction speaker to your church or small group.
- Sow into cross-cultural mission financially by supporting a cross-cultural worker or candidate. Consider committing to a long-term partnership to help sustain a long-term vision for transforming lives:  
[www.globalinteraction.org.au/Give](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/Give)

# *Week Three - Sow where He Calls*

## Food for Thought

Over the past two weeks, we have explored what it is to grow our heart response to people in the places where we are planted, as Jesus would have us do. We have seen that as we sow where we are planted God uses us. This week we will explore sowing in response to community needs, both where we are and beyond.

Our cross-cultural teams often live and serve within communities of people who experience daily physical challenges. Many of these communities face lack of quality healthcare and education, poverty, subsistence living and political and environmental instability. For our cross-cultural teams to build authentic relationships with local people, they must engage with their friends' physical needs. However this isn't the end of the story. Crucial to sowing into their community is their response to Jesus' call to "...go and make disciples..."

### **How are you sowing into the community in which you live? And how are you sowing into global mission?**

Sowing can take many forms. It can mean using your gifts and experiences, your finances, your time, your prayers, your home or anything else God has equipped you with. As a mission organisation, Global Interaction calls individuals and faith communities to sow into a vision for global mission through praying, giving and going. These are practical responses that support cross-cultural ministry among the least reached, and we believe God equips each of us to sow in the way He is calling us to.



## Watch: Episode 3 – Creation Care [www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos)

### **Key takeaways:**

- Muslims believe in a creator God who entrusts humanity with care for His creation. This is an area of common ground and a place where faith sharing conversation can begin.
- The team in South East Asia saw that God's creation, His prevalent beauty in the landscape was overrun with rubbish and waste. This moved the team to respond. What moves us can also drive us to action.
- The cross-cultural worker Andy, was able to adapt his professional skills and experience to sow into this community with a project that delivered environmental and community engagement outcomes. God can use our professional skills and experiences in unlikely places.

## Bring it Home

- Pray that community development projects will respond effectively and appropriately to community needs, and open doors for faith sharing opportunities.
- What are the needs in your local community and how can you sow and grow opportunities for faith sharing?
- What professional skills or experience do you have and how might God use these skills in a cross-cultural setting? Speak with your local Global Interaction State Director.

## Go Deeper

- Sow into ministries and projects that resonate with you. Global Interaction's projects are creating opportunities for our cross-cultural workers to make an impact and build relationships, where faith sharing can occur: [www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMprojects](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMprojects)

# *Week Four – Milestones in Mission*

## Food for Thought

As we grow where we are planted, and sow where He calls we see God's hand at work. By God's grace and in His time we begin to celebrate milestones in our ministries. For Global Interaction's ministry, our vision is to see growing, vibrant faith communities among the least-reached. This takes time, decades even, and we celebrate every milestone along the way.

- One believer comes to Christ
- A life is transformed
- Others see and believe
- A small faith community begins to blossom
- Local faith leaders are nurtured and equipped
- A vibrant faith community begins to grow!

Expressing faith in Jesus in contextually appropriate ways is a defining characteristic of Global Interaction's approach to mission. Our teams journey with people, inviting them to meet Jesus, walking alongside new believers, nurturing local faith leaders and equipping them to lead their own people. Through the prayerful and financial partnership of the Australian Baptist community, and the Spirit's leading, we are empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus.

## Watch: Episode 4 – Paul

[www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/MMMvideos)

### **Key takeaways:**

- Paul came to Jesus through a cross-cultural worker who journeyed with him. As his faith grew, he was empowered to sow, as a faith leader, into his own community.
- As we mature in our faith, we continue to be discipled and begin to disciple others.

- Sharing the Gospel contextually reveals Jesus in ways that are culturally understandable to the local community. As they grow as believers within the context of their own culture, they establish their own distinctive ways of following Jesus.
- Seeing local leaders disciple a small and growing faith community, in time allows cross-cultural workers in this region to discern God's leading to go and make disciples in nearby villages. Growing sustainable faith communities releases cross-cultural workers to serve and share the Gospel in other locations.

## Bring it Home

- Pray for local faith leaders, for those who are discipling them and those whom they are disciplining.
- What does your faith community do that is distinct from others? How do you empower one another or others to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus?

## Go Deeper

- *Strategic Mission Week* and *Culture and Language Workshop* are two excellent courses run by Global Interaction that will challenge and further equip you for mission in a cross-cultural context, locally or globally: [www.globalinteraction.org.au/Courses](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/Courses)
- Familiarise yourself with Global Interaction's Ongoing Relationships, the established faith communities we continue to partner with and equip. These offer an encouraging glimpse into the future of our current ministry among the least-reached: [www.globalinteraction.org.au/OngoingRelationships](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/OngoingRelationships)
- Invite someone you know to discuss the opportunities of cross-cultural mission. Our ministry relies on churches who grow disciples who will sow where He calls.





empowering communities to develop their  
own distinctive ways of following Jesus

[www.globalinteraction.org.au](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au)