



# News & Prayer

## Prayer and Praise

Thurs 13 June - Wed 26 June

- 13 T **Thailand** Cover the **Ethnic Thai believers** in prayer. Pray for flourishing faith communities and empowered leaders. Pray for our team as they equip, train and walk alongside the local believers.
- 14 F **Thailand** Pray for **Jit and Jan** as they offer practical, relational and spiritual support to people with disabilities and their families. Pray for God's love to be experienced in a transformative way.
- 15 S **Thailand** Give thanks for the encouraging **Global Exposure** church group that recently visited the team. Pray that this experience will have a lasting impact on those who went.
- 16 S **Silk Road Area** Pray for **Mel** as she continues to learn culture and language with her local language nurturer, Gayle. Pray for Mel and Gayle's friendship to grow in trust and understanding.
- 17 M **Silk Road Area** Pray for **Eliza, Mel and Suzanne** as they teach English and work alongside three local teachers. Pray for God to be growing Gospel curiosity in the hearts of the local teachers.
- 18 T **Silk Road Area** As **Ben and Petra** return to Australia for their Off-Location time, they write, "Thank God for the support we have always had and pray that we will be able to grow the support we need in the short time we have back in Australia."
- 19 W **Malawi** Our team shares that **Yawo people** often ask God to lead them on the right path, pray that many would come to know that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.
- 20 T **Malawi** Pray for **Jean-Claude and Joyce** as they reach out to their Yawo neighbours, asking God how they can join with Him in mending the physical, emotional and spiritual brokenness their friends are experiencing. Pray for many to experience God's healing and hope.
- 21 F **Malawi** Give thanks for the encouraging time **Ian** recently spent in Malawi. The purpose of the trip was to visit schools to teach students how to use the Ciyawo-English Dictionary and App. Pray that this dictionary helps to improve education outcomes for Yawo children.
- 22 S **South East Asia** Pray for **Widya and Simon** as they serve through our team's Education Foundation. Pray for the group of local women that Widya is regularly meeting with to read the Bible. Pray for lives to be transformed as they explore God's Word.
- 23 S **South East Asia** Pray for **Ando, and Pat and Joy** as they spend time in Australia for their Off-Location period. Give thanks for encouraging connections with partnering churches, and pray that they will receive the full support they need in order to return to their ministries in South East Asia.
- 24 M **South East Asia** Praise God for all the relationships **our team** is growing with local people. Pray for our team to be attentive to the Spirit's promptings as they journey alongside their local friends, seeking opportunities to share the hope of Jesus.
- 25 T **Board** Lift up **Beth, Surette, Trevor, Jenny, Jason and Scott** as they serve on our Board. Pray for wisdom, courage and the Spirit's leading as they make decisions in a time of rapid change, both in our world and in global mission.
- 26 W **National Support Team** Give thanks for the passionate team who serve as our **National Support Team**. Pray for clarity and creativity as they connect with Australian church communities and work to support our intercultural team members in their ministries.



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## Ministry Video

### Our Lives as Witness

Simon and Widya, South East Asia

Simon and Widya write, “Living life as ‘God’s Open Book’ is the main thing we strive to do wherever we are. As an Open Book, we try to live by the values of God’s Kingdom in our words, deeds and thoughts. Joining with Jesus in mending the world, we look for creative and consistent ways in which the Truth can be heard, seen and felt by as many people as possible.”

Widya, Simon and other Baptist Mission Australia team members gather with the local Education Foundation staff for weekly devotions. The staff come from a mix of Muslim, Hindu and Christian backgrounds, so conversations around faith and Kingdom values are met with a variety of interest and response.

Slowly but faithfully, Widya, Simon and our team build relationships and gets alongside the local staff. Trust grows, curiosity in the Kingdom develops and opportunities arise for our team to share about Jesus, the King of Kingdom. Pray for our team as they lead these weekly devotions. Pray for God to go before them as they listen deeply to other’s stories and share stories from the Bible.

Additionally, Widya is regularly meeting with a small group of women to explore the Bible. Widya writes, “One evening, we were reading Joseph’s story, and one of the women in the group expressed her admiration for Joseph’s willingness to forgive his brothers and stated that she wished to have a heart like Joseph’s.

Rosa, despite being from a Christian people group, stated that she had never met somebody willing to help her read God’s words in ways that she could understand. When Rosa prayed at the end of the night, she shared her gratitude to God and asked Him to make her heart like Joseph’s. I feel humbled and amazed by how God is at work in Rosa’s heart.”

Pray that God’s Spirit be at work within the hearts of their local friends.

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## From Scott

### Mending Together

Karim struggled with alcohol and drug addiction for more than a decade. Married with four children, he knew he needed to change his ways and was searching for hope. God’s Spirit placed our Malawi team member Jean-Claude in his life and a friendship developed.

Jean-Claude tells me that he prayed for almost a year for Karim to discover new life in Christ.

“Recently Karim came to find me at my house and told me he wanted to give his life to Jesus,” Jean-Claude shared. “There has been such a big change in his life and there is great joy in Karim’s family. God is good!”

Another flourishing ministry in Malawi is the sewing training Joyce has been leading. There is high demand for the training, which opens the door to income generating opportunities for people living in impoverished communities. A third group of students will finish their training in June, not only gaining new vocational skills but discovering a new sense of hope and dignity and hearing about the life-transforming love of Jesus.

Ibrahim, 21 years old, left school five years ago because of his poor financial situation. Last year he completed Joyce’s six-month sewing course. He now lives in Cape Town where he has found well-paid employment as a tailor and is able to send money to Malawi to support his family.

We give thanks for God’s mending work in individual lives, families, relationships and communities and the privilege we have – across the street and across the world – to share in God’s restorative vision as co-menders.

**Our mending God is at work in Malawi and in Thailand – even when at first, we can’t see it!**

Liz from our Thailand team recently shared this story:



“Aunty Ja has been working with us for about five years now. She takes care of the House of Light Ministry building, our house and helps with the gardens between the two properties a few mornings a week. Over the years she has become more like family, and she affectionately refers to us as one of her relatives when she introduces us to someone new in our community.

**She has shared hard stories about her life, and we’ve had opportunities to pray for her and with her. While she has never been completely resistant to hearing the Gospel, she would listen and then quickly remind us that she is Buddhist.**

At some point in the past year, it felt like our relationship was a bit strained. When we took opportunities to go deeper, we were often met with short replies or hurried business to get her job done. In the past month I lamented to Glenn that it felt like maybe the door had closed with Ja.

Last week while Ja was dusting the bookshelves, shelves that she must have dusted hundreds of times over the years she noticed a book. It is called ‘The Book of Hope’, a chronological collection of Bible stories written in Thai and illustrated with Thai drawings. **It was carefully written in a way that uses language that is culturally appropriate to a Thai Buddhist. Ja picked up the book and approached Glenn and I and asked if it would be ok if she took it home as she really wanted to read the stories.**

I must admit I was a little taken aback. Had I not just grieved that it felt like the door was closed and here she was, asking to know more? I then asked her if she would like to read a story together and then we can discuss it. She was quite excited about this, so she sat down and started reading the creation story out aloud then and there. We agreed to keep reading it together each week.

**God is good. He is working even when we can’t see it!”**

Yes, God is at work, bringing shalom to lives and communities – and we all get to play our part in his transformative vision. Thank you for your partnership in the good news of Jesus.

Let’s be praying for Karim, Ibrahim and Aunty Ja and their families – and our teams in Malawi and Thailand as they continue to faithfully serve as co-menders.

Grace and peace.

Scott

PS:

**Please join me for our next UNITE prayer gathering on Tuesday 25 June. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together online from across the globe and around Australia to pray together.**

**To receive the Zoom link, register at:**  
[www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/UNITE](http://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/UNITE)

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## Appeal

### Papua New Guinea Landslide

Australian Baptists have a long history of ministry in Papua New Guinea. And following the recent deadly landslide in Northern Papua New Guinea, Baptist Mission Australia and Baptist World Aid have joined together practically and prayerfully to respond to the disaster and the growing humanitarian need.

**You can find out more and make a gift to our joint appeal via Baptist World Aid’s website:**  
[www.baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/png-landslide-appeal](http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/png-landslide-appeal)