



News & Prayer

Prayer and Praise

Thurs 18 April - Wed 1 May

- 18 T **Malawi** Pray for God to be powerfully at work among the Yawo, bringing His restoration and healing. Pray for our **team** to be attentive to the Spirit's promptings as they seek to live as co-menders who share God's love and hope in relevant ways.
- 19 F **Malawi** Pray for **David** as he works with the Yawo faith leaders in their Biblical training. The groups are going through a Biblical Prophets and Prophecy series, and a Foundational Bible series. Pray for the leaders to be equipped and empowered.
- 20 S **Malawi** Pray for **Gary and Shirley** as they prepare to return to Australia for a short Off-Location time. Before that, Gary will be teaching Pastoral Ethics in Zambia. Pray for the Bible college students in Malawi and Zambia as they do their best to learn in environments with limited resources.
- 21 S **Myanmar** Pray for **peace**. Pray for an end to the violence and brutal persecution of people groups such as the Chin, Kachin and Karen. Pray for children to be able to go to school, and for all to be able to live safely and thrive.
- 22 M **Myanmar** Pray for the millions of **displaced people**. Pray that the Good Shepherd would give people safe passage to secure places and shield them from violence.
- 23 T **Myanmar** Pray for **Baptist Mission Australia's** role as we seek to advocate, share resources and partner with Karen, Chin and Kachin communities in Australia, as they support friends and family back in Myanmar.
- 24 W **Cambodia** Pray for **Luke and Rachel** as they prepare to return to Australia, where Rachel will continue to serve through her project working with children with disabilities. Pray for God's hand to be on their transition.
- 25 T **Cambodia** Praise God for how He is at work in Cambodia. Pray for **Khmer people** who are curious about the Gospel to come into contact with our team. Pray for seekers to meet Jesus.
- 26 F **Papua New Guinea** Give thanks for the faithful **pastors and leaders** in PNG. Pray that they will be spurred on in their ministries as they walk in the step with the Spirit.
- 27 S **Papua New Guinea** Pray for the **youth conference** that is being held later this year. Pray for the team planning the conference, which has the objective of "Equipping, moulding, shaping and raising Christian leaders of tomorrow".
- 28 S **South East Asia** Give thanks for the amazing opportunities God is opening for our team to share the love of Jesus through the **Creation Care project**. Pray for the holistic impact of the practical and relationship building initiatives.
- 29 M **South East Asia** **Caz** is meeting with a small group of local women each week. Together they share deeply about their lives, faith and the challenges they face. Pray for God to be moving through their conversations and for mutual trust to continue to grow.
- 30 T **May Mission Month** Pray that God's Spirit will speak through the Mending! theme and **resources**. Pray for Baptist Mission Australia speakers as they share with churches and connect with supporters.
- 1 W **May Mission Month** Lift up **Australian church communities** as they explore what it means to live as co-menders with God in their neighbourhoods and beyond. Pray for people of all ages to grow their heart for our beautiful, broken world.



Ministry Story

Authentic Relationships

Mat and Shannon, Outback Australia

In an encouraging video update, Shannon and Mat share how they are joining with God in His transformative work each day.



Watch the video by scanning the QR code or visiting: www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/AuthenticRelationships/Video

Video Transcript:

“Hi, we’re Mat and Shannon and we’re part of the Outback team. We live in a base in Kalkaringi and serve in the Northern Territory.

Joining with God in His work is something that we’re all called to do, and such a big part of that is people’s relationship to God and to one another. And so the foundation upon any ministry, therefore, is relationship with people as we seek to help people grow in their relationships with God and one another. And so that’s a big part of what we seek to do here.

Relationships create the places where genuine connections become fruitful and life giving.

Last year, we went through a significant flood with our new community having just shifted up here from Yuendumu. We all were evacuated and that laid the foundation for a lot of connections with people that helped us throughout this last year to build relationships and continue to grow from that point.

We’ve been able to connect really well with the school through our kids attending and through our presence there as a family. Some of the school staff have gotten to know us really well and students and part of the way through last year, the principal approached me about being a chaplain at the school, which has opened up great relationships too.

We’ve got connections through Bible studies with church and just through living life, alongside people going to the shop clinic, wherever we might be, connecting with people and praying that God will make those relationships fruitful as He can and does all over the world.

We’re excited for the things that are coming up. We have training camp coming up in the middle of this year. We’re really excited to continue to see God’s people in the various communities come together and grow together and strengthen one another and learn more about God.

We have a great foundation to build from now and we’re really thankful for that and pray that God would continue to give us more opportunities.

Thank you for your partnership. It’s not possible for us to do this without it.”

From Scott

Training Local Leaders

One of the most urgent needs in the rapidly growing global south church is the in-situ training of missionally-focused pastors and leaders.

By 2030, it’s estimated that 70% of followers of Jesus will live in the global south (the non-western world) and many of these people live, serve, and lead in impoverished communities where new approaches to leadership and pastoral training are required.

In many places across the world there is a need for relevant, cost-effective, in-situ training for local pastors, church leaders and emerging leaders.



Many of these people do not have the financial resources or educational background to access traditional theological education, and many don't need tertiary qualifications to be effective in their local ministry. But they do yearn for relevant, recognised training that will help them grow as fruitful, Christ-centred missional leaders.

I am seeing this need - and opportunity - first-hand this week, as I meet in Harare with leaders and pastors from the Baptist Union of Zimbabwe. The group are embarking on a new leadership training journey utilising the Re-Forma platform, supported by Rev Dr Roger Kemp. (Find out more here: www.re-forma.global)

Founded on outcome and impact-based assessment, Re-Forma provides recognised practical benchmarks for non-formal pastoral and leadership training. The training and assessment can be provided in-situ, online and in hybrid contexts, and outcomes can be achieved in writing and orally. At the completion of the modules, participants are awarded a Certificate of Biblical Training for Ministry accredited by the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA).

There are more than 2,500 registered Re-Forma groups across the globe, meeting in 87 countries, across more than 60 languages.

Re-Forma research notes that more than 90% of all pastors worldwide do not have a formal theological education. This equates to well over 2 million Protestant pastors worldwide. In addition, every year thousands of new churches/faith communities are established, very often without a trained pastor or mission leader.

This is certainly a challenge in Zimbabwe, where there are growing number of Baptist churches and church plants without trained pastors. The same is true in Zambia, where I will meet with leaders from the Central Baptist Association this week.

Roger Kemp, who serves on the Re-Forma international board, has introduced the Re-Forma training approach to Baptist groups in Zambia and Zimbabwe. We're looking forward to seeing the outcomes of this training, building on many years of leadership training Roger has facilitated in Africa.

Baptist Mission Australia is partnering with TCMA in the delivery of this vital training in Africa. Aligned with the huge shifts in world Christianity, Baptist Mission Australia is looking forward to strengthening missional leadership development opportunities across the globe. This support of leaders, contextual mission training in Africa, Asia and Australia, and our support of other training partners will be overseen by a new intercultural mission leadership network that we're establishing this year. We will share more news on the network later this year.

Let me invite you to join me in praying for:

- » The Re-Forma groups we're supporting in Zimbabwe and Zambia.
- » The broader Re-Forma movement across the world.
- » The formation of the new intercultural mission leadership network under the leadership of Geoff Maddock.
- » The wonderful ministry of Roger and Barbara Kemp.
- » Our discernment of new mission opportunities in our rapidly changing world.



It has been a privilege to spend time with Roger and Barbara this week – they are legends in our mission community.

The Kemps first came to Zambia in 1977 with Baptist Mission Australia, returning to Australia in 1985. Since re-locating to Australia, they have made regular trips to Africa to equip leaders and foster mission. Over the past 39 years they have impacted many lives and been used by God's Spirit to train, encourage and develop leaders in Africa and other parts of the world. We honour them and thank God for them!

Grace and peace,

Scott

Resources

May Mission Month



The key video for May Mission Month 2024 is here!

This video has been created as a entry point for churches and small groups to explore the Mending! theme and engage with the full series. We pray it inspires and encourages your church community as we partner together with God in mending a beautiful, broken world.

Watch Mending! here:

www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/MendingVideo

Plus... There are resources for all ages to engage with the Mending! series.

Explore videos from our teams, leader's guides, reflective prayers, giving opportunities, children and youth activities, podcast episodes and more.

Explore Resources here:

www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/MMMresources

If you have any questions about this key Mending! video or any other May Mission Month resources or partnership opportunities, please get in touch with our team.