



News & Prayer

Prayer and Praise

Thurs 9 March - Wed 22 March

- 9 T **Floods** Heavy rain has caused major flooding in the NT communities of **Kalkarindji, Daguragu and Pigeon Hole**. 700 residents have been evacuated, including our team members **Mat and Shannon** and their four young children. We give thanks that the family is safe. Pray with us for the hundreds of people who have lost everything.
- 10 F **Floods** One of the local believers shared, "There is a lot of uncertainty around how long we will be dislocated and away from everything we know and love. It has been a long few days and it is not over yet." Pray that during this challenging time, the **local church** can shine, sharing God's love through word and practical action.
- 11 S **Floods** Pray for God's provision as we seek funds to support the long-term community recovery effort.
- 12 S **South East Asia** Members of our South East Asia team are currently attending a **training course** for culture and language facilitators, as they teach English at the Education Foundation. Pray for this to be a fruitful time that will help them engage meaningfully with their local friends.
- 13 M **South East Asia** Pray for **Mike** as he looks for a suitable house to rent. This can be a long process as there is no centralised way to see which houses are available. Pray that his future home will be a place of welcome, relationship building and faith sharing.
- 14 T **South East Asia** Mike writes, "Please lift up the **local people**. Pray for God to be at work in their hearts. Pray that they would be open and attentive to the Father's voice. And ask that we, the team, would be ready to participate in God's work as He leads us."
- 15 W **Papua New Guinea** Baptist Mission Australia and the **Baptist Union of PNG** have signed a new five year partnership. Give thanks for this new season of partnership after 75+ years of ministry together.
- 16 T **Papua New Guinea** Pray that this partnership will help BUPNG grow it's Kingdom impact, as leaders are developed and an intercultural sending arm is established. Pray for **Geoff Cramb** as he works alongside BUPNG.
- 17 F **Cambodia** The whole community of the house church Luke and Rachel are involved in is being involuntarily relocated. Pray for God to make a way for this small **faith community** to continue, despite its fragility.
- 18 S **Cambodia** **Rachel and Luke's** disability therapy project is almost up and running. Praise God for His provision of a great space to rent and a passionate staff member to join the project team.
- 19 S **Thailand** Pray for the **leadership training** events that are held each month. Pray for the Ethnic Thai leaders to be equipped with the Word of God so they can share it in relevant ways with their communities.
- 21 M **Thailand** Following a decade of serving in Thailand, **Petina** has returned to Australia. Give thanks for her faithfulness to go, and pray for her as she transitions back to life in Australia.
- 21 T **May Mission Month** The theme for May Mission Month this year is **Alongsiders**. Pray that the **resources** prompt fruitful conversations about global and local mission.
- 22 W **May Mission Month** Pray for **Australian church communities** to engage richly with how God is at work around the world and how we can all partner with Him in His mission.



Ministry Story

Everyday Alongsiders

Eliza and David, Silk Road Area

It's been a pleasure to welcome 'Christy' back to the team of English teachers at our English Centre. After going on maternity leave a couple of years ago, she has slotted back into the work really easily. Ethnically Christy is of a neighbouring culture, but sees the need to speak the K language for the sake of her K students. The humility she demonstrates is really encouraging and counter cultural.

Together with our other teacher 'Dilia', we have rich discussions about how to best serve our students. But the wrestling with stories from the Bible about Jesus are the highlight of the week... Why did He not turn the stones into bread? Do his words have power? Is it easier to turn water into wine or to heal someone?

Please keep petitioning on behalf of these two women, that the Spirit would continue to draw them towards the Father. **Please also pray for their husbands. David and the boys continue to play basketball with Christy's husband 'Ryan'.** May the husbands of these two women notice what's happening in their lives and not be offended by it, but be intrigued and drawn to the Son themselves.

Anna, our K believing friend, moved to a village closer to the city with her children last year. We visited her in January. She continues to cycle through family stress, which prompts ill health.

May God show us how to connect with and support a different K believer here in our village who may be able to take over from Anna as the leader of the 'Sunday tea group'.

Eliza and Caitlyn attended a neighbour's 40-day baby party last week. Eliza was given the honour of trimming the baby girl's finger nail, part of the tradition of celebrating a new baby. Pray that this baby girl will come to know Jesus as her Lord and Saviour.

Executive Director Update

A New Season of Partnership

Scott Pilgrim

Greetings! I'm writing this ED Update from India, where this week I will be celebrating our partnership with the Baptist Convention of Mizoram [BCM].

This special partnership dates back to 1969 when the parents of our current Thailand Team Leader Muana, took up responsibility for our work in Assam, India, when Australian team members were refused visas.

And, seeing our 2023 theme being lived out, God was certainly going before us. In time, we would welcome Muana and Villy as seconded team members in Thailand, followed by other wonderful Mizo team members. They have all become much loved and respected members of our mission community.

I look forward to sharing in BCM Assembly this week and meeting with convention leaders, as we explore how we can build our partnership as we share in God's mission together. I'm looking forward to travelling this week with Rema, one of our valued Mizo team members, now based in Delhi and serving as our Asian Mission Mobiliser.

Speaking above of Assam, Rema, has recently returned from the area as we explore new partnership opportunities in a part of India with special historical connections with our Australian Baptist movement. Following on from a successful contextual mission training gathering last October, we're chatting with leaders from the Rabha, Adivasi, Garo and Boro associations, discerning together potential new partnership opportunities in our changing world.

We have entered into several new partnership opportunities which I would invite you to be praying for. We warmly welcome financial support for these new partnership initiatives in PNG, Zambia and Myanmar.



As many readers will be aware we have a long history of partnership PNG and Zambia and I'm greatly encouraged to have signed new partnership agreements with the Baptist Union of PNG [BUPNG] and the Central Baptist Association of Zambia [CBAZ].

Under the new five-year PNG partnership, we look forward to supporting the BUPNG through:

- » Provision of a consulting role, focused on ministry/leadership coaching and support
- » Supporting BUPNG to establish an intercultural sending arm
- » Building the capacity of BUPNG to develop and train leaders
- » Developing a project to help fund the construction of transit housing at the Baptist Theological College of Kwinkya
- » Renewing short-term ministry team visits to assist BUPNG on agreed projects

You can give to support the partnership here:

www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/PNGpartnership

These initiatives will make a Kingdom difference in PNG and beyond. Your support will foster the training and leadership development of Baptist women and men, including an emerging generation of passionate followers of Jesus. **And we will be working with the BUPNG to support the development of their own, culturally relevant sending body. This will be a wonderful step forward for PNG Baptists and those they will serve across the Pacific and beyond.**

In Zambia, the CBAZ Holistic Transformation project will enable the establishment of a skills training centre in Kipiri Mposhi, a regional centre in Central Zambia and the home base of the Central Baptist association.

This centre will provide life-transforming skills training and employment and income-generating opportunities for vulnerable youth and women in Central Zambia.

Zambia is a country experiencing significant poverty, with projections that this will seriously worsen as the population is expected to double by 2025, a result the country's extremely high adolescent pregnancy rate.

In seeking to respond with a proactive, holistic response, CBAZ leadership see a vital need to support at-risk youth and vulnerable women, living in impoverished communities. **The training centre will provide participants with the opportunity to access a range of vocational training options, such as bricklaying, carpentry, sewing, hairdressing, as well as micro business skills.**

Success will see participants experience greater dignity, independence, choice, financial and social inclusion in the community and the opportunity to earn an income, supporting themselves and family members.

You can give to support this project here:

www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/CBAZ

We have also recently signed a partnership agreement with Sharing Hope, a Melbourne-based Christian organisation, that has been supporting work in Myanmar and on the Thai border for more than a decade. This partnership will provide opportunities to support schools in Karen State, which play a special role beyond education in the war-torn country. We will also be supporting the development of pastors and mission workers in Thai border refugee camps.

I will be sharing more about this partnership in the weeks ahead. We're also discussing opportunities to support Chin pastors in Myanmar and I look forward to progressing these conversations.

As Gospel people we recognise and celebrate the power of partnership – of serving together as co-workers in the good news of Jesus.

As we pursue our Strategic Roadmap and look to the future we see the Spirit leading us into more partnerships around the world. As we look across the world - in a rapidly changing international mission landscape – we see God at work through exciting collaborations, as western and global south agencies come to the table together in missional partnerships.

Grace and peace

Scott



Opportunity

Outback Australia Flood Appeal



In recent days, the Upper Victoria River reached over 16 metres, causing extensive damage to properties and infrastructure. Hundreds of people have lost everything, many without insurance, and whole communities have been devastated.

Given our long history of ministry in this part of the country, it is close to the hearts of Australian Baptists.

As such, Baptist Mission Australia, in partnership with the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory and the Baptist Churches of South Australia, is seeking to support the long-term recovery effort.

Make a Gift to the Flood Appeal:
www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/FloodAppeal