

South East Asia

The People Groups

The Global Interaction team serves among a variety of people groups in South East Asia, predominantly the B.I and S.I people. The B.I people are scattered across a number of small islands. They liken themselves to pineapples, prickly on the outside but sweet on the inside. As a highly communal culture they observe strict societal boundaries around behaviour and religious practices. These boundaries work to maintain honour and avoid shame.

Around 45 million S.I people live in one of the most densely populated regions on earth. S.I people value maintaining their distinct identity and traditional cultural practices. The vast majority of S.I people are Muslim with animistic influences. Most see following Jesus as a betrayal of their people and culture. The S.I people who are choosing to place their faith in Jesus have come to understand that following Jesus is not about forsaking their cultural identity, but about entering the Kingdom of God.

The Ministry

The team has established various projects in South East Asia that are making an impact and expanding avenues for relationships to grow.

The Education Foundation continues to offer opportunities for local people to learn new skills, improve their education and grow their employment opportunities. Likewise, the Café and Creation Care initiatives are providing platforms for local people to connect with wholistic activities that respond to their physical, environmental and spiritual needs.

COVID has significantly impacted the country of South East Asia and the team's ministry. Through their already established platforms, the team has begun humanitarian initiatives of providing much needed food to families and PPE to health workers. This is building trust and relationships within the community.

The team is witnessing more and more people open to exploring Jesus and responding to His message. New believers are discerning how to live out their faith within their communities in new ways.

Team Members

Dave (Team Leader) and Caz
Daz and Bee
Pat and Joy
Max and Ezzie
Ando
Mike
Ally (candidate)
Kate (candidate)
Simon and Widya (candidates)

Prayer Needs

- » That the intercultural team will continue to build meaningful relationships in which Jesus can be shared
- » **For believers to be strengthened, encouraging each other and growing in their understanding of God's Word together**
- » That believers will remain in their communities without experiencing opposition
- » For God's Spirit to stir in the hearts in people's hearts a desire to meet Jesus
- » **For seekers to be emboldened to explore Jesus, not only as a prophet but as the Messiah**
- » For God's protection over the team and vulnerable people during COVID

Stories of Hope from South East Asia

One Person After Another

Phillip grew up in a very poor family in South East Asia. He didn't have opportunities for much education. But God in His kindness reached out to Phillip, and Phillip came to know and put his trust in Jesus. He entered into God's Kingdom.

Since that time, Phillip has had a desire to share the good news of Jesus with others. He works with our team in our community development initiatives, particularly working with local scavenger communities. These communities are about the lowest rung on the social ladder in South East Asia.

Phillip lives a very simple lifestyle with his wife. They live in a tiny little house. **But Phillip is constantly engaged in sharing good news of Jesus with those that he comes into contact with.** One person after another hears the good news and comes into the Kingdom because of Phillip's sharing.

Those people in turn will then share with their spouse and children. And in this way the Kingdom is starting to spread from household to household.

Phillip gathers some of the people that have become leaders in this small movement from different parts of our city. Together with some of our other local workers, he disciples these people, and teaches them how to establish small house churches in their homes from which they can in turn share with other people.

Will you continue to pray for our team as they seek to minister in partnership with people like Philip and others? Please pray that the Kingdom of God will continue to grow in this part of the world.

More Stories from South East Asia

- » **Episode 17 of Missioning** with Dave: www.globalinteraction.org.au/Missioning
- » **Short news articles:** www.globalinteraction.org.au/News

The Start of Movement

Team Leader Dave shares incredible stories of God moving in the lives one, then two, then countless more!

“Alice came to faith and was the first employee of the Education Foundation. She later brought two of her friends from university to interview and subsequently work there too. Over time, both of those women came to know Jesus, were baptised and are influencing others to come to faith. They both now hold leadership roles in the Education Foundation.

All three of these women grew up in Muslim families and all three were the first believers in their extended families and villages. They are now passing on the Good News to others in their communities.

Bernie is the head of our Creation Care work. He is meeting weekly with six men from Muslim backgrounds who are now followers of Jesus. These men are from different parts of the city here and Bernie is training them in outreach and establishing new home groups. There have been ten people who have come to faith over the past few months through this ministry and there are several more families eager to hear the good news of Jesus.

These kinds of stories have been repeated over and over here among the local staff in the past few months. Praise God for the movement of His Spirit and pray for more people here to find freedom in Jesus.”