



# *Spearhead*

GLO MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

ISSUE 2 | 2022

*Thankful*





ANDREW COWELL  
GLO Co-Director

# Editorial

Today I am grateful for

Grateful people are happy people, research shows. In fact, scientists have found that people who feel grateful often sleep better, have less pain, and do not get sick as often. In short, developing an attitude of gratitude is good for you.

Developing an attitude of gratitude, however, is not only good for you but also God's will for you! In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul says, "be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus" (NLT).

Since developing an attitude of gratitude is God's will for us, we thought it would be wise to dedicate a whole edition of Spearhead to giving thanks to God for the good things that He has been doing in Australia and overseas. In Australia, we are thanking God for big ministry breakthroughs ("GLO Australia Update" pg. 3), build-ings ("Base Camp" pg. 6), and that GLO College

of Ministries will be back in the business of residential training next year ("Open for Business" pg. 10). Overseas, we are thanking God for kick-starting a new ministry in Myanmar ("Keystone Music Center" pg. 14), restarting tract distribu-tion in India ("Back on Tract" pg. 18), and giving people a new start in Romania ("Breakthroughs amongst the Romani people" pg. 22).

As you read these accounts, we hope and trust that you will be better informed, moved to thank God for His goodness, and perhaps even inspired to join us in developing an attitude of gratitude for the many good things that God is doing.

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Are you a “destination” or a “journey” person? If you asked anyone who knows me well, they will immediately tell you that I am a “destination” person. What I am learning, however, is that one of the downsides of being a “destination” person is that when you focus solely on getting to the goal you often miss many of the good things that God is doing along the way.

My mum, on the other hand, is a “journey” person. She finds great joy in her journey with Jesus because she is constantly on the lookout for “Jesus sightings.” That is, she actively looks for signs of God at work in and through daily circumstances.

I invite you to join me as I follow my mum’s example and highlight four “Jesus sightings” that have occurred in the past eighteen months that are bringing me and the GLO team much joy as we journey with Jesus.

### 1. ACHIEVING MAJOR MILESTONES BY THE GRACE OF GOD

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By God’s grace in the past 18 months, some major milestones have been achieved.

- The GLO Smithton Training Centre and two adjoining houses have been sold grossing 1.57 million dollars.
- The CrossConnect training course together with the Thomson and Cassar families have relocated to Sydney.
- The CrossConnect team are successfully delivering training fully online.
- The Riverstone Training Centre renovation is complete.
- The internal renovations to the GLO House have been finished.
- A new database and charity operating system has been implemented.

Sadly, however, the GLO Riverstone Development has been delayed by two major setbacks.



## 2. FACING PROVIDENTIAL ROADBLOCKS & WITCHES HATS

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A lonely witch's hat sitting in the middle of the 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of vacant land that GLO is subdividing represents the first major roadblock for the 4-lot subdivision. Beneath the witch's hat lies a small 2 cm by 1 cm red silcrete flake that has been identified as an Aboriginal artefact during the "Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment." The outcome of this discovery is that an archaeological dig must be conducted to ascertain whether the site is of high historical value before the Development Application can be approved. It is estimated that the archaeological dig will take 6-12 months and cost \$40,000 - \$60,000 to complete.



In addition to the discovery of the Aboriginal artefact, the 4-lot sub-division is also being delayed by a council requirement to raise the road adjoining the Riverstone Training Centre (i.e., Hamilton St) by as much as 1.5 metres so that stormwater from the site flows to a nearby road. This requirement, if not overcome, will result in roadworks costing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

As we reflect on these roadblocks, however, we can't help but think that they are a providential pause from God because in the meantime He has provided an amazing workaround that is a big answer to prayer.

## 3. WORK AROUNDS & A BIG ANSWER TO PRAYER

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The 1-2-year delay with the 4-lot Subdivision has meant that GLO Ministries is now faced with a short-term accommodation crisis. To reboot

residential training GLO Riverstone needs to be able to accommodate 15-25 residential students each year in dwellings that are suitable for single students, married couples, and small families.

In April, a unique property that contains three dwellings on one parcel of land that is within walking distance of the training centre came onto the market. This 790 sqm property, located at 133 Garfield Road East Riverstone, consists of a two-storey dwelling containing two 3-bedroom apartments, one upstairs and one downstairs, plus a separate 2-bedroom Granny Flat. By God's grace in mid-July, using the proceeds from the sale of the Smithton training centre, GLO Ministries was able to purchase this property that contains 8 large bedrooms, 3 kitchens, 4 bathrooms and 3 separate living areas on a large level block with front and rear access for 1.38 million dollars.

This property will go a long way to accommodating students in the short term. What is more, a recent large gift from a donor has meant that GLO Ministries has purchased an additional multi dwelling house that is within walking distance from the Riverstone Training Centre!

## 4. BACK ON TRACK AND ACCELERATING TOWARDS THE DESTINATION

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With many of the major projects nearing completion and Australia's borders opening up after the pandemic, GLO Ministries is poised to reboot residential training in 2023. By God's grace six students from South Korea, Cambodia, and Indonesia have already committed to studying at CrossTalk in 2023 whilst three students from Papua New Guinea, Scotland and Indonesia have indicated that they plan to study at CrossConnect next year. We are praying that these students are the first fruits of many more who will enrol in our residential training in 2023 and beyond.

As we look back on the journey that the Lord has taken us on, we can see that He has providentially worked during the pandemic when our residential training and overseas visitation ministries were paused to enable us to undertake strategic projects that have enlarged GLO's ministry platform. Looking forward we can see that God is in the process of rebooting our residential training so that GLO Ministries can get back on track discovering, developing, and deploying multiplying disciples of Jesus for evangelism, discipleship, and church planting in Australia and all over the world.

# 3 in 1

GOD'S AMAZING ACCOMMODATION  
PROVISION IN RIVERSTONE



As the development application faced delays, GLO sought the Lord's guidance for housing students in 2023. Meanwhile, God had the answer ready and waiting for us.

As the National Committee talked and prayed about the different options, it seemed that purchasing a house in Riverstone was the best way forward.

The solution would need to accommodate singles as well as families; allowing for privacy and providing ample living, cooking and bathroom spaces.

Already on the radar was a home and granny flat for sale on Garfield Road, a short walk from the GLO training centre. It featured eight bedrooms, three living spaces and four bathrooms, and seemed to be built with our purposes in mind.

With the proceeds of the sale of the Smithton Training Centre, we were able to snap up this great opportunity, with the contract settling in July.

Of course this all 'seemed' to be planned out and perfectly suitable; because that's exactly how God orchestrated it on our behalf. Praise God for this provision with us.







# *An even better* **BASE CAMP**

## RIVERSTONE TRAINING CENTRE RENOVATION UPDATE

I love the feeling that the phrase “Base Camp” conjures up. It brings with it notions of a safe site on the edge of the unknown from which exciting expeditions are initiated.

BY ANDREW COWELL

### **JESUS HAD A BASE CAMP**

Bethany, a village located a little over 2 kilometres from the edge of Jerusalem, was a base camp of sorts for Jesus. Throughout His ministry, and especially during the passion week, Bethany became a temporary base camp from which Jesus blessed others (Jn. 11:1,18; Mt. 26:6-13), was rejuvenated for ministry (Lk. 10:38, Mt. 21:17) and embarked upon His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Lk. 19:29).

### **PAUL HAD A BASE CAMP**

The Hall of Tyrannus was Paul's Ephesian Base Camp where for two years he gathered believers and held training daily. From this base camp, located on the edge of Asia Minor, Paul developed and deployed disciple makers with the result that “all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord” (Acts 19:10).

### **GLO HAS A BASE CAMP**

God has blessed GLO Ministries with a base camp that is on the edge of Sydney from which exciting missionary expeditions have been initiated. Since the early 1990s, the GLO Riverstone Training Centre has provided a base of operations for the wider ministry plus a base camp from which disciple-makers and church planters have been developed and deployed to go on mission with Jesus in Australia, South East Asia, Central Asia and even as far as Europe.

During the past two years, whilst Australia's borders have been closed due to the pandemic, GLO Australia has embarked on a project to make our Base Camp even better. With CrossConnect relocating to Sydney we decided to undertake an office fit-out that would allow for more training spaces, larger living and dining areas, plus provide extra office space.

We are thanking God for the outcome and look forward to the training centre being a hive of activity where a new generation of disciple-makers and church planters can be equipped and resourced to join Him on new expeditions, expeditions that we are not aware of yet, but that He has planned since the foundation of the world!

PHOTO BY HOWLING RED ON UNSPLASH



Communal lounge space



Dining Area



Coffee Nook



Meeting Room



## DO YOU FEEL BURDENED TO HELP US BUILD AN *even better* BASE CAMP?

If so, you will be pleased to know that donations to the GLO Building Fund are **tax deductible!**

### 1 **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

GLO Ministries Ltd Building Fund  
BSB: 083-088  
ACCOUNT: 534901938  
REFERENCE: [Your Name]  
EMAIL: To make receipting easier please  
send an email informing us of your donation  
to [accounts@glo.org.au](mailto:accounts@glo.org.au)

### 2 **ONLINE GIVING**

Go to [glo.org.au/building-projects](http://glo.org.au/building-projects)

### 3 **SEND A CHEQUE**

Payable to *GLO Ministries Ltd Building Fund*  
Please also complete the slip below,  
and post to *GLO Ministries, PO Box 171,  
Riverstone NSW 2765*



Kitchen



Office Spaces



CrossConnect Classroom

I ENCLOSE MY GIFT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE GLO MINISTRIES BUILDING FUND

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_





## FROM THE MOBILE MAINTENANCE MAN

I want to thank those who pray for and support me, and to those who contributed to the Mobile Home Fund. It has been a great provision and blessing. I moved in a couple of weeks before Easter and was able to paint it and set it up with the help of others, who assisted both financially and practically. (Shopping and decision making, especially when looking at white paints, can be overwhelming)!

I'm thankful to GLO (the Directors and Committee) for the opportunity to purchase the mobile home. It wasn't an ambition of mine. However, needing accommodation off site due to the GLO housing development, and my desire to not be crammed in suburbia, the proposition was

a good one. This also gave me an opportunity to not complain to God about not having a house of my own. It's not a fixed house but it is homely and a place of my own, and is currently in a great location. It is relatively cheaper, and from a geographical point of view opens up to me a variety of living options into the future, which is great.

It's a testament to who God is, and who He is shown to be (primarily) through His people.

Thanks,

*Luke*



# WE'RE *Open* FOR BUSINESS

The core ministry of GLO Ministries is discovering, developing, and deploying multiplying disciples of Jesus all over the world. For the past two years, however, largely due to the global pandemic, GLO College of Ministries has paused residential training so that we could focus our time and energy on relocating the Discipleship & Ministry Training from Smithton to Sydney and renovating the Riverstone Training Centre. By God's grace, these projects are ending just in time to reboot our residential Training in 2023!

In preparation for next year, the GLO Team are busy with three strategic projects that will help ensure that we are well and truly Open For Business in 2023.



**GLO COLLEGE OF  
MINISTRIES**

**CROSStalk**  
**CROSSconnect**



## ADDING EXTRA ACCOMMODATION – HOUSE & GRANNY FLAT

In early October GLO Ministries took ownership of a 3-bedroom house with a 2-bedroom Granny Flat that is strategically located within a 5-minute walk from the Training Centre. What is more, the house is located just 5 houses away from the Three-In-One house (see page 5) which GLO acquired in July. The proximity of both houses to each other and the Training Centre will facilitate a close community, which is one of the core values of GLO.

This property, together with existing accommodation, means that GLO Ministries now has 17 bedrooms available to accommodate students, be they single, couples or even small families! Considering the cost of housing in Sydney this is a remarkable outcome for which we are thankful to God.

## TRANSITIONING TO HYBRID DELIVERY – CROSSCONNECT

For over 45 years CrossConnect has delivered face-to-face discipleship and ministry training in a residential training setting. In 2023, we are pleased to report that CrossConnect will return to delivering face-to-face training in a residential setting. Additionally, the course is transitioning to Hybrid Delivery, which means CrossConnect will have the capability to deliver face-to-face in-class training whilst simultaneously delivering to online students.

This means that in 2023 CrossConnect students will be able to choose from three different modes of training:

- traditional face-to-face training based in Sydney,
- virtual online training delivered to their home,
- or a mixture of face-to-face and online training.

## DELIVERING AN UPDATED CURRICULUM – CROSSTALK

For over 25 years GLO Ministries has been delivering “English as a Second Language” (ESL) training via our CrossTalk English language course. During the pandemic, our trainers have been working hard to update the ESL Curriculum so that it more fully integrates IELTS (International English Language Testing System) preparation into the course. The aim is that students will feel even better prepared to take the IELTS test, which has become the world’s most popular English language proficiency test for higher education, vocational training, and global migration.

Since more than 10,000 organisations trust IELTS as a reliable indicator of true-to-life ability to communicate in English we are hoping that the updated curriculum will make CrossTalk even more appealing and applicable for English language learners who are wanting to be trained by capable trainers in a supportive communal setting.



The ministry team are excited to welcome students back on site next year

## ENROLLING STUDENTS NOW – GLO COLLEGE OF MINISTRIES

As a result of these three strategic projects, the GLO College of Ministries is already enrolling students for 2023. By God's grace, at the time of publication, nine students are already planning to train at GLO College of Ministries next year. Six students from South Korea, Cambodia, and Indonesia have committed to studying at CrossTalk in 2023 whilst three students from Papua New Guinea, Scotland and South Korea have indicated

that they plan to study at CrossConnect next year. It is important to note that many of these students have indicated that they desire to be better equipped to serve the Lord. We have included brief bios of two of those students below.

We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of these students plus many more so that GLO Ministries can reboot our core ministry of discovering, developing, and deploying multiplying disciples of Jesus all over the world. So, if you get the opportunity, please let people know that GLO College of Ministries is Open For Business in 2023!

## BORET & KUNTHEA – TRAINING A FUTURE TRAINER



My name is Boret, I am 42 years old. I am married to Kunthea, and we have three children. I trusted in Christ in the year 2000 and was baptised in 2002. Now I am a full-time church worker in Sangkhim Church, a brethren church planted by Singaporean missionaries in Kampong Chhnang Province, Cambodia.

In 2023 Kunthea and I are planning to study at CrossTalk and the following year at CrossConnect. We want to know more about God's will and to be better equipped for ministry so that we can start a Bible School in Sangkhim Church to equip a future generation of Cambodian disciple makers.

## LITHA – DEVELOPING AN UPCOMING LEADER

Hello, my name is Litha and I come from Malang, Indonesia. I graduated from the State University of Malang in 2017. Presently I am working as an English teacher at Worldbridge Language Center teaching students aged from 3 – 8 years old. I have 5 years of teaching experience, am an organised person, and a fast learner. I also coordinate the Youth Ministry in my church.

My aim is to develop leadership abilities plus disciple making skills so that I can equip future generations to grow up into Christ and go and make disciples of all nations.



### *A note from the Editor*

Next year GLO Ministries is awarding scholarships to these students, plus others, amounting to over \$50,000. If you would like to contribute to these scholarships, please allocate your gift to the "Timothy Project." The "Timothy Project" is an initiative by GLO Ministries to equip National Workers to multiply disciple makers and church workers in their home country. Since 1995, GLO Australia has granted scholarships to over 40 national workers from 15 different countries, making the "Timothy Project" one of our most fruitful ministry initiatives.



# LEARN ENGLISH WHILE LIVING IN AUSTRALIA

- Read, write, speak and understand Australian English
- Interact daily with Australian people
- Practice pronunciation and grammar
- Visit Australian places of interest
- Experience Australian culture
- Explore the Christian faith
- 2 x 20 week courses

The course is delivered in a Christian setting where students enjoy Bible English each morning, visit local churches and attend Christian conferences.

**ENROL NOW  
FOR 2023  
CALL TODAY!**



# *A Miracle of* **KEYSTONE**

On the 1st of February 2021, Myanmar's road toward democracy, freedom, and economic reform was indefinitely interrupted by a military coup. A one-year state of emergency was declared, borders were closed, and both travel and electronic communications were restricted, leaving Lian stranded in the United States and unable to return to Myanmar. On top of this Myanmar, a developing nation that consists of 58 million people, found itself being pummelled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With armed soldiers patrolling the streets, the closure of public schools, and a public healthcare system in disarray, the team at Dagon Community Center, together with the families of the children residing at the hostel, made the decision that it was in the best interests for all the children, except for 6 orphans, to leave the hostel and return home to their families. Amid all this uncertainty and turmoil, the team at Dagon Community Center were left wondering, "what good could God possibly bring out of this?"

## A SONG IN THE NIGHT

Recently Len Len shared with us that the establishment of the Keystone Music Center has been one of the good things that God has brought out of these difficult times.

In early April this year, God opened the way for Len Len, who had been looking after the boys in the Hostel, to move 960 km north to Kalay, to start Keystone Music Centre together with four other graduates from the Hostel. Working out of the house that Len Len is living in, there are already five on staff, who teach piano, guitar, violin, and bass to 10 to 15 students from a variety of religious backgrounds, including, Buddhists, Muslims, various local cults, as well as Christians.

The students pay minimal fees and come for lessons four days a week. Fridays are set aside to practise for the worship services, which are run on Sundays and Tuesdays. The Sunday Worship Service is streamed via zoom with Lian joining from the States, Khai Khai from the Capital, Kot and family from the farm, as well as the team from the Hostel plus past students who are residing overseas.



# Music in Myanmar

## MUSIC CENTRE

Sometimes in Scripture, we find God's children singing in the night, when things are at their darkest (Ps. 77:4–6; Acts 16:25), not because of the situation that they find themselves in, but because they believe that God has the power to bring forth light out of the darkness and hope out of despair. This is precisely what God has done for Len Len and the team in Myanmar!

Nonetheless, in a country where the average person has little money, and is mainly concerned with staying safe from the military whilst making ends meet, one must ask: "why music?"

### I'LL BRING YOU MORE THAN A SONG

Len Len says, "I chose music because I love music. It is the best way to connect with people, both believers and non-believers." In fact, Len Len is finding that worship songs, because they contain the hope of the gospel plus the good news of God's love and free offer of salvation for all, are an effective way to engage with both saved and unsaved people whilst helping them to explore their musical talents.

The Keystone Music Center, however, is about much more than just music! Ultimately Len Len

WILLIAM GINPI  
Drum Instructor

THIAN THIAN  
Violin Instructor

JOSEPH TUNG MUNG  
Bass Instructor

LEN LEN  
Piano (K.B) Instructor

PATRICK MUANG  
Lead / Acoustic Guitar  
Instructor



and the team are hoping to use music as a means to connect with and evangelise the lost, follow up and disciple believers, and ultimately to plant a church of worshipers who, in the words of Matt Redman, bring God much “more than a song,” but also offer their lives in worship to God (Rom. 12:1).

### A NEW SONG

In the longer term, Len Len and the team dream of renting bigger premises so that they can run

an English language centre as well as a music school, all with the purpose of sharing the gospel and equipping disciple makers.

They have no resources and no guarantee of safety, yet they are excited about the future and are trusting in God to lead, guide, and provide. Their dreams are big and their biggest dream of all is to show the love and care of Christ to the people around them so that one day in the future they too will sing a new song (Ps 96:1, 98:1, 149:1) of worship to the Lord.

#### *A note from the Editor*

Len Len and the team have many financial needs as they start this new ministry. If you would like to partner with them GLO Ministries will gladly pass on 100% of all gifts that are earmarked for Len Len and/or the Keystone Music Centre.







On 15 August 2021, when the Taliban established their own government in Afghanistan, Islamic Sharia Law was declared. According to Sharia Law, anyone who converts from Islam to another religion faces life imprisonment or, commonly, the death penalty.

As a result, thousands of Afghan Christians have been forced to flee their hometowns as they are hunted by the Taliban. Although the eyes of the world have turned their attention to the war in Ukraine and other crises, the danger that Afghans are facing—especially Christians—continues. In view of that can you please pray for the persecuted Christians in Afghanistan?

Paul & David, our Afghani partners, have identified 50 family members who are at risk of being discovered and persecuted. All of them are from a persecuted minority group. Some of them have converted to Christianity, making their situation even more precarious.

In partnership with Paul & David, together with Philoi Global ([philoiglobal.org](http://philoiglobal.org)), GLO Ministries is sending funds to Paul & David's displaced family members plus applying for refugee visas for them. Will you join us in praying for a miracle?

#### IN PARTICULAR, PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Supernatural protection, courage, and perseverance for Paul & David's family members, as well as Afghani believers in general.
- Food and medical care for millions in urgent physical need. Pray especially for the needs of Paul & David's family members who have had to flee homes and have lost sources of livelihood.
- The Australia Immigration Department to grant 50 "Refugee and Special Humanitarian Proposals" that GLO Ministries has submitted for Paul & David's family members.

#### *A note from the Editor*

In addition to prayer, if you would like to help provide for the daily needs of Paul & David's family members, please send a gift to GLO Ministries earmarked for "Afghanistan" (GLO Ministries Limited, BSB 083-088 Acc. 534845753). 100% of all gifts received will be passed on to this worthy cause.



# Back On Tract

The senior boys were all alert as the famous speaker addressed them from the podium. "Young men," he said, "Never give up; never, never, never give up." and he sat down. Some were disappointed but not one of those boys ever forgot that message.

As I think about our dear friends John and Sundari Pandi I see people who through the many twists and trials of their lives have NEVER given up.

I recall difficult times when they were a young family struggling to make ends meet and separated because housing was so inadequate, but they never gave up. Then too there was opposition to the work of the Lord, and they persevered and triumphed bringing together hundreds of believers to assist and cooperate in the spreading of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. Training and Elders retreats soon became part of their ministry to the service of God.

## RESUMING AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Many of their activities came to a halt during the COVID Pandemic, but praise God, this year has

seen the renewed passion for the outreach of the Gospel. In April, thirty-six elders and evangelists came together to pray and plan for the Easter Outreach and then a week later to help with the GLO Book Exhibition. There were some threats and opposition from religious extremists during the Easter outreach. Some volunteers were stopped by the police, but the work went ahead.

## FOLLOWING THROUGH

The team's goal is that these folk will go back to their respective areas and use this literature and their skills to be a great blessing to many others.

After these events the painstaking work begins when the staff send out the requested Emmaus Bible Courses and mark the hundreds of lessons



being returned each week, answering questions from students young and old as they discover the Lord Jesus; then they are put into contact with local assemblies. One family contacted at the Book Exhibition are now fellowshipping at the Vepery Assembly.

### PLANNING FOR FUTURE OUTREACH

Planning is well under way for upcoming events:

- Outreach at a Catholic Festival from 1st to 6th September 2022.
- A Gospel campaign in Chennai on the 2nd October 2022.
- A Christmas outreach on the 24th December.

*[Editor: Some of these events may be past by the time this goes to press.]*

### FOUR MAJOR INGREDIENTS:

1. People with vision and determination, such as John and Sundari, the late Victor SunderRaj who pioneered the ministry, and their wider team.
2. Much prayer; from the GLO family and other prayer supporters around the world
3. Money to finance this large and fruitful ministry.
4. Large supplies of literature from Every Home Crusade, Opal Trust, Operation Mobilisation and Emmaus

When COVID hit two years ago many aspects of the work had to be re-evaluated but now in the goodness of God, after having felt the effect of COVID themselves, John and Sundari are back on track using all and every means possible to make India, and in particular, Tamil Nadu State and Chennai City, shout for joy at the salvation of the Lord. They are a classic example of Paul's admonition in Galatians 6:9 (NIV) "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." John and Sundari never give up!

KEN HARDING

### GOOD FRIDAY LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION

- 21,000 homes
- 163 volunteers from 34 churches in Chennai
- 24,000 copies of John's gospel
- 46,000 booklets
- 187 contacts

### GLO BOOK EXHIBITION AT VEPERY GOSPEL HALL

- 10,000 Volumes
- 23 Volunteers
- 330 people, mostly Christian leaders, Pastors, Bible Teachers, Students, and parents with children.
- 4,728 Christian books and Bibles given out in various languages



PAINTING A PICTURE OF

# *Mike Taylor*





17/07/1944 – 04/07/2022

John Michael Taylor, a dearly loved and much-respected member of the GLO family, was recently called home to be with the Lord.

Mike, who was a painter by trade, was closely associated with GLO Ministries for over thirty years. Over that time, he served on the GLO National Committee, delivered training at the GLO College of Ministries, and visited ministry partners on the field in India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Romania, and South Korea.

In tribute to Mike, I would like to share three personal vignettes of a loving, encouraging, and servant-like shepherd with you.

### A LOVING SHEPHERD

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When I think of Mike the first thing that stands out to me was his genuine love for people. Often, he would call me once a month to let me know that he was praying for me. After our brief conversation, or listening to his recorded message on the phone, I always felt like God the Father was sharing some of His love for me through Mike. And I know I was not the only one that he followed up and cared for in this way! Like me, there are many others in the GLO family who would readily testify to being greatly blessed by Mike's personal love and care.

### AN ENCOURAGING SHEPHERD

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Mike's gift of encouragement is another thing that immediately comes to mind when I reflect upon his service with GLO Ministries. Mike was not only great at getting alongside people and encouraging them in their walk with God but also at going ahead of people and opening doors of service for them. He did that for me, and I saw him do that for many others. What I also saw was how he

encouraged my wife as she capably covered the home base for me while I was away on ministry trips. He would sometimes give me a gift and say, "you have to use this to treat Donna." I loved that about Mike! Somehow in one act of care, he would encourage two workers who were supplementing and complementing each other's service to God.

### A SERVANT-LIKE SHEPHERD

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In addition to his love and encouragement, another admirable quality that quickly comes to mind was Mike's humble servant-like nature. For example, whenever I was in Adelaide for ministry Mike would arrange everything, from accommodation, to food to meetings. What is more, often he would be my personal chauffeur as well! And the best thing about Mike being your personal chauffeur was that you got uninterrupted time with a loving, encouraging, servant-like shepherd who always raised your spirits and left you reassured and strengthened in the Lord.

There are so many other things that could be said about Mike but if I were to sum up in two words how God blessed GLO Ministries through Mike, it would be this, He loaned us a "Christ-like Shepherd." As such when Mike entered glory I wouldn't be surprised if Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, greeted him with the following words, "well done good and faithful shepherd."

BY ANDREW COWELL

# REMARKABLE BREAKTHROUGHS AMONGST THE *Romani People*



PHOTO BY MICHAEL SCHMID ON UNSPLASH

God has given Gheorghe (George) & Lidia Sortan, and now Cristi & Simona, their son and daughter-in-law, a remarkable burden for the Romani people. The Romani people, colloquially known as Gypsies, make up over 8% of the Romanian population and as Gheorghe puts it, are largely a “rejected and neglected people who live on the fringes of society.”

The good news, however, is that God loves to work amongst the rejected and neglected by blessing them and bringing them into His forever family. Recently Gheorghe and his family are thankful for three stories of remarkable breakthroughs amongst the Romani people in Romania.





## A STORY OF GOD'S WORD NOT RETURNING EMPTY

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In Isaiah 55:11 (NIV) the Lord declares, "my word that goes out from my mouth; It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." This is what Catalin & Ioana, who live in Gura Raului, recently experienced.

Fifteen years ago, when the church in Gura Raului was first planted, Catalin & Ioana, who are now married with two children, attended the children's ministry where they heard the gospel taught. As teenagers, they stopped attending church.

Recently, Catalin bought a rosary bracelet from an orthodox monastery. During the night he heard God's voice speaking to him in a dream, saying; "Why do you have other gods? I am the only God." The next morning, He awoke to find the rosary bracelet was broken. The dream returned the following night so Catalin reached out to George who shared the gospel with him.

Catalin & Ioana have since trusted in Christ, and are attending Gheorghe's home church in Sibiu, where they are actively involved. To which Gheorghe fittingly concluded, "The Lord's word will not return without bearing fruit."

## A STORY OF REPENTANCE THAT LEADS TO SALVATION

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In another village where a church has been recently planted Gheorghe reports that a young Christian man fell into sexual sin. As the news became public many in the village blamed the church and it was feared that this would adversely impact evangelistic efforts and the reputation of the church.

Thankfully, however, the young man repented and publicly asked for forgiveness. As Paul states in 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV) "godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret." Which was the case in this man's life, as well as for 19 others in this small village, who in subsequent months came to faith. Gheorghe commented that he had never seen God work in such a way before, but is not surprised, because the gospel is powerful to save and Christ has promised to build His church.

## A STORY OF GOD MAKING ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL IN HIS TIME

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Arguably the greatest breakthrough for Gheorghe is seeing how God is working in and through the Romanian Church to reach the Romani people. He noted, "it has taken 20 years for the Romanian Christians to get involved in the Gypsy work, but now that they see how God has changed the lives of many Gypsies and is raising up preachers from the church plants, they are getting more and more involved." For example, many Romanian Christians volunteered their time and donated money to help build the fourth Gypsy church building in Geoagiu. Which brings to mind the words found in Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV1984), "He has made everything beautiful in its time."

Gheorghe & Lidia are thankful for these remarkable breakthroughs, appreciate Cristi & Simona joining them in the work, and are praying that God would raise up others with passion and love to join them in their work with the Gypsies.

Below, L-R: Gheorghe & Lidia, Cristi & Simona, the church in Rachita, new converts on the day of their baptism.



# Summer

## CAMP VIBES

### MINISTRY IN THE MONGOLIAN SUMMER

The Mongolian summer is looked forward to as a paradise in the middle of a long and cold winter. It's not just another season, but the favourite time of the year. If you live in Mongolia, it's like living two separate lives totally different from one another. Starting on the first day of July, you can witness The Great Exodus. Everyone has packed their camping equipment and is heading out of the city, causing 150 km traffic jams and leaving the city streets deserted.



Mongolian summer sport

Some people even quit their jobs or close their rental properties as they can't imagine being stuck in the city for the summer. As more milk and vegetables are now available, people's eating habits change as well. Yogurt curds are more popular, and by the beginning of August tomatoes, cucumbers and watermelons are sold at every street corner. If you are running any ministry in Mongolia during the summer, you need a totally new approach compatible with people's summer lifestyle. Every program and initiative needs to be in the form of a camp, outdoor activity, or BBQ so that people will respond positively.

Sami and Ani Soldan are missionaries sent by a Romanian Brethren church, and they work together with other leaders and volunteers through Right Time Mongolia, an organization founded in 2015. This year's summer was more intense than previous years. This is because it came after 2 years with many COVID-19 restrictions in place. The demand from parents and kids was so high and the numbers were so overwhelming, that it felt like everyone was trying to make up for every single opportunity missed in the previous years; it felt like three summers crammed into one.



## HOW THIS SUMMER WAS DIFFERENT

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The high interest in summer camps wasn't the only different thing experienced this year. Together with the high demand, God provided an army of servants who made the camps possible, either by volunteering to help or providing financial support. Before the camp season started, Odnoo and Bayarmaa, two Mongolian Sunday school teachers contacted the camp organisers and asked for an opportunity to serve. The two of them, together with another five workers from Right Time, worked together to form an effective team. Unlike the past when they had kids coming from different areas of Ulaanbaatar, this year the focus was on kids from the Ulziit community, where the Children and Youth Development Center operates. The camps are a good chance to spread the word about the center's regular activity and have more kids registering for their programs. Moreover, the spiritual progress achieved during the summer can be sustained throughout the year through the centre's regular activities.

The camp program included English, Bible lessons, character, craft, and games. Every day, kids received a meal and some snacks. At the end of the day, there was a small group session where kids could share the things they enjoyed most during the day, ask questions if they had any, and discuss the Bible lesson topic that was studied. Because it was the last session in the program and the kids were dismissed right after, we didn't set a specific time for this activity. However, everyone enjoyed it so much that most often it would take way more than an hour.

## CHALLENGES FACED

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Most of the kids participating did not come from Christian families, and some parents didn't allow their kids to attend anymore. However, there was also a lot of positive feedback from parents who were very grateful for the camps, and considered the environment safe and healthy for their children.

For the first time since the summer camps began, the organisers had to turn away people as they had reached their full capacity. Even though kids



Traditional Mongolian gers in the countryside.

had to register for the camps in advance, most of them would just show up after the camps started and ask for permission to join. Another challenge was health-related. Even though all the COVID restrictions had been lifted, there were still different variants of COVID and other viruses spreading around, and many leaders or kids got sick. Praise God that the illnesses weren't too serious and people recovered quickly.

## CAMP IN SELENGE

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Uga and Ichko are a young couple who are serving God in Selenge, a province in the North at the border between Mongolia and Russia. Sami and Ani paid them a visit in July and shared about the camps and other highlights from the ministry in Ulziit, and encouraged them to consider organizing something similar in Selenge. They were really excited at this idea, and held a camp in August with about twenty kids in a ger (yurt) installed in their yard. During the camp, three new teenagers who attended decided to follow Christ, and after the camp finished they joined the home church Uga and Ichko are running.

## FUTURE PLANS

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In the future, it would be good to run this kind of program during every school break, including the winter break. The building in Ulziit is fully heated and functional during the winter. Additionally, there is a new construction project for an activity hall, which is expected to be finished before the

winter. This new building will provide more space, especially for games and sports activities. Also receiving short mission teams is another thing to be considered for the future. This will encourage both the locals and the visitors. The last team that came and helped was in 2019 and every time a team gets involved, Right Time Mongolia staff learn a lot of new things, build strong relationships, and feel inspired. As everyone is able to travel again, wouldn't it be great to have our first travelling experience serving and contributing to the advancement of the gospel?

SAMI SOLDAN



Kids at Summer Camp



The Ulziit area where Right Time runs weekly programs was targeted for the summer camps



# COMINGS & GLOINGS



## GROWING AND CHANGING

A big thanks to Oskars and Lucy Stubis for all their service over the last 10 years. Lucy has been a real asset, helping with our communications and promotion. Although Lucy and Oskars will continue to be involved with GLO, their growing family has necessitated that Lucy move out of her formal role to care for their two children, Alina and Aleksis. Oskars will continue as GLO National Committee Chairman.

## WITH THE LORD

Nora Greatbatch went to be with her Lord on July 1, 2022. Nora served with GLO in France from 1971 until returning home in 1990 to care for her mother. Our sympathy goes out to her family and friends whom we are sure will miss her acutely.



## GRADUATION

2022 CrossConnect students graduated on October 29. We thank and congratulate this year's students who studied entirely via zoom. They did a great job fitting study around life and ministry. For some, the time difference meant that lectures started at around 5:30am. We hope and pray for fruitful disciple making ministry for each of them in the future.

Left to right:  
Brother Bir,  
Sanjay (and family),  
Sarah (Yeasol)



## EMMAUS CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

Already our new offices have been put to good use! Emmaus workers in Sydney have moved into two of the offices at the GLO Training Centre. We are excited to be working side by side in ministry with others making disciples for Christ.

## SNL CONFERENCE

GLO was pleased to be able to help host the Sunday Night Lights Conference on mental health on Saturday September 10. It was a great turnout with so many great electives on offer that it was hard to choose between them.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Zoe Kim on her wedding day! Zoe studied at CrossTalk in 2017 and CrossConnect in 2018. Zoe, the GLO family wish you and Eunseok a happy, God honouring marriage.





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