

Back to the Future Continued: A final thought from Mark Holt as we look to the future, "If the rapid growth of faith in developing countries continues (which we pray it does), then the role of the traditional Western mission agency is going to have to change. Partnerships between different cultural communities will become paramount and multicultural teams will be the norm as people from all nations respond to the call of Jesus."

It's an exciting future. But what might it signal for people who are discerning their part in cross cultural mission? Despite all the change over the last few decades in mission, the need has remained constant. In the past, present and future, the need has and will always be for people willing to share their life and faith with others who have not yet heard the message of Jesus. People who can commit to give their all to building authentic relationships with a deep commitment to sharing their faith through being, doing and saying. At the risk of sounding unbelievably cliché, it would seem the more things change, the more things stay the same. So, while we may have begun our conversation looking back at a not-so-great 80's movie, we end by looking forward to a future of mission that we know God continues to weave and craft. A future of mission that each of us can truly be part of.

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Welcome to Maroubra Baptist

A Church for the Community

Welcome

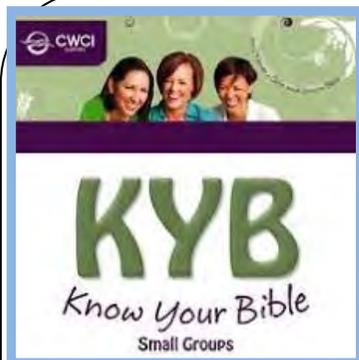
If you are looking for a church, a regular attender or visiting, we would like to extend a huge, warm welcome. We are a church for the community and we enjoy a range of social activities during the week, starting with tea/coffee immediately after church. We would love you to stay around after the service to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with us.

Reminders

It is currently School Holidays and so, Mbra Kids is in recess. Parents, please bring some quiet activities to keep the kids entertained during church, or alternatively, if a parent would like to supervise the kids, feel free to bring an appropriate DVD for them to watch in the Fellowship Room. The babies' room will also be available for use. This gives the teachers and helpers a break.



Mbra Yth, Playtime, Kids Club and most home groups are in recess.



K.Y.B. (Know your Bible)

Reminder that Grace is starting a new KYB Study Group here at Maroubra Baptist. The group is open to everyone, male and female of all ages. The first meeting will be **Tuesday 24 July** in the church office), from **10am to 11am**. Subsequent meetings will be held every **second Tuesday** at the same time.

As the study runs for just one hour, in order to utilise time, refreshments will not be offered. The study will be on **2 Corinthians** and there are already several people who have committed to joining. Please let Grace know if you are planning on coming. Cost is \$9 for the book.

Back to the Future (Global Interaction)

I was watching an old movie last weekend. Well, when I say old, it was one of the teenage classics from the 80's... it felt ancient! When the lead character had an emergency, there was no quick dial on the smartphone in their pocket. Instead they struggled with the coins in their pocket as they ran to the nearest pay phone and used the old rotary dial to call 911. Watching this movie, it struck me how much has changed in a relatively short space of time. You know what I'm talking about, because we seem to talk about it a lot. The rapid pace of change, the impact of technology on the speed in which we communicate and function. It got me wondering, what if we put mission under the spotlight? Has the way we approach cross-cultural service been effected by the pace of the world's rapid change? And what are the ramifications, both the good and the bad.

Only one generation ago, the conversation around serving as a cross-cultural worker didn't include timelines or end dates. As Mark Holt, Global Interaction's Director of Ministry recalls, "When I applied for missionary service back in 1975, the length of service wasn't discussed as there was a pretty big assumption from all involved that this was it – all we would do for the rest of our lives." Over the last 30 years our expectations about serving cross-culturally have changed almost as rapidly as the world around us. There has been much written about the phenomenal shift in Western mission. We seemed to have moved from a long-term approach to sharing the message of Jesus to a short, time-limited method that suits our skills. We want to make an impact now, see results quickly and can become easily discouraged when the process seems slow." In this shift to a short-term focus, intentions have been good as many organisations and churches have endeavoured to make mission more accessible to a wider group. People who might never have had the opportunity for a mission experience have been able to dip their toe in the water, using their hard-earned skills around the world.

While we know the future doesn't rest in our hands, there are some trends emerging that may give us a sneak peek into the next big shift on the mission scene. The church in Asia, Africa and South America is growing exponentially as people meet Jesus through friends, families, dreams and local church communities. Countries and regions who were once labelled as 'receiving' countries for missionaries from the West, are now reorientating as 'sending' countries as they send out their own missionaries to places like Europe, Asia and Australia.