

Partnership

the newsletter of Mission Partners

The Australian Presbyterian World Mission

www.missionpartners.org.au

8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, NSW 2213 [02] 9792 1373 national@missionpartners.org.au



September 2011

Why do mission? It's expensive, there are many challenges and there are times when it seems as if we are getting nowhere.

When I use the word 'mission' I'm thinking of the task of telling people about what God has done through Jesus to rescue people from sin and reconcile them to himself. That can take place here in Australia as well as overseas. Mission takes place wherever Christians find themselves and live out the implications of being the people of God.

Why do mission? We don't do it simply because we want our congregations to grow. If that's the motivation then once we've reached a comfortable level or our building is full then we'll ease off and take it easy.

Why do mission? We don't do it for the preservation of the Presbyterian Church. If that's our motivation then we've become nothing more than a club that is interested in its own survival.

Why do mission? We do it primarily for the glory of God. That must be our chief motivation. Yes, there are secondary reasons for engaging in mission but above

them all stands the glory of God. It's there from one end of the Bible to the other.

In Ephesians 1:11 we read *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.*

Why does God rescue us? For the *praise of his glory*. That's why we do mission. That's why we persevere when we would rather take it easy. When we tell people about the greatness of God through word and deed we are actually living out the very purpose for which we were created.

It is an enormous privilege, and not a burden, to tell people of the greatness of God. As Psalm 96:3 says *Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples!*

Kevin Murray, Director



Our New Website!

We have a new web site www.missionpartners.org.au

What's there?

- updates on world mission
- application forms to download
- copies of this newsletter
- details on how to apply for missionary service
- details on how to get our 'Email Update' prayer notes
- details on how to support our ministry
- the Director's blog which has interviews, news and can be added to your newsreader
- information on Mission Challenge
- links to our Partner Agencies

We want it to be a 'one-stop-shop' for most enquiries about mission.

Please take a look at the site and advertise it in your congregations.



After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. (Revelation 7:9)

Updates

John and Rose Evans

John and Rose Evans have now moved into a part-time capacity with the parish of Northlinks in Queensland so they can spend Sundays speaking to Churches about their plans to go to Japan.



To date they have raised 10% of the support needed before they can leave Australia.

If you would like to find out how you can support the Evans family then please contact Mission Partners.

Crossroad Bible Institute

What do Australians build **outside** their towns?

1. garbage tips
2. cemeteries
3. sewerage treatment plants
4. gaols

How do we reach people who are in gaol with the gospel? Mission



Partners has recently recognised the Crossroad Bible Institute as a Partner Agency.

As part of this we have received Terry and Christine West from Maclean, NSW, as dual member missionaries serving with the Crossroad Bible Institute. One way in which this ministry reaches inmates is through Bible correspondence lessons and they need people to help.

On the Director's blog on our website you can listen to an interview with Terry in which he outlines how you can be involved in this ministry from the comfort of your own home.

For more details email <cbiaus@tpg.com.au>

www.crossroadbible.org

New Testaments for Vanuatu

A big 'Thank you!' to those individuals and churches that have given to our 'New Testaments for Vanuatu' appeal. Our target was \$10,000 and we have met that and are well on the way to exceeding it.

As a number of people gave gifts they wrote something like "I can't begin to imagine not having the Word of God readily available, that's why I'm supporting this appeal." What a privilege it is to be able to provide for our fellow believers in Vanuatu in this tangible way.

Only the final day will reveal how many lives were transformed by this act of love for our fellow-believers.

In the Pipeline...

Andrew and Marilyn Schache from Toowoomba are in the process of applying to serve at the Talua Ministry Training Centre in Vanuatu. They have previously served with Mission Partners/APCM (later Pioneers) in Papua New Guinea. Andrew will be involved in maintenance and Marilyn in administration.

Andrew and Marilyn have been approved by the Queensland State Committee and are in the final stages of applying to serve with Mission Partners.

Please pray for them as they make preparations and raise support. If you would like to find out how you can support them then please contact us at Mission Partners.



New Missionaries

We recently received the following as Partner Agency Missionaries in Dual Membership with Mission Partners::

J & R (Camden, NSW) SIM, East Asia

L & C (Gracepoint, NSW) Pioneers, East Asia

Natalie James (Griffith, NSW) SIM, South Asia

Fiona Lockett (Crossroads, Tasmania) SIM, Chile

Terry and Christine West (Maclean, NSW) Crossroad Bible Institute

Mission Partners' Office Staffing Changes

We're going through some changes in our office staff. Our Accounts Clerk, Jon Moorehouse, is no longer with us. Our new Accounts Clerk is Bruce Campbell. If you have a finance-related enquiry please email him at <finance@missionpartners.org.au>.

From late September our Office Administrator, Amanda Enderby will be going on 12 months maternity leave.

Christmas Gift Cards

Last year we had some Christmas gift cards for sale to help the church in Myanmar. We're working on something similar this year for Christmas. Please check our web site in early November for details or watch for the next edition of *Partnership*.

Partnership Magazine

You can now download *Partnership* from our website www.missionpartners.org.au or have it emailed to you as a pdf file to save postage. Please email the office <national@missionpartners.org.au> and ask to be put on the *Partnership* pdf list. The pdf edition is searchable which means that if you want to put parts of *Partnership* in your church news sheet or magazine then you only have to copy and paste the text.

Movement in Cape York

For approximately 20 years Ron and Jean Lyons have had a ministry to the people of Cape York. Initially they were based in Cairns and then 11 years ago moved to Weipa



on the Western Cape. From there they visited remote communities, taught Scripture in schools, ran Bible study groups, conducted worship services and funerals, handed out many pieces of Christian literature, gave practical assistance and took the gospel to all that they met.

In July this year Ron and Jean formally retired from this ministry. We praise God for all that they did and know the final day will reveal the fruit of this ministry. We thank them for all that they have done in the service of Christ.

So where to now for ministry in Cape York? God has led us to Jim and Margot Stuart. They have been approved by the Queensland State Committee and are in the final stages of applying to serve with Mission Partners. Jim and Margot have previously served with MAF in PNG and with Mission Partners/SIM in Niger. They have a background in working with the Aboriginal community. Jim works in Aboriginal employment services and Margot works as a physiotherapist. They are currently working in these roles from Weipa as they consider the best way to reach the people of Cape York with the gospel in 2012 and beyond.

If you would like to support Jim and Margot in this ministry then please contact us at Mission Partners.



More to mission than sending people overseas

Today mission is not just about sending people from Australia to live in another culture. It also involves training people from that culture so that they in turn can train others. One way of doing this is by training theological lecturers.

In 2012 the NSW Australian Presbyterian World Mission committee would like to bring the Reverend Vijai Tagore, his wife and young son, from India to Sydney to study at PTC Sydney for two years.



Mr Tagore currently holds a Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Divinity from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS) Dehradun, India, where he is a lecturer.

For the ongoing development of the college, Vijai needs to complete a Master of Theology from another college. He has been offered a place to study at PTC Sydney for a Master of Theology through the Australian College of Theology.

The Presbyterian Church of Australia already has a connection with PTS Dehradun through the Rev John Ellis, a Mission Partners missionary teaching at the college.

PTC Sydney has agreed to provide a scholarship for Vijai to cover all his internal tuition fees. Mission Partners has agreed to cover the costs of travel to and from Australia.

However, there are many other costs involved in his coming to study in Australia. The NSW Australian Presbyterian World Mission committee is seeking support from congregations and individuals in the Presbyterian Church of NSW to help meet these costs.

These costs include:

- Accommodation for himself and his family.
- Transport costs in Australia
- Living allowance

Can you help? Perhaps you may have access to accommodation suitable for a family that is not too far from Burwood in Sydney. Perhaps you could pledge financial support. If you can help then please contact the Mission Partners office (02) 9792 1373 and we'll pass your details on to the NSW Committee.

Email Update

Every few months we publish prayer notes for our missionaries called 'Email Update'. Jesus said 'Apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15:5) therefore we must depend on Him in prayer. We publish a prayer update newsletter every two months. If you would like to receive it then please send an email to <national@missionpartners.org.au> with your email address & phone number, together with the name of your minister together with their phone number – this is so that we can verify that you attend a Presbyterian Church.

Proshikkhon — You Will Tell Everyone

What can God do through a bunch of freezing believers on a foggy morning in the middle of nowhere in a foreign land? This was the kind of question some of the team members asked in the first week of January this year. They included a group of Presbyterians from four different States, who were on the Proshikkhon short term mission.

Like Australia, over there more than 9 of 10 people don't believe in Jesus as their Lord. Some asked: "Is God really at work in this?" Others queried: "Can God use me in this situation?" Now you may also be asking, "How can I be a good witness here?"

If you take Jesus' final words seriously (Acts 1:8), then He promises you all the power you need. But will that power flow through you? Some say, "In Acts 1:8 Jesus is only referring to those with a gift for witnessing." Is that how you read that verse? One (unauthorised) paraphrase says, "When God gives you His Spirit, you'll tell everyone about me. You'll be unstoppable." Is that translation accurate? Some say, "Jesus is only speaking to His 12 apostles in that verse." Is that your take on it? Of what use is the Holy Spirit to ordinary believers?

Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses, beginning here in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Some say, "Exactly. Our Jerusalem is right

here." But did Jesus say, "Stay in your Jerusalem?" No there is 'all Judea'! Don't forget Samaria and don't stop there as the gospel must go to the ends of the earth.

Some say, "I don't know enough to be an effective witness." The blind man in John 9 could teach us a lesson or two. He didn't know much, but said to the religious leaders, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Jesus said, "You'll tell everyone about me." One way to do that is by telling a Bible story. Do that and you tell people about Jesus! As you tell, joy comes with God's power working in a community. Once we tell people, what more can we do? Not much, as God's Spirit does the work through His Word to convict and convince. It's not rocket science.

Are you willing to tell people about God working in you, through you? Share your story? If you know only one thing, it must be this: what Jesus did for you! And then tell an easy-to-remember Bible story or two.

We learned on Proshikkhon that even on cold foggy mornings we can, and must tell everyone. And as we prayerfully do that we can trust the rest to God.

Robert Finster *Mount Barker, South Australia*

"Proshikkhon" means 'teaching'.



Mission Opportunity in South Asia Mission Partners (APWM) and Wycliffe

In January 2012 a team of Australians will travel to South Asia to partner with the Bible Students Fellowship (partner organisation with Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students and International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) to facilitate seminars for tribal evangelists and pastors.

Proshikkhon is a strenuous ministry trip. The Australian team live with the tribal pastors and evangelists, eat the same food and share their lives for the two weeks of the seminars, and work hard!

Proshikkhon is for mature Christians. The average age of the team in January 2011 was 38.

Each January the Bible Students Fellowship invites Christian leaders from 5-6 ethnic minority groups to gather at a central location for a series of seminars.

Seminar #1 - Contextualisation: In this seven day seminar tribal leaders learn how to apply the Scriptures to their own culture – to enable them to transform their culture in the light of Biblical teaching.

Seminar #2 – Bible Storytelling: In this three-day seminar tribal leaders learn how to craft and tell Bible stories that are simple, accurate and memorable. They also learn how to lead Bible studies based on these stories. Storytelling is a non-threatening way to tell the Gospel story; a way that enables tribal Christians to share the Scriptures with Muslims and Hindus. As a result, Muslims and Hindus are responding and churches are forming as a result of the Proshikkhon training.

Seminar #3 – Kingdom Partnership: Too often evangelical churches fail to work together for the expansion of the Kingdom. This seminar is built around Jesus' words, "This is how people will know you are my followers: by your love for one another." God's rule is demonstrated when Christians co-operate in Kingdom advancement.

Seminar #4 - Ethnomusicology: In this seven-day seminar musically-oriented tribal participants will learn how to use their ethnic music to glorify God.

For more information on this ministry trip, contact

Rev Kevin Murray, Mission Partners; ph 02 9792 1373; 0421 366 720;
kevinmurray@missionpartners.org.au; www.missionpartners.org.au

Dr Keith Benn, Wycliffe Australia Proshikkhon Coordinator
keith_benn@wycliffe.org; ph 07 3843 2418

Remember to Pray for Us!



Imagine if your minister was rarely paid - and even then it was only few dollars. Imagine if the house in which they lived was quite small and was made from bare concrete besser bricks with openings for windows and doors because the parish had run out of money. Imagine if instead of a car your minister rode a horse or drove a motor bike. Imagine if your minister had to spend most of their time caring for the vegetable garden and chickens just so the family could eat.

Imagine if your minister were to take a job carrying goods over incredibly steep hills to supplement an almost non-existent income. Imagine if the roof of the church building leaked and it wasn't possible to meet at night because there was no electricity. Imagine if there were no Bibles because the Bible hadn't yet been translated into your language. Imagine if your minister had the most basic of Bible training but Sunday by Sunday stood up to boldly proclaim the Word of God. Would your church survive?

Then imagine that under such conditions your church grows and has congregations of 120 or 300 or 600 or

1,000. I don't find any of this hard to imagine because in June along with Rev Robert Benn and Rev Robert Duncanson (Darwin), I visited such congregations in East Timor (Timor Leste).

Many of you will know something of the story of the three-year old Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor. This is a church born against the backdrop of the destruction, murder and turmoil involved in the formation of the nation of East Timor. Certainly the church is experiencing the growing pains that are typical of a young church.

And yet what do the people ask of us? Simply that we pray for them. One pastor told us "We'd like your prayer and support. We need to get on with the work because there are so many souls out there who are unsaved. We receive tremendous support from Australia and Brazil. We thank you for praying for us and supporting us financially. We are more certain and know where we are going because of your support and this means that we are not alone. Remember to pray for us."

Here is a church that faces the sort of obstacles that would stop 99% of Australian churches from ever getting off the ground. Yet this church won't let itself be stopped by the obstacles such as opposition from the Roman Catholic Church, isolation due to difficult terrain, lack of funding, lack of food and a lack of the sort of resources that we take for granted and buildings that are either in poor condition or not yet completed. Here is a church that has a strong faith in God's provision and strength. We must pray for our brothers and sisters in Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor. It is a privilege to partner with them.

Please remember to pray for them!

Kevin Murray

Building Bigger Barns?

I was recently reading through an application for missionary service and came across the following:

Most recently, God has challenged me through sermons, books and conversations with my husband about what I am willing to risk in His name. Since moving to Sydney, we have been overwhelmed by the acceptance and even expectation of many Christians that we should make ourselves as comfortable as possible in this life. I see in many Christians a desire, which God is also challenging in me, to build barns and bigger barns, to create 'heaven' on earth. God is asking me if I am willing to risk everything, material, physical, and emotional security, for His sake and for the sake of others who don't have the physical and spiritual resources we have in abundance in Sydney. I feel both excitement and great love for other people and want to serve them, mixed with a sense of weariness and worry about the challenges of living overseas and caring for my daughters in a very different environment. But throughout my life thus far I have seen God's faithfulness in everything, and I know that what He asks can never be too much, and that He will give us the strength, wisdom and peace to go wherever He calls and do whatever He desires.

Something to think about.

Tanna: Mission Accomplished!



January 2012

In January 2011, a Youthpartners team left the building site of the Lenafa Bible College, Tanna Island, Vanuatu. At that stage there was no roof, no verandah, no cement rendering and no painting:

A team returned in July to complete the project. Team Leader, Len Newton writes:

Since the January trip, the Principal had arranged for the rendering of the walls both inside and out and he had also made the verandah's slab floor. This meant that we had only to finish the roofing, make the shutters and doors and construct the verandah structure and paint inside and out. This I felt we should easily achieve in the time available. So the first week was spent making the verandah structure, shutters and doors during the second week the roofing went on to complete the outside. The Principal asked about the possibility of solar lights for the classrooms. Andrew Schache's congregation supplied these and Andrew and Brian installed them in the classrooms. This meant that the first group accomplished everything we had hoped for with the only thing remaining being the interior painting purposely left for the families in the third week, a great effort.

For the final week of this mission we had a group of 14, our largest group ever. Their time began on the Sunday when Rev Paul McKendrick [Evans Head NSW] was asked to preach at a local village. This was a special event for all concerned and the fellowship that followed was an added bonus giving the families a wonderful introduction to the hospitality of the niVanuatu community.

On a daily basis, people would arrive from the nearby villages and communities to look at the work. They knew that with this substantial building now in the north of Tanna (the first ever), services would follow such as improved roads and maybe even a clinic. Also I had arranged for the college to have a permanent supply of water which a small local community would be able to access. Up until now, amazingly they had no source of water and would have to go down to the springs that come out of the coral at low tide. In fact, on one day, about 12 men came to the college especially to perform about 6 custom dances to show their



July 2012

appreciation for the water and to indicate a custom contract that meant that we would have access to the water exclusively, free of charge and perpetually, a wonderful blessing.

Youthpartners 2012 Paama island, Vanuatu

Plans are now in hand for Youthpartners 2012 , 28th December - 18th January, 2012 inclusive

The Church on Paama needs a building to use for offices, a meeting place and as a focal point for the Presbytery. Like our previous projects this will take a few years to complete. Please note there are only 5-10 places available.

Who can go? Committed young Christians aged 18 to 25. Cost: \$2,000. Closing date for applications: 11th November, 2011. Download an application form at www.missionpartners.org.au or email national@missionpartners.org.au

More details: Mission Partners 02-97921373

Mission Partners National Office

8 Sylvan Grove
Picnic Point NSW Australia
Phone: 02 9792 1373
national@missionpartners.org.au
finance@missionpartners.org.au
www.missionpartners.org.au

National Director

Kevin Murray
02 9792 1373
0421 366 720
kevinmurray@missionpartners.org.au

Federal Convener

Alex Shaw
0403 778 151
alex_4_shaw@internode.on.net

State Conveners

Queensland Peter Barber
alibarber5@gmail.com

NSW Robert McKean
rpmckean@exemail.com.au

Victoria Phil Simmonds
p.simmo@iinet.net.au

Tasmania Rod Waterhouse
rodwhouse@gmail.com

South Australia Gary Ware
gjware@internode.on.net

Western Australia Stuart Bonnington
melbonn@bigpond.com