

# Partnership



The newsletter of Mission Partners

The Australian Presbyterian World Mission

[www.missionpartners.org.au](http://www.missionpartners.org.au)

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

December 2011

I recently watched a short documentary on the Waodani people of Ecuador. They were once one of the most violent societies in human history. They killed any enemy who ventured into their territory. They killed those that they disliked in their villages. They killed those who were from among their own family. Their history was appalling. But today things are very different and the old violence has gone. What made the difference? In 1955 Jim Elliott and four of his friends took the gospel to the Waodoni. In January 1956 all five were speared to death in a violent frenzy. How did the families of these men repond? Not with retribution. Two of the widows started to work among the Waodoni and through the transforming power of the gospel the Waodoni came to genuine faith in Jesus Christ.

A few years ago I read the 19th Century account of two men from the London Missionary Society who sailed around the world to asesss how the work of the Mission was progressing. In the South Pacific they encountered infanticide, children killing parents, cannibalism, tribal

warfare and people gripped by a fear of spirits. But when the gospel came those things disappeared.

What transforms societies like those? What can transform our society? Not Government programmes, not UN intervention, not education and not better political vision. The only thing that can bring lasting transformation to any society be it in Australia or overseas is the gospel.

That's what I love about Christmas. It's God's declaration that the night is over, that the light of the gospel has dawned for those who will embrace Christ as Lord.

I love the words of Simeon as he holds the baby Jesus in his arms:

*For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of  
all people,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.*

Luke 2:30-32

Kevin Murray, Director



## Our Ministry to Japan

John and Rose Evans from Queensland have been approved as candidates by Mission Partners to serve in church planting ministry in Japan. Why Japan? Among the industrialised nations of the world it is the least evangelised — only 5% of the Japanese have heard the gospel.

In response to the tsunami earlier this year the tiny Japanese church has reached out in acts of mercy to show the love of Christ to their neighbours — and lives have been touched for Christ. As people were fleeing **from** the affected areas, Christians were **entering** those same areas to provide aid. As one Japanese pastor said "We don't care about survival, we care about revival!"

John and Rose are currently speaking in churches and raising support. But in one sense it's not their minstry. It's actually our ministry to the people of Japan. John and Rose are simply the conduits, the means through which God will act to reach Japanese people with the life-giving gospel.

We need to raise \$150,000 per year to send John and Rose and their family to serve in Japan. \$150,000? Japan

is the most expensive country in the world to which missionaries are sent.

To date, we have received pledges for 29% of the support we need before they can leave Australia. We are very grateful to those who have pledged support so far.

If God is calling you to support the Evans' family in reaching out to the people of Japan, then please contact us at Mission Partners.



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

## Rev Dr Thang Bwee of Myanmar

God-willing, from March 19 until May 19, 2012 [tentative dates], the Rev Dr Thang Bwee, Principal of the Reformed Bible Institute will be visiting Australia together with his wife and daughter. Please pray that he will receive the necessary visa from the Australian government to make this possible. On this trip he will be accompanied by the former Director of Mission Partners, the Rev Bill Lutton.



## Andrew and Marilyn Schache

Andrew and Marilyn Schache from St. John's Toowoomba, Queensland, are in the final stages of approval to serve at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu commencing in 2013. They have previously served with Mission Partners/APCM (later Pioneers) in Papua New Guinea.

Andrew will be involved in maintenance and Marilyn in administration. They are now seeking to build support in prayer and finance. If you would like to find out how you can support them then please contact us at Mission Partners.



## Kingdom Christmas Shopping

Each Christmas many of us ask the question "What can I give the person who has everything?" and we struggle to think of some new thing to buy. But when we give and receive gifts they are often just to make our lives more comfortable than they really are.

Last year we commenced our first Christmas Catalogue for Myanmar and we're pleased to announce that it's being offered again this year.

The idea is simple. You purchase from us the 'gift' you would like — some mosquito nets or some school supplies or some books for a Bible College student etc. We'll send you a card that you can give out for Christmas to tell the person that on their behalf you have bought something to help someone in another country who doesn't enjoy the relative luxury that we have every day.

You will find our Christmas Gift Catalogue inserted into this newsletter. Please note that to cover our costs we are charging **\$1.00 postage per item.**

**Christmas Gift Catalogue 2011**  
For the needs of school children in Chin State and student pastors in Bango, Myanmar. All gifts are channelled through our Partner Presbyterian Churches in Myanmar.

**Mosquito Net**  
A gift of \$6 will enable a child to sleep safely from mosquitoes which can cause malaria and dengue fever.

**Bag of Rice**  
A gift of \$20 will supply a 50kg bag of rice to feed 90 people.

**Education**  
A gift of \$20 will provide education for a year for one child. This covers school fees, pencils and uniforms.

**Stationery**  
A gift of \$20 will provide stationery for one rural school in Chin State.

**Book Resources**  
A gift of \$20 will provide books/resources for the Reformed Bible Institute and Grace Bible Seminary in Bango, Myanmar.

**Medicine**  
A gift of \$20 will provide medicine for students at the Reformed Bible Institute and Grace Bible Seminary in Bango, Myanmar.

**Vitamins and Medicine**  
A gift of \$20 will provide a year's supply of vitamins and medicine for a rural village in Chin State, Myanmar.

**Generator**  
A gift of \$200 will provide a generator for use in a rural village in Chin State, Myanmar.

**Computer**  
A gift of \$700 will provide a computer for the Reformed Bible Institute and Grace Bible Seminary in Bango, Myanmar.

**How it works**  
1. You choose the 'gifts' you would like to purchase.  
2. Send us your order.  
3. We will send you the cards with the items you have purchased so that you can give them to your recipient. Please note that the card does not state the monetary value of the gift. Gifts are not tax deductible.  
4. We then send on the money to our partners in Myanmar to pay for the items you have purchased.

**Order Form**  
Please fill out your details and enclose your payment (cheque or money order made out to Mission Partners) please DO NOT send cash. Direct Debit details below. Please mail to: Mission Partners Catalogue, 8 Sylvania Grove, Picnic Point NSW 2213 and we will send the cards you have ordered.

Item	Quantity	Cost
Mosquito Net		
50kg Bag of Rice		
Education One Child		
Stationery for One Rural School		
Books/College Book Resources		
Medicine for Bible College Students		
Generator		
Computer		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Mission Partners' Office Staff

If you contact our office then you will be dealing with our part-time staff.

Our **Accounts Clerk** is Bruce Campbell and he is in the office on Monday and Thursday. If you have a finance enquiry then please email Bruce at <finance@missionpartners.org.au>.



Our new **Office Administrator** is Tracey Evans. Tracey deals with most general enquiries and is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. Please email <national@missionpartners.org.au>



## Partnership Magazine

You can now download *Partnership* from our website [www.missionpartners.org.au](http://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.

## New Testaments for Vanuatu

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our appeal for New Testaments for Vanuatu. Our target was \$10,000 and to date we have raised over \$22,000. We expect printing to commence early in 2012.

## Vijai Tagore

In early 2012 Vijai Tagore and his family will be arriving at the Presbyterian Theological Centre, Sydney, to begin studies for a Master of Theology degree. Why is this significant? Vijai is currently a lecturer at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Dehra Dun, India. Through his training in Australia he will be better equipped to serve and teach the future pastors of India. This will also strengthen the ongoing development of the Seminary.

Throughout 2012 and 2013 Vijai, his wife and young son will be living above the Mission Partners Office at Picnic Point.



Are you able to help meet the cost of basic needs such as food, clothing, transport and the costs associated with day-to-day living? We are very grateful to those who have contributed to this ministry to date.

If you can help then please contact us at Mission Partners.

# Mount Gambier Meets Samaria, Timor Leste

Roger Bannister, Alan Clarkson & Gavin & Sandy Megaw travelled to Timor Leste on Friday 7th October as the first working party from the Mt Gambier Presbyterian Church to Timor Leste. 8 wonderful days were spent in the congregation of Samaria which is in the village of Remexio, in the sub-district of Aileu.

Our arrival was greeted with much excitement from the children – our hands were shaken and the children all bent over our hands and kissed them. A very emotional greeting indeed! Our hearts were lost in those first few minutes!

We were introduced to our interpreter, Celestinos, but immediately he wanted to be called by his 'nickname' Dino. Dino is completely self taught in English and has also been teaching English to all the children in the area.

We were given time to unpack and make up our bedrooms in our hut. For the coming week we were to live in our little stone hut alongside all the Samaria people.

Our evening meal set the scene for the many meals to come. The women would bring the food into our hut, place it on the table and then they would sit on the far wall on the bench seat with some of the men and children and everyone would watch us eat. It was very important that they watch our enjoyment of their food! Pastor Mario (the village pastor) would join us for most meals as well as Dino, but the onlookers never ate with us until our last night there!

Some of the tasks completed over the course of our week were a new cement floor was laid in the church office, lessons in how to wire up for 240v, setting up their keyboard & speakers for a more efficient operation and endless English-Tetun lessons. Over the week God threw many challenges our way! The main one being learning another language! Not only do they speak Tetun, but then their second language is Bahasa Indonesia, third is Portugese and now the children are learning English as

their fourth language! And they tend to incorporate the first 3 languages listed into everything they say!! The language barrier can make communication difficult at times, but when all else fails signs and drawings work very well!

Sometimes you don't always understand at the time why a certain situation happens. But afterwards all is revealed to you by God. We all shared a harrowing experience on the Friday of our week in Samaria. There are really 4 separate stories to the one event, but the outcome of the day was a very special bonding between the four of us and the entire Samaria people. They are beautiful people in spirit & character and their love for all of us shone over that day. We all became closer in our love for the Lord and for each other.

The Monday morning that we had to leave them and head back to Dili was a heart-wrenching day. We hugged...we cried...they cried. We have returned with ideas for how we can help these people in the future and they have since come up with some proposals for us, as to what they need in the future from our church here in Australia. Was the trip successful? Yes, in more ways than one. Nai Maromak Diak (The Lord God is Good)

(reprinted with permission from Connexions – Growing God's Family, Newsletter of the Mt Gambier Presbyterian)



## Attention: God at Work! Andrew Letcher

Relationships, relationships, relationships!! How often we have heard at Bible College this year that ministry is all about relationships. Whilst this is true in any church, we have seen this year that it is doubly true in an Indigenous church. At the start of the year my wife and I made the long trip across the Nullarbor to Sydney to study at Sydney Missionary and Bible College with the aim of heading into Aboriginal ministry in the future. In getting equipped for Aboriginal ministry, we decided to head out to the western suburbs, to Mount Druitt Indigenous Church and continue the learning process. And who better to learn from than the minister Rick Manton, and his wife Kayleen.

15 years ago the Manton's helped start the congregation. Mount Druitt, like so much of Australia, is a place desperate for the gospel. It has one of the highest populations of Aboriginal people in Australia and the opportunities to form relationships are many. As we sit in church on Sunday, we look around and see the people in whom God is at work. We see kids chasing each other around, older Aboriginal folk who have been faithful for decades being loved, we see non-believers feeling welcome and we see youth, particularly young Aboriginal men. Having spent some time in various Aboriginal communities and hearing the cry, 'There are no men in the church,' it so exciting to see young Aboriginal men at church. But how will these young men become leaders?

Rick and Kayleen have recently undertaken a new Theological Education by Extension (TEE) program that will enable them to train and disciple others in the church. How we pray that God would use this training to turn these young men into godly

leaders. Alongside this, Leon and Ted, the youth leaders, are teaching the youth in leadership skills and encouraging them to step up to lead.

Feeding into the youth group is Sunday School. Kids (often without their parents) happily jump on the church bus and come to Sunday School and Kids Club to hear stories about Jesus. Parents are happy for them to come because of the trust Rick, Kayleen and the other leaders have developed in the community.

We continue to hear stories of how God is using Mount Druitt Indigenous Church to rescue broken people. Recently we met a past member of the church who as a drug addict was brought to church by her daughter. The daughter came because of the relationship she had with her neighbour, a member of the Mount Druitt Church. The mother was transformed by the gospel and set free from drugs. Years later, though now living in Wollongong, the mother is still joyfully following Jesus. As relationships are formed, opportunities to minister the gospel to people arise. This year we have seen that long-term relationships, the faithful preaching of God's Word and prayer are making an impact on the Mount Druitt community. We continue to pray that God will use Rick, Kayleen and other faithful and committed members to be a light in Mount Druitt.

*Rick and Kayleen's full support is provided through gifts given through Mission Partners. They currently need more support.*



# Orbus: A Christian School for Orphans and Vulnerable Children



Orbus, a Partner Mission Agency of Mission Partners, commenced in 2007. In 2010 a partnership was established in the Central African country of Malawi between the Presbyterian Church of Australia through the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Blantyre Synod. Orbus' aim is to care for orphaned and vulnerable children by providing education opportunities, initiatives in skills development and improved health facilities such as access to clean water and improved sanitation.

Partner Agency Missionaries, Craig & Jayni Manners (South Yarra Presbyterian Church, Victoria) and their five young sons, Joshua (10), Caleb (8), Daniel (6), Benjamin (4) and Jonathan (1) work with Orbus in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world, and have established a good team of local Christian co-workers in the ministry.

At the Orbus Centre in Ngumbe, about 12kms north of Blantyre, Orbus operates a Kindergarten (44 children registered) and Grade 1 of a new Primary School (28 registered) and is establishing income generating activities on its 6 ha property bounded by a river and creeks on three sides.

The Orbus children mostly live in very poor communal mud brick hut settings within a 2km radius of the Orbus Centre. Some of them have lost either one or both parents, mostly because of HIV/AIDS, and some of the children are HIV+ themselves. Some live with grandparents or uncles and aunts. Some are considered vulnerable because of extreme poverty, lack of parental ability to care for the children, and the devastating social consequences of high unemployment. Most of them are at risk of illnesses such as malaria, which kills 1 in 9 children under the age of 5 in Malawi, and from the affects of malnutrition, poor hygiene and lack of access to clean water.

One of the first children registered at Orbus in September 2010, Alinafe, lives in Malunga Village, about 1km from the Orbus Centre, in a poor communal village of mud brick huts. This area has no easy access to clean water so Orbus has bought a pump and is digging a well nearby which it is hoped will be finished in November 2011. While Orbus' main focus is the provision of a quality, free Christian education for poor children, its other activities include the distribution of Chichewa language Bibles around Ngumbe and elsewhere in Blantyre; putting clean water wells in needy areas; general assistance to needy orphans in their communities and assisting street children in Blantyre city.

One priority is to make the Orbus School self-sustainable as quickly as possible. Through the establishment of small enterprises such as farming activities like goats and pigs, crops such as maize and soya beans and timber production on the Orbus property, we hope to not only become self-sustainable but also to model an entrepreneurial self-help way of overcoming the debilitating affects of dependency on foreign handouts.

Ultimately, as Christians, our eyes look to heaven rather than to this earth. The overriding aim therefore of Orbus' ministry is to ensure that these children and the community around Orbus are exposed to the abounding love of Jesus and the truth that Jesus Christ is our only hope. As much as the lot of the poor is indeed a hard one, the poorest of the poor who trust in Jesus are made truly rich by faith (1 Peter 1:7). Orbus would appreciate and welcome Australian visitors and short-term (and long-term) volunteers at the Centre such as teachers, teacher trainers (early childhood training), nurses, builders, people to read to the children and anyone willing to visit and be an encouragement to the children, the community and the Orbus team.

Please visit the Orbus website at [www.orbusafrica.org](http://www.orbusafrica.org) or email <[craig.manners@orbusafrica.org](mailto:craig.manners@orbusafrica.org)> for further information.



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## Mission Partners National Office

8 Sylvan Grove  
Picnic Point NSW Australia  
Phone: 02 9792 1373  
[national@missionpartners.org.au](mailto:national@missionpartners.org.au)  
[finance@missionpartners.org.au](mailto:finance@missionpartners.org.au)  
[www.missionpartners.org.au](http://www.missionpartners.org.au)

## National Director

Kevin Murray  
02 9792 1373  
0421 366 720  
[kevinmurray@missionpartners.org.au](mailto:kevinmurray@missionpartners.org.au)

## Federal Convener

Alex Shaw  
0403 778 151  
[alex\\_4\\_shaw@internode.on.net](mailto:alex_4_shaw@internode.on.net)

## State Conveners

**Queensland** Peter Barber  
[alibarber5@gmail.com](mailto:alibarber5@gmail.com)

**NSW** Robert McKean  
[rpmckean@exemail.com.au](mailto:rpmckean@exemail.com.au)

**Victoria** Phil Simmonds  
[p.simmo@iinet.net.au](mailto:p.simmo@iinet.net.au)

**Tasmania** Rod Waterhouse  
[rodwhouse@gmail.com](mailto:rodwhouse@gmail.com)

**South Australia** Gary Ware  
[gjware@internode.on.net](mailto:gjware@internode.on.net)

**Western Australia** Stuart Bonnington  
[melbonn@bigpond.com](mailto:melbonn@bigpond.com)

# Christmas Gift Catalogue 2011

For the needs of school children in Chin State and student pastors in Yangon, Myanmar. All gifts are channelled through our Partner Presbyterian Churches in Myanmar.



**Mission Partners**  
Pray. Give. Send. Go.  
www.missionpartners.org.au



## Mosquito Net

A gift of \$6 will enable a child to sleep safely from mosquitoes which can cause malaria or dengue fever.



## Medicine

A gift of \$50 will provide medicine for students at the Reformed Bible Institute and Grace Bible Seminary in Yangon, Myanmar.



## Bag of Rice

A gift of \$20 will supply a 50kg bag of rice to feed 96 people.



## Vitamins and Medicine

A gift of \$50 will provide a year's supply of vitamins and medicines for a rural village in Chin State, Myanmar.



## Education

A gift of \$20 will provide education for a year for one child. This includes books, pencils and uniforms.



## Generator

A gift of \$300 will provide a generator for use in a rural village in Chin State, Myanmar.



## Stationery

A gift of \$25 will provide stationery for one rural school in Chin State, Myanmar.



## Computer

A gift of \$700 will provide a computer for the Reformed Bible Institute and Grace Bible Seminary in Yangon, Myanmar.



## Book Resources

A gift of \$25 will provide book resources for the Reformed Bible Institute and Grace Bible Seminary in Yangon, Myanmar.

## How it works

1. You choose the 'gifts' you would like to purchase.
2. Send us your order.
3. We will send you the cards with the item you have purchased so that you can give them to your recipient. Please note that the card does not state the monetary value of the gift. Gifts are not tax deductible.
4. We then send on the money to our partners in Myanmar to pay for the items you have purchased.

## Order Form

Please fill out your details and enclose your payment [cheque or money order made out to 'Mission Partners' please DO NOT send cash. Direct Deposit details below. Please mail to: Mission Partners Catalogue, 8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point NSW 2213 and we will send the cards you have ordered.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Quantity	Cost
Mosquito Net		
50kg Bag of Rice		
Education for One Child		
Stationery for One Rural School		
Bible College Book Resources		
Medicine for Bible College Students		
Vitamins & Medicines for a Rural village		
Generator for a Rural Village		
Computer for a Bible College		
<b>Postage and Packing per item \$1.00</b>		
<b>Total</b>		

Direct Deposit: Bank Westpac Account Name: Australian Presbyterian World Mission BSB: 032 260 Account Number: 151207  
Write your name in the description box and email <finance@missionpartners.org.au> informing us of your deposit.