



PULSE MAGAZINE

June 2023

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FROM THE EDITOR

Mikaela Groom

Welcome to our second edition of Pulse Magazine for 2023.

In our March edition we announced that we will be focusing on various CRC missionaries who are serving in numerous nations throughout the world.

We are continuing this focus in our June edition with reports from people serving in Australia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Fiji and the United States of America.

Our missionaries included within this edition are from Fiji, PNG, New Zealand and Australia. I trust you will enjoy reading through these reports and testimonies from our workers out on the field.

I particularly enjoy our editions that focus on missionaries and their experiences. I like reading about the various ministries they are involved in and how God is using them in nations outside of their own.

I am currently serving in PNG and have included my own report. Being out on the field has increased my appreciation of other missionaries who are diligently serving.

We have also included an update from the work taking place in West Africa. Pr Phil Cayzer has led a small team of people to follow possible openings for CRC to be established in another four nations. It is exciting to see what God is doing in West Africa.



FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Pr Mike Cronin

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus said “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations (people groups)”. The disciples could have reasoned that they needed to stay in Jerusalem, but the Gospel only spread throughout the known world because people ‘went out’ and preached everywhere.

In this issue of Pulse you can read more of the impact of missionaries (people who have gone from their home country to a different country). However, the call is not to a select few, but to all believers to ‘GO’ beyond their

comfort zone and make disciples.

The fulfillment of our International Vision of a presence in every nation by 2045 will only happen as people ‘GO’ to new nations, and keep ‘Going’.

We read in this issue of Pulse Magazine about people who have overcome the inertia of comfort and have responded to God’s call to ‘Go’ and share the Gospel in other nations - strengthening believers and making new disciples.

The apostle Paul only spent a short time in most places as he taught the Word of God, developed leaders and left them to make other disciples. He did not stay long enough for people to become dependant on him, but rather to quickly make other disciples.

Our training programs in the Pacific, Asia and Africa are designed to equip people to go out and make disciples of Christ. You can be a part of this!



A HEART FOR THE NATIONS

Julie Fonorito

My exposure to World Missions began during my training at Fiji School of Discipleship and Christian Ministry (FSDCM). We had missionaries and students from Papua New Guinea (PNG), New Zealand, United States of America (USA) and Australia helping in the Bible School, preschool, local churches and outreaches around Fiji.

After graduation I was helping in the local church in Suva and was given the opportunity to go for further studies at Bethel Centre in PNG.

I graduated from Bethel Bible College after two years of training. At Bethel Centre I came to understand more

about missions theoretically and practically.

I went on my first overseas missions trip to Sri Lanka in 1999 after graduating from Bethel Bible College. This was during the time of civil war in the nation and shortly after Bethel Children's Home in Valaichenai had opened.

This visit had an effect on me as I saw the needs of people around me and the opportunity to serve the Lord anywhere. On this trip to Sri Lanka I decided I wanted to do something for God but I wasn't sure what it was going to be.

After lots of praying and seeking guidance from God and my leaders, I knew that I wanted to become a missionary. I knew I wouldn't serve in one specific country, but that I would go

wherever the need was and that's where my journey began.

Over the next six years I visited Sri Lanka regularly and served each time at Bethel Children's Home. Working at the children's home has impacted my life in so many ways. I had to learn how trust God more when I had to deal with unexpected situations, safety concerns, decision making, showing love and care, teaching about God and helping meet the children's basic needs.

In subsequent years I have travelled to India, Myanmar and Bethel Centre (PNG) to help train young men and women in the training program we run. I also had chances to visit other nations on short term missions trips.

I am now based in Adelaide working as a personal assistant to Pr Barry Silverback.

Apart from all the office administration, communication and visiting other mission fields, one of my main responsibilities in recent years is printing and sending teaching notes to our training schools in PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Philippines, India and Ghana.

I am also currently overseeing the training school in Manipur, India. I assist the staff in their daily programs, and I mentor staff and students. I am also lecturing students via Zoom in this training school, as well as in our missions school in West Bengal, also in India.

Serving as a missionary cross culturally has its challenges and struggles, but the opportunity to help and serve people is the best experience.

It is such a blessing to see young people who have graduated from our training schools over the years now operating as leaders and pastors, serving God in their nations and overseas.

God has blessed us so let's continue to bless others and become involved in global missions in our local churches.

I encourage every Christian to try and take at least one missions trip overseas because it will change you as it did to me.

Missions work has always been special to God so when He calls missionaries to do His work, He is calling us to participate in His work around the world.

Are we ready and willing?



FROM FIJI TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Viema Vakacegu

Greetings to you all from Bethel Centre in Papua New Guinea (PNG). This year has been a great year so far with so many wonderful events taking place and the great things we have been experiencing whilst serving here in Port Moresby. This is our fourth year serving as missionaries. We are loving our time carrying out our daily work and responsibilities as a family.

God has always been good and faithful to us and we greatly appreciate everyone for your love, prayer and support. We continually thank God for never leaving our side. We have seen His provision, protection, and blessings in trying times and we will continually and boldly declare that because Jesus lives, we can face every new day filled with His grace and loving kindness.

Ilisoni is involved in Bethel Bible School that runs from 6:00-8:30pm every Monday and Thursday. Bethel Bible School is a part-time course offered to those who cannot attend the full-time courses here at Bethel. There are two course levels available (course 1 and 2).

This year Ilisoni organised a Zoom meeting with Pr Barry Silverback to have a teaching session with the students. Pr Bill Vasilakis also had an opportunity to run a few nights of teaching with the students during his visit to PNG in May.

Ilisoni is also helping Pr Paul Stanley with transport for people living at Bethel Centre and the daily work here.

I am involved in our Preschool Teacher Training Course. It is such a joy to teach and train young people from around PNG and overseas, who have a heart for children. I am passionate about the call of God in my life to train teachers who will go back to their communities, villages, provinces and countries to educate the younger generation.

This year we have five students enrolled in the course. They are all from different provinces around PNG.

Our children, Alisi (14) and Ilisoni Stuart (12) are both doing well in their studies and are showing great results in their school work. Alisi took part in the book week poem competition and was awarded the best poem presenter in the secondary school category at Sunrise Bethel Christian School. Overall, both of them are doing well and are in great health.

In May we took part in the missions sale fiesta in church. We helped out in doing sales for our children's ministry. It was such a great opportunity to be part of global missions. We also took part in various church activities and ministries.

We really have enjoyed every part of our service here in Port Moresby and are looking forward to many great things ahead.

Thank you for all your support and prayers that have truly enabled us to carry out our responsibilities with great passion and enthusiasm trusting in God at all times.



THE HIDDEN PARADISE OF FIJI

Enoch Hageyo

My family and I are currently looking after our CRC base in Savusavu, Fiji. Savusavu is known as the 'hidden paradise of Fiji'.

Our church also looks after a preschool where my wife Karewe teaches. We have 37 children enrolled in the preschool this year.

I sometimes help in the preschool by dressing up like a clown, as well as doing devotions and lesson revisions for the children.

Currently there are about four families that come to church. Mostly children attend our church.

One of the parents is a chef at one of our hotels in Savusavu. Although she hardly comes to church, she always sends her daughters to come to church. We also follow them up.

We have cell group every Wednesday, church prayer meetings on Thursday nights and ARK Ministry on Friday afternoons after school.

At the moment we are trying to secure land by negotiating with the land owner so we can build a permanent property. We are trusting in God's grace and praying that God will give us some land.

We appreciate the prayers and support of the CRC family for the work we are involved in here in Savusavu. Together in His harvest.





MINISTERING IN THE USA

Pr Warwick Hughes

Greetings to you from all of us here at Faith Center Church, Walhalla, South Carolina.

The month of May was a really encouraging month here at Faith Center Church, especially with the visit of Pr Mike Groom who was with us for a week. Between some meetings and mowing the church property, Pr Mike was able to catch up with a good number of our congregation members.

We were also able to make some positive decisions in regards to the future of the work and ministry here at Faith Center Church during his time with us.

The family of God were blessed with the word Pr Mike ministered on Sunday morning. After the service, we had lunch together at church, giving time for different ones to catch up with him.

Our children's church is going really well. On Mother's Day we had the children give out a red rose to each mother in the church. It was good to see children giving to other mothers and showing appreciation for them.

We continue to have really good youth nights on Fridays as well. We have a few boys coming along each week.

Our Wednesday night missions prayer and Bible study is continuing to run well. In May we studied through the

book of John looking at the footsteps of Jesus. These footsteps are the characteristics and qualities that we see in Jesus' life which we can adopt ourselves and live out in our own lives daily.

When Pr Mike was here, we held our men's meeting. It was great to have a good number turn up, along with some of our teenagers and a couple children. We also had Tim Johnson and an old Faith Training Center student Wayne Collinsworth with us.

I continue to teach via zoom to our Bible school students in Ghana. It is encouraging to see the students hungry for the teaching of the Word and asking questions as I'm teaching.

I had Nathan Wright, Michael Mizell and his worker help me clear a lot of overgrown trees and plants along a section of our church property's boundary fence line. Among the overgrown trees and plants are three power supplies and three water supplies for people to park their camper vans and buses at. We decided to clean up around them so we can get access to them and set them up properly so we can use them for our future ministry endeavours.

In The last two weeks of May the Hughes family came down with COVID-19. We have all recovered now. A big thank you to Pr Mike who had different ones praying for us. Thank you to all who prayed and encouraged us. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.



SERVING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Mikaela Groom

I arrived in Papua New Guinea (PNG) on Tuesday 21st February. I live in a house with four other ladies – two Papua New Guineans and two Filipino missionaries. During a normal week, I spend most of my days working in the Bethel Finance Office. While I am here, I am continuing my finance work with CRC Missions.

My main purpose in coming to PNG was to help in Sunday school. Pr Barry Silverback and the senior pastors of Bethel Tabernacle of Praise (BTOP) asked me to develop a new curriculum with lesson plans, and to restructure the existing program. I spent the first

few months preparing all of this. The new material was introduced on Sunday 11th June and formal lessons began on Sunday 18th June.

In my time planning for the children's ministry, I could feel my anticipation and excitement increasing. I enjoyed my time generating a curriculum, preparing lesson plans and more. I truly believe I have a calling to serve and lead children and I am looking forward to the work God has for me in PNG.

In April, a team from Adelaide came to PNG to take part in an Easter worship conference at BTOP. I loved having everyone here. My whole family was here except for my sister Rebekah, along with other friends from home.

The Easter conference was a huge success. It was very special seeing our musicians and singers from back home combining with the team here. They all

did a fantastic job! For those who do not serve on the worship team, they had an opportunity to run children's programs during the conference.

For the first couple of days after the team arrived, I wasn't feeling the best. I ended up going to the doctor and tested positive for dengue fever. I didn't enjoy feeling sick, but I struggled more with the disappointment of missing out and not being able to spend as much quality time with friends and family while they were in PNG.

When I look back on that experience, I can recognise a few blessings in disguise. Prior to the team coming, I was feeling anxious and stressed about a few things. My mind was focused on so many things and I wasn't really settled. I also didn't take proper time to rest and take care of myself properly.

I didn't rest as effectively when the team was here, but after they left, I rested for four days. After this, I felt refreshed, a lot more settled in my new life here in PNG, and more prepared to step into my work and responsibilities here at Bethel Centre. Although I didn't enjoy being sick, I do appreciate the forced rest and brief reset.

At the end of April my brother Josh arrived in PNG in preparation for his first international golf tournament – the PNG Open. Dad joined us a few days later. He came to caddy for Josh during the tournament. It was nice seeing them again very soon after their Easter trip. We had a great time!

In May I celebrated my birthday. I went out for lunch with Chrioni (my now fiancé), his parents and my friend

Raka. While we were at lunch, Chrioni proposed to me. I think it is safe to say that was the highlight of the day (and the year, and maybe my life so far!).

One of the main lessons I have learnt during my time here, and that I need to continually remind myself of, is that wherever God calls us, He will make a way for His plan to outwork in our lives. We can become so distracted by what we are going through and what people are saying to us, but we mustn't lose sight of the bigger picture and what God has called us to. If we are certain of God's call in our lives, we must remember that He can make a way even when things don't look favourable. He can also use us to achieve so much more than we could possibly imagine.

At the end of May I travelled back to Adelaide for two weeks to attend my sister's wedding. It was nice to be with my family during this time. I know many missionaries don't have the chance to return home for special events like this so I feel very blessed and privileged.

When I returned back to PNG I went straight into lecturing full time. At the time of writing, I am teaching English to students in Bethel Preschool Teacher Training Course every day for two weeks, as well as Public Speaking to students in Bethel Bible School on Monday and Thursday evenings for the same two weeks.

I am very busy at the moment with increasing responsibilities in the Sunday school and keeping on top of my CRC Missions finance role in addition to all of these other tasks. I am enjoying myself though and am happy to be serving in PNG at this time.



UPDATE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

In May 2023, Pr Phil Cayzer, Roslyn Stuart and Pr Marg Aeschlimann travelled to Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Ethiopia. Their mission was to connect with contacts in each country and link independent and isolated churches to the CRC family, setting up Bible Schools for pastors, leaders, and church members, to be built up in the Word of God and equipped to plant churches.

Contacts came via east African CRC churches, and from African pastors in Adelaide and Melbourne. Many had also seen videos of Pr Phil preaching. Few were known personally, so this was very much a pioneering venture.

First stop, Lungi in Sierra Leone, a large town with many roads not designed for cars. Heavy rain in the wet washes away any semblance of smooth. Meetings took place in a large village church and began with loud, enthusiastic worship and prayer, Calypso-style, probably an influence from the prohibition of the slave trade in the 1800s. This worship style continued across the west, enhanced by colourful costumes, sometimes drums and rhythm instruments. A ferry ride took them to Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, then to Bo and Sambuya, before travelling all day with the three of them squashed in the back seat of a car into Monrovia, Liberia, with frequent stops for visas and checks.

In each location they were met by local pastors and leaders who had been eagerly anticipating their coming. Communication via WhatsApp made it easier to coordinate their movements, and then to keep in contact afterwards. Accommodation, transport, meals and meetings with pastors were organised by hosts. They mostly ate local food, they adjusted to cold bucket baths and toilets, with only fans in their bedrooms when electricity was available. All of this during the hot, muggy west African wet season. Air conditioning was a luxury they sometimes had, in guest houses or hotel rooms, with mostly comfortable beds. Travel was by car in a country, and then airplane between countries.

In Ghana they enjoyed time in Pr John and Mercy Boateng's home. There they visited Terri International Christian Academy, where many children have sponsorship from turningpoint church, Cranbourne. Pr John has stepped into the role of liaison officer, to follow up what God has started in West Africa. Then on to Lagos, a huge city, slightly more affluent, in Nigeria, across to Rwanda, then north to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia for their last appointment.

In each place God had His appointed people, who were very keen to be part of the CRC, and IMBC. They are "confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among (the churches in the countries we visited) will complete it by the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

Their next trip to east Africa will be in October 2023, immediately after the national conference. They will be visiting selected east African nations.



CRC MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING

Thursday 27 July, 2023

NATIONAL MISSIONS SUNDAY

Sunday 30 July, 2023

The focus of this year's missions offering is the CRC Training Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania.