



PULSE MAGAZINE

March 2022

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FROM THE EDITOR

Mikaela Groom

Welcome to the first edition of Pulse Magazine for 2022.

In this edition we feature some new fields, new ministry endeavours in our existing fields, and some general updates from various nations.

I would like to make special mention of the missionary opportunity in Prague. Pr Mark Walker has provided details for this position on page 12. If you feel a call to missionary service, particularly in the area of worship pastoring, I encourage you to familiarise yourself with the position being offered in Prague.

Once again I loved reading through all of the updates submitted for this edition. I was particularly encouraged by the great efforts of our CRC churches and individuals in Australia who raised funds to help those devastated by the typhoon in the Philippines. What a great testimony of our CRC family pulling together to help one another out.

We are still caught in the COVID-19 pandemic, however, our international borders and travel restrictions are slowly opening and decreasing. I for one am very excited about embarking on missions trips once again. In 2022 this is finally looking to be a possibility.

Although Zoom and other online means of communication are fantastic ways to communicate, nothing beats meeting together in person.



FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Pr Mike Cronin

Our International Vision of 'A Presence in Every Nation by 2045' stands firm no matter what is happening in our world.

CRC Churches International is continuing to thrust forward into new frontiers to fulfil this vision.

The only thing that can really stop us is our thinking. 'God is able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or think' (Ephesians 3:20). Think God thoughts, NOT our limitations or fears.

In this issue of Pulse we share some of the things God is doing in Nepal, a small largely Hindu nation, and also Bangladesh, a massive population of predominantly Moslem beliefs in a very small nation.

Ministry in African countries is also expanding and reaching into new nations like Congo, Zambia and Namibia.

Our world is full of uncertainty, yet the gospel first spread in similar or worse circumstances. It can do it again through you and I.

It has been exciting to see the generosity of our Australian churches towards our brothers and sisters in severe difficulties. Philippines after the massive destruction of typhoon Odette just before Christmas. And now to help our Polish friends who are ministering to the refugees from Ukraine.



FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF NEPAL

Pr Jeremy Steel

My current involvement in Nepal started not that long ago.

I was introduced to Nabin and his team by Dipak, a good friend of mine who came to Australia as a refugee.

Dipak was saved in a refugee camp in Nepal where he lived for 20 years before being offered a refugee visa to Australia.

In November 2019, before COVID-19 restrictions were enforced, I was able

to visit Nabin in Nepal for a one week leadership training. Prior to this, Nabin and his team had travelled to India to meet with me and other people several times.

Through this connection one young man from Nepal has been trained in the India Bible school and has now returned home where he is pastoring a church.

It has been a delight to be involved in starting and running Leadership Discipleship Training Schools (LDTS) in Nepal with the support of Cairns Family Church (CFC) and the CFC Nepalese Fellowship.

The LDTS in Nepal is a school that runs for three months for three days per week. Students travel into the school for three days of study and then return to their home churches to be involved in the weekend ministry.

In 2021 we were able to run the school three times with 10 students graduating each time.

The first group of students were mostly pastors and church planters.

We had the fourth batch of students begin on the 6th of March. They are key workers and leaders within the network of churches.

I provide support and often lecture via Zoom along with Dipak and several of the staff members in India who speak Nepalese.

The work in Nepal is in the Eastern part of the country in a more remote rural setting. Added to this, Nepal is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world.

This adds to the challenge and complexities of running the school.

Things that most of us take for granted, like constant electricity supply and running water to the house, are a challenge.

As part of this process, we have been able to help with the construction of one church building, which is now being used for the running of the training program.

We are hoping to be able to run the leadership school twice this year, in addition to running one week leadership training schools in other parts of Eastern Nepal.

Nepal is a strongly Hindu nation of about 30 million people. However there is a great hunger for the Gospel throughout the nation. Please pray that the Word of God will continue to spread across the nation and penetrate deep into the hearts of people to lead the church forward into a great harvest.



HOW TO SERVE THE LORD IN BANGLADESH

Siddik & Fency Rahman

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your prayers and blessing.

I am so glad to write to you about the information of Bangladesh and our ministry and how we are working among our community.

Bangladesh has a population of 170 million people.

Islam is the major religion of Bangladesh (89.1%), followed by Hinduism (10%), and Buddhism and Christianity (0.9%).

21.8% of the population in Bangladesh live in poverty.

Bangladesh is a predominantly Muslim country so it is very difficult for us to share the gospel and the Word of God, but everything is possible by the grace of God.

Here are some of the avenues that we always follow for sharing the gospel in our country:

- First of all prayer
- Choose the place and people
- Realise their real needs and felt needs
- Find some way to help them
- Ask them about their religion
- Join their different and many cultural festivals

- Extend a benevolent hand during natural calamity
- Practice and excise their culture

Our church's name is Christian Revival Church of Bangladesh (CRCB) Trust. This church is authorised from the government and we got registration from the government.

Our church's motto is 'Teaching Children, Reaching Parents'.

Some of the ministries we are involved in include:

- Make a friend
- Distribute relief
- Distribute tracks
- Family visit
- Counselling

- Discipleship training
- Small group Bible study
- Women's fellowship
- Witness
- Schooling programs
- Worship programs.

On behalf of CRCB Trustee board in Bangladesh, Pr Siddik and Fency organised ministry programs and activities that better equip people in different places.

It is through God's will that we were able to run these programs among the people.

We are so glad to be close with you all.

Again we would like to thank and offer greetings to every one of you.

NEW AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTREACH IN CAMBODIA

Rebecca Hartskeerl

Here in Cambodia we have started the year with many celebrations and opportunities to share the gospel.

This last month we have been able to get back into doing outreaches and going from province to province, sharing the gospel (not just with words but action as well), and encouraging pastors.

Early in February Pr Sina took a team to go and build a house for a poor widow in a neighbouring province – Kompong Thom.

While they were building the house, many people from the village came to join in and help or just sit and talk to those around. Even the village chief came.

In the evening the team were able to share the gospel with them and they saw seven people give their lives to Jesus.

A few weeks later, the pastors in that province asked Pr Sina and his team to go again to do an outreach at another village.

More than 70 people came to join in and hear the gospel.

At the end we also prayed for the sick and saw 11 more come to Jesus.

Afterwards all 18 (seven from before) were baptised in the river nearby.

The next day the team travelled to another province in the north, Steung Treng, where they conducted a wedding for a young couple.

The church there was encouraged by our help and have asked us to go and do an outreach there at a later date.

From there the team travelled east to Rattanakiri to share clothes and stationery with the children in a poor village.

During that time, they were able to visit a few families, where they could worship, share the gospel, and pray for the sick.

Two more people gave their lives to Jesus, and this also opened more opportunities for future outreaches and times to teach and train the believers there.

In our own area of Kompong Chhnang we continue to see people come to Jesus, be healed and set free, and we recently baptised another 17 new believers.

Our churches continue to grow and reach out to the hurting and lost in all that we do, whether this be through the sharing of the gospel in outreaches and festivals, or through building houses, digging wells and whatever else is needed.

We are showing the love of Jesus in all we do.





AT A GLANCE AFTER TYPHOON ODETTE

Pr Peter Hauje

On December 16th 2021, Typhoon Rai, locally known as Typhoon Odette, made its first landfall in the Philippines.

It brought torrential rains, violent winds, floods and storm surges to the Visaya and Mindanao islands.

Overnight Typhoon Odette left hundreds of people dead and hundreds of thousands of families homeless.

Initial reports following the typhoon showed devastation throughout many areas of the impacted regions, but it is only over the subsequent weeks that

the full scale of the damage has come to light.

Initial assessments following the typhoon only hinted at the sheer scale of destruction - nearly 1.7 million houses were damaged or destroyed, there was massive damage to infrastructure, agricultural land, fishing communities and livelihoods across an extensive geographic area of the country.

In total, Typhoon Odette severely affected an estimated 9.9 million people across the six worst hit regions, leaving about 2.4 million people in need of assistance.

More than a month after the typhoon hit, nearly 144,000 people remain displaced.

Many individuals and families are living in damaged shelters with little access to basic services.

CRC Churches Philippines has churches around the Visaya and Mindanao regions.

After the typhoon hit the islands, our admin office in Pasig tried to connect with our churches in the Visayas – Cebu, Bohol, and Aklan to be specific.

These areas were badly affected and we could not reach them.

According to the Government news, there was no electricity or signal for communication.

After a week the team were able to connect with Pr Winnie Estrera from the mountain of Togonon, Danao, Cebu.

Pr Winnie's church was totally damaged. Their roof was ripped by the strong wind.

There were also five families from the church whose houses were damaged.

The same thing happened with our church in Dumanjug, Cebu.

The house of Pr Marlito Pendiang was destroyed and the store for their family business collapsed.

His legs were also injured whilst trying to evacuate during the typhoon. He could not walk for a time.

I was able to contact our pastor in Bohol, Pr Romeo Dominguez, after a week.

Their house and church were damaged and they need to travel for some kilometres to get signal for communication.

We have received assistance funds from CRC Australia for churches and families that were affected by the typhoon.

At the time of writing, we have received a total of PHP735,882.00 and have been able to send it to pastors and families that need assistance.

Recipients took action immediately in response to the needs they have around them and in the church.

Food and relief goods were given to families in need, and for congregation members whose houses were devastated by the typhoon, they were given some assistance for them to start rebuilding their houses.

Our church in Togonon and Dumanjug in Cebu was able to repair the damage to the church building and in their destroyed home.

In Palawan we gave some assistance to Pr Melvin Sotomayor to help families in the community.

We also sent assistance to Pr Randy Palanas in Asuncion, Davao because the church and homes in Asuncion were flooded.

Although there were no damaged houses, we assisted them with food supplies.

We were able to assist other churches who no longer belong to the CRC in the Philippines, but whom we still have a personal connection with.

In Cebu, we were able to assist Pr Ian Villacarlos from Mandaue, and Sister Evarose Floresca and Hilario Alfeche.



From Leyte, we assisted Pr Nono and Nally Espejo by providing funds to rebuild their church that was totally destroyed.

The CRC in the Philippines would like to express our appreciation to the churches in Australia and to the people that gave their finances to help and assist families that were affected by the typhoon.

This assistance is a big help for our people, and our churches were able to become a blessing to their communities.

May the Lord bless you all with all His abundant favour and blessings.

Through these funds we have been able to give food relief for more than 300 families and help rebuild houses and churches.

To God be all the glory!

The impact of Typhoon Odette in Cebu

Cebu was also badly impacted. Pr Allan Manzanilla and his team based in Danao, at the CRC National Centre, have been very busy, so far feeding over 1,000 families (up to late February) and are continuing to help people from the coast to the mountains.

The kitchen at the CRC National Centre was badly damaged and needs to be rebuilt, however, the team working in very difficult circumstances, have done a great job with what they have.

Many people had their homes totally destroyed and are now living in very temporary shelter, under bridges and so on with limited government help.

Bible distribution has also been a significant aspect of the ministry being done and many people are now very open to the gospel message.

MISSIONARY OPPORTUNITY IN PRAGUE

As the capital of Czech Republic and a renowned university city which attracts students around the world, Prague is strategic for missions in Europe. It has also played a major role in the history of Christianity, as the place where the reformer John Hus ministered 100 years before Martin Luther.

John and Kelsie Mullen are the pastors of Prague Christian Fellowship (PCF), an English-speaking international church. Following a visit by Pr Chris Carmody and Pr Mark Walker, CRC Training has developed a strong relationship with PCF to assist with ministry training, study options and supporting the growth of the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement in Europe.

John and Kelsie have reached out expressing their need for someone to fill the paid, part-time position of Worship Pastor at PCF. This role includes coordinating the ministry of worship and overseeing other worship leaders and music team members. John has advised that the role has the potential to expand if the individual has pastoral experience.

The Australian CRC National Training Board have decided to advertise this position amongst CRC Churches in an effort to assist John and Kelsie in filling this position. This would strengthen the relationship between the CRC movement and Prague and increase opportunities for growth and support.

If you know you are called to the mission field and feel led to apply for this position, please contact Pr Mark Walker for more information (markw4850@gmail.com).

UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD: AFRICA

CRC Zambia Church Activities *Pr Romano Mpundu*

We greatly thank God for the good work that He is enabling us to carry out here in Zambia. The year 2022 started on a good note. The CRC in Zambia entered 2022 with great excitement as we just came from baptising new converts in December 2021.

I took on a journey to visit the believers in the Western Province of Zambia from 31st January to 2nd February 2022. That is in Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement Area of Kaoma District to strengthen them in the faith.

In promoting church growth, we are constructing a church building in Mkushi District, which is almost at the roofing level. This is the Branch run by Pr Moses Simbua who was recently ordained to the call.

The CRC Zambia National Executive met on 3rd February 2022 to develop the strategic plan and Action plan for 2022 – 2024 and 2022 respectively. The meeting was attended by all the National Board Members in Zambia.

Power of God Ministries Mauritius *Pr Vishnu Durgadoo*

We at Power of God Ministries, Mauritius started our CRC International Missions Bible College (IMBC) course for this year on 20th January with two students for the Certificate Program

starting with Basic Bible Doctrine and eight students for Diploma Program with Apologetics, Biblical Truths and Biblical Extremes.

COVID-19 restrictions are still in force in Mauritius so we cannot meet in the church so we are having our courses on Zoom for the time being. We are exploring every means God has put in our disposition to continue with the CRC IMBC program.

The students are very enthusiastic to study God's Word and are showing great interest in doing so. They have understood that they must study the Word to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks them to give a reason for their hope (1 Peter 3:15).

Do keep us in your prayers as I am aiming to contact many pastors and churches to offer the CRC IBMC courses. Pray that there will be such a thirst among the churches in Mauritius to study God's Word.

News about CRC Churches International of Burundi *Pr Ciza Sylvester*

We begin by addressing warm greetings in Jesus name to our dear friends of CRC churches around the world.

In Burundi we have to praise God who has stood with us at the end of 2021, at the beginning of 2022 and until now. As we already have 11 outreaches in the surrounding area, we are praying for a miracle that God will make a way financially to be able to purchase a property to build a church and supporting building so that we can move out of the rental market.

Being in rented accommodation is not ideal, however, we will continue to spread the gospel in our local and surrounding areas so more people can be brought into the Kingdom of God.

I praise God that we now have enough new believers in our different locations and that they are preparing to be water baptised sometime during Easter.

I am working on translating the 19 books of the CRC Churches' foundation into Kirundi language. I believe God will continually be with me guiding and blessing the work and providing for any needs that I require to continue to be met.

Please pray that God will open the way to register CRC Churches in Burundi. We believe that we will receive the registration certificate for we know God acts in His own time.

A very unfortunate event happened at Sayuni Church, located in the Nyankanda refugee camp. On Sunday evening 16th January, during a bad rain and wind storm, a complete wall of the church collapsed leaving bricks laying on the ground. We praise God for there were no injuries or deaths and we also praise God that it was only one wall not the whole church.

God is faithful to keep His word *Pr Zealot Mbembe Majagira*

This testimony goes back to the end of December 2021. A member of the church in Haut Katanga was pregnant. We followed her pregnancy and prayed for her every day. This lady had previously given birth to her first child via cesarean section.

One Sunday during the worship service we received an emergency call from her husband asking us to join him at the hospital where his wife was experiencing the threat of childbirth. Leaving the worship service straight away, my wife and I, along with five church members, rushed to the hospital to pray.

We found the lady in good health, but in a state of confinement. The doctor told us that the situation was complicated because the lady's blood pressure was very high. The doctor insisted that she have an emergency cesarean because of the complications. We did not panic but stood in faith and told the doctor that God would be with her and she would have the baby at the right time naturally.

The doctor was not happy and he continued to insist on an emergency cesarean and suggested that we would be responsible if anything bad happened to her or her baby. However, we stood assuredly firm on Hebrews 11:1 and insisted that the lady should go home until it was time to give birth.

Before the time came for her to give birth, we spent time in prayer with her, standing on the Word of God and encouraging her that God is in control, to keep that faith because nothing is impossible for God (Luke 1:37).

The birthing time arrived in the middle of the night as her contractions had started again. Her husband took her to a hospital near his home and around 3am she gave birth to a beautiful girl without a cesarean section. Praise God for his faithfulness.



CRC MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

UPCOMING EVENTS

MISSIONARY TRAINING INTENSIVE

Monday 4 July to Friday 8 July 2022

One week training with Pr Barry Silverback, Pr Jeremy Steel and others at Christian Family Centre Seaton.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING

Thursday 28 July 2022

NATIONAL MISSIONS SUNDAY

Sunday 31 July 2022