



# PULSE MAGAZINE

June 2020

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*Pulse is the voice of CRC Missions International*

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# FROM THE EDITOR

## *Mikaela Groom*

Welcome to our June edition of Pulse Magazine for 2020.

Our overall focus for 2020 is on missionaries. In our March edition we heard from Australian missionaries serving in various nations. In this most recent issue our focus is on Papua New Guinean missionaries who are currently working in countries, such as in the Philippines, Fiji, Australia, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

As I read through the following articles I was greatly inspired by the courage and willingness each of these individuals displays in following the unique call of God upon their lives, particularly when it comes to the sacrifice involved in leaving family members behind and venturing outside of their homeland.

As I read through the challenges each of these missionaries have faced during their service, I was reminded of the following scripture - Isaiah 41:10. It says, 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand'.

As each of us follows the unique call of God upon our lives, we can find comfort in the knowledge that God will never leave us nor forsake us. We can serve him passionately with the awareness that He knows what is best for us and is always there to help us in times of hardship.



# FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

## *Pr Mike Cronin*

When Jesus gave His followers the Commission to go and make disciples of all peoples, He was building on what God said from the beginning - Genesis 1:28. This was further expanded in the Abrahamic Covenant - that through the descendants of Abraham all people on earth were to be blessed - Genesis 12:1-3. The theme followed through the Old Testament and then Jesus gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.

The Gospel was then taken from the

Middle East and spread north, south, east and west. During the Dark Ages very little happened in spreading the Gospel message, but from the 18<sup>th</sup> century with groups like the Moravians, missionary zeal developed dramatically. Over the next couple of centuries, the Gospel was taken from the west to the rest of the world. In 1900, 70% of the world Christian population were European. Now it is about 20%. There has been massive growth in the Christian population in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

This edition of Pulse focuses on the amazing work our Papua New Guinean missionaries are doing in Philippines, Fiji, Australia, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

We gladly value and honour our PNG brothers and sisters for their sacrifice and commitment to fulfil the Great Commission. They are a challenge and inspiration to us all.



# SERVING IN THE PHILIPPINES

*The following articles have been written by those who are currently serving in the Philippines and those who have recently been serving in the Philippines but have returned home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## VELA NIALLY

I had a strong impression in my heart around 13 or 14 years of age that so many children are going through the depression of broken homes and families.

I felt that they were counting on me and I heard “you will go”. Back then I was not a Christian, but I was one of the victims.

I started serving the Lord in 2010 after graduating from Bethel Bible College. When I was in Bible College missions became clearer to me.

I went to the Philippines last year in March. The Philippines was my first international mission field. I was involved in the local church ministries and evangelism.

As a missionary I enjoy bonding with people in different sectors of life, serving them, listening to them, loving and accepting them.

My greatest challenge as a missionary is experiencing different cultures and communication in different languages.

My greatest joy is seeing people coming to the saving knowledge of God and accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

My advice for people who want to be more involved in missions is to start where you are, take one step at a time, be responsible, use whatever you have, humble yourself and serve.

Remember that God will raise you up in due time, and always maintain your personal relationship with Him.

## JOY MOMIA

I have always had a desire in me, ever since I was a little girl, to serve the Lord. I believe this desire was placed in my heart by the Lord. I guess what really helped with my involvement in missions is the fact that we had a church that was missions-minded and I had friends who were already missionaries so they encouraged me in this area.

My calling to the field did not happen overnight. God had to prepare me for what lay ahead; training was important. During my first term as a missionary, I was given the role of looking after World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) in the Philippines. For two years I oversaw the school. I was also involved in other ministries in the church.

My greatest challenge while serving far away from home is the fear of losing a loved one; a couple of my family members have already passed on. It is during these hard times where I have learnt to look to Jesus for strength and allow His peace to saturate my whole being; He has never failed me.

What I find most rewarding is people giving their lives to Jesus and growing spiritually in Him. There is satisfaction in seeing people come to Jesus.

For those looking to be involved in missions work, or who want to be full-time missionaries, be confident in what you have heard from God and that this is what He wants you to do. Surround yourself with godly people who will speak into your life and help you grow in your desire to serve God.

## SHALOM COPELAND

My journey began in Bethel Centre. After graduating from WMFTS, I became a fulltime staff. I was involved in the missions department (running the coffee shop, being a WMFTS staff and more). I also went on a short-term trip to Vanuatu. The more I got involved, the more I felt the call to go as a missionary to fulfil the great commission.

I have served in the Solomon Islands and the Philippines. I was assigned to help with church planting in both nations. I gathered people in small groups, ran Bible studies, taught God's Word and disciplined people. I also did ground-breaking for the church building and more physical work.

The greatest challenge I face is hearing sad news from home. I have lost loved ones and have also heard news that parents are not well; being away from them is the hardest. However, God is

faithful. When I said yes to God, it came with a cost. I understand it is hard, but it is worth it because the price Jesus paid was much greater and nothing compares to what He has done for me.

My greatest reward as a missionary is seeing souls saved, not only accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, but also becoming genuine followers of Christ.

My encouragement to those who are looking to be involved in missions or to become a missionary is start getting involved in missions: go on a missions trip and visit the fields. If you feel the call to go, God needs your availability and obedience. We can all be part of the great commission.

Philippians 3:8 says, 'What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ'.

## BENJAMIN WARI

My desire to become involved in world missions all started with our first trip to Adelaide, South Australia in 2005 as short-term missionaries. My mum and dad had gone ahead for the first nine months and because of school, my younger brother and I went for the last three months of the trip. That experience alone taught me a lot, especially the aspect that people need God and that we as individuals have a part to play, whether you are young or old, big or small, a leader or a follower; we all have a part to play.

Interestingly, as a missionary I did all of the basic stuff that I was taught growing up, like washing dishes, washing clothes and cleaning the house or area. Apart from that, we did church set ups, one-on-one evangelism, prayer walks, prayer meetings, house visitations, pulpit ministry, altar calls, bible studies, mentoring and discipleship.

My greatest challenge as a missionary is the possibility that something may happen to my family while I am away, and I hear the news.

My greatest reward, on the other hand, is having to help people and most importantly, leading people (mainly youth) to Christ.

In regard to people looking to become more involved in missions, or who desire to become missionaries in the future, rather than offer advice, I would like to encourage. If you have been fighting a nudge to join fulltime ministry or to be involved in missions, either long-term or short-term, take time to genuinely pray about it. I would encourage you not to fight it, because the more you fight it the more of a burden it becomes for you. So if you feel the nudge in your heart, go for it. It will be challenging, and it will not be easy, but it will get better as you progress.



## PETER HAUJE

My desire to become a missionary began when I became curious and was drawn to raise questions like why did we have Australians and other white missionaries coming into my village? I had this idea as a child that Australia was like heaven and Papua New Guinea (PNG) was like hell, so why would they leave heaven and come to hell? Why would they leave their comfortable life and choose to come to villages in PNG to eat, sleep and be like one of us? For me as a child that did not make any sense. However, that led me deeper into asking why, which led to answers and made me realise they were obeying the Great Commission. The lives and sacrifice of these missionaries challenged me to become a missionary.

Understanding and feeling God's love for me also had an effect upon my life and strengthened my desire to become a missionary. As an orphaned child, I never experienced what love was until Jesus came into my heart.

I felt the call to become a missionary as a teenager in 1985 when I heard Pr Barry Silverback sing 'Lord make Calvary real to me, open my eyes to see victory in Christ for me, Lord make Calvary real to me'. I am currently the lead pastor of

CRC Missions Global Outreach Church in Pasig, Manila, and I participate in church planting within Metro Manila. I am also involved in the administration, coordination and implementation of CRC Philippines; I provide leadership for the churches (I am the current National Chairman), and I am actively involved in missions in the Philippines and from the Philippines to the world, in partnership with Bethel Centre, PNG.

Being away from home and family, as well as land-related issues have been the greatest challenges for me personally. Additionally, the Philippines is prone to many natural disasters, which have been a great challenge in my life as a missionary and someone who is in leadership with a responsibility to provide spiritual, material and financial assistance.

The greatest joys have been seeing churches planted, grown and expanded; seeing souls saved and disciplined, with some becoming leaders; seeing kids born and growing to become involved in churches; and seeing others involved in missions.

My advice for people interested in becoming missionaries is to dedicate your whole life, not just a portion of it, but EVERYTHING. If you only give half of your life, you may never become one.

## THOMAS SEMOI

I am from Lae, Morobe Province. My wife Reselma is from the Philippines and we have two boys, Jabez and Josiah.

While I was serving in Bethel Centre, missionaries from other countries came to live and serve. Their lives and messages motivated me to be a missionary. My first trip to the Philippines was in 1998 where I served in Cebu for one year. This impacted me and caused me to pray about returning to the Philippines as a long-term missionary. Finally, I came back to the Philippines in June 2006.

I currently lead a church in Tondo, Manila. I also teach in WMFTS, lecture in the World Missions Awareness weekends and travel to other churches to preach.

In February our youth held an evangelistic night. The theme was 'The One That God Allowed'. We saw 15 young people give their hearts to God. We also conduct children's outreach programs once a month - there are 40 children that we minister to.

I love leading my church, shepherding the people and grounding them in the Word of God. It is a joy leading new people to Christ and seeing them grow

in their relationship with Him. It is the love that I have for the people here that keeps me reaching out, discipling, mentoring and serving the people despite the challenges.

We have led people to Christ but getting them to commit to coming to church is challenging; people come up with many excuses. There is a real spiritual battle taking place every time the Gospel is proclaimed, as it says in Ephesians 6:12. This only draws me closer to Christ in prayer, seeking Him in how to effectively do follow up and draw people to attend church.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all establishments, including churches, have been closed. However, by God's grace we have come up with other ways to continue our ministry. I share the Word of God through live-streaming on our church Facebook page every Sunday morning, and also conduct our leaders' meetings and church prayer meetings through Zoom.

If anyone wants to be a missionary, I encourage you to serve in your local church first. I believe faithfulness is a quality you must possess. Get involved in some missions activities that your church is doing and be open to the Lord's leading concerning your call as a missionary.





## JONATHAN SEBASTIAN

I first got involved in missions work when I was 12 years of age. I joined the music ministry in the church. I was invited by other churches to lead worship, as well as the CRC churches in East New Britain, for a couple of years.

I felt the call to serve as a missionary when I was 15. I dreamt of flying on a plane to other nations. During a Sunday school camp, a man of God prophesied upon my life and I decided to attend WMFTS at Bethel Centre in 2014. During my studies at Bethel I was asked to go to Cairns, Australia for two months practical. I had no idea where the finance would come from, but I knew God would provide. I did my part by responding to His will and purpose.

My greatest challenge as a young missionary is communication. When communicating to people who do not know or understand my intention to be a missionary, I sometimes feel out of

place. However, it is helping me learn how to connect to the right people who will encourage me. Also, I have noticed that many Filipinos understand, but don't speak English. This is another challenge for me. I have had to adjust or simplify my English in order to communicate effectively with them and share the Gospel. I have started learning Tagalog, which will enable me to communicate better.

If you feel the Lord has called you to be a missionary, every time you want to do things out of God's will, the Holy Spirit will remind you that no matter how hard the challenge is, God will keep you safe because his plan for us is irrevocable – it cannot be changed. Embrace the challenge that will come as a testing of your faith to be a missionary. Continue to develop your gifts and talents because they are God-given weapons to be used in the ministry. Lastly, remember the five keys: obedience, servanthood, sacrifice, submission and faith.

## GWEN HAGEYO

Proverbs 19:21 says: 'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails'. I had plans for my life, but God had a greater purpose. I have learnt to submit my plans into His hands and be assured that He has my best interest at heart.

Missions was what I was born into, so missions is who I am; but it was never what I wanted to do. As pastors kids, my five brothers and I had our challenges growing up. Some challenges were hard enough that they made me not want to walk in the path of missions that my parents had taken. However, I learnt to listen to God's call to missions and respond obediently. I am now serving my third term as a missionary and it is very fulfilling for me.

I served my first term of three years in Vanuatu and my second term of three years in Cebu, Philippines. I am currently halfway through my third

term in Cabanatuan, Philippines. As a missionary I participate in Bible studies, Sunday outreach programs, missions awareness teams and local church responsibilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been ministering by praise and worship, prayer and sharing God's Word via Facebook Live.

I knew that responding to the call of missions would require a sacrifice; I had seen it in my own family. My greatest challenge has been receiving news from home of family members passing. As I am writing this, I just received news that my younger brother and his wife lost their baby girl. God sees our sacrifice and He knows our pain. All I can say is, 'your Will be done Lord, even if I do not understand'.

Although there have been great challenges, my greatest reward in my missionary service is knowing that the people that God called me to serve see Jesus in all my serving. When someone saw how I decided to stay in the Philippines, even though we were given the opportunity to return home during this pandemic, she said to me, 'thank you for loving us!' That was it right there for me.

For those desiring to be part of missions, and for people who want to be involved in missionary service – either short-term or long-term – remember this: people really want to know if you will love them in Jesus' name. I will close with this statement by C.T. Studd, which has been my inspiration in all of my terms of missionary service: 'if Jesus is God and died for me, then no sacrifice will be too great for me to make for Him'.



# MISSIONARY SERVICE IN FIJI

*Enoch Hageyo*

I am currently looking after two CRC churches in Fiji, one is in Savusavu and the other is in Navua.

I have been spending three Sundays each month in Savusavu and one Sunday in Navua.

In order to get to Navua I travel by boat to get there and then I travel back by boat again after the ministry.

The Savusavu church has four families and the Navua church has seven families.

In addition to looking after the churches, I also do other tasks, such as evangelism, visitation to hospitals and homes, and a lot of hard work on the property – cutting grass and cleaning up.

One thing I am also trying to learn is the local language so that I can minister cross-culturally.

In Savusavu the church runs a preschool, which is an evangelism arm of the church.

My wife Karewe is the main teacher of the preschool, and Harriet is the assistant teacher.

At the moment the school has been closed because of the coronavirus.

We are praying it will open up again soon for the children.

In Navua the elders are currently running the church from a rental house.

We are believing that God will provide land for the church so we can build something permanent for His Kingdom.

The elders do evangelism and also follow up ministry in the Navua town and surrounding areas.

I wanted to become a missionary to be part of what God is doing in the nations and to see His Kingdom established in the nations.

The greatest challenges I face as a missionary are cross cultural ministry and balancing the time between working in the ministry and spending time with family.

My greatest reward as a missionary is seeing church members growing in God, and taking on leadership opportunities, and showing leadership, when they go out and lead others to Christ.

We are currently seeing this take place in Navua and we are working on making this happen in Savusavu as well.

For anybody who feels called to become a missionary, my advice to them would be:

- Read missionary biographies
- Engage in evangelism work in your local church
- Serve in your local church – setting up chairs, cleaning up, helping in church coffee shops, mowing the church lawn and more



## MINISTERING IN TENNANT CREEK

### *Elijah Umeume*

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January I travelled to Cairns from Papua New Guinea. I spent the night with the Steel family and the next day I travelled to Alice Springs. I was picked up by one of the Tennant Creek church members and we travelled to Tennant Creek together.

Prior to coming to Tennant Creek, I was prepared in my heart to do whatever task was required of me to do. I was also prepared to fit into any environment or setting that I found myself in. In the beginning I was scheduled to carry out certain responsibilities and these eventually became part of my regular program.

### **Meals On Wheels**

Meals On Wheels is an exciting thing for

me to be involved in because it is an opportunity for me to serve people who need to be served. It is new to me so I have found it exciting meeting elderly people and getting to know them. It has been so great.

### **Teaching In Night Bible Studies**

Teaching in the night Bible studies is good for the people. People who are working, and those who are not working, all come together every Wednesday night for the studies. The people are excited because they are learning new things. Every Wednesday night they are learning new subjects.

But one night was not enough for them, so they requested for additional nights. They suggested to keep the Wednesday night, and to also include Friday and Saturday nights. These are the nights I have been taking the Bible studies.

I have seen people's lives and attitudes changed. I believe Bible studies are the way forward for the transformation of

people's lives here in Tennant Creek.

### **Personal Evangelism**

Evangelising to Indigenous Australians in a public place is not comfortable for them. They prefer private places where they are relaxed and where it is comfortable for them to listen. I tried twice to minister to some people in public, but they walked away from me. I thought they did not want to listen to the Word of God.

However, on another day we talked to two boys in two different locations which were more private. These boys responded and they gave their hearts to the Lord. This indicates to me that when evangelising to Indigenous Australia, this is the way to go.

### **Follow Up Visitation**

Follow up and visitation seems to be something new that has started. When we started following up people at their homes it was hard going. People are not familiar with foreigners visiting them in their homes. They see you stop outside but they do not come out to welcome you.

Eventually, our persistence in visiting people is paying off and they are beginning to open up. Now when we go, they come out to greet us and talk to us.

Sometimes it is discouraging, however, persistence, perseverance and patience are the ingredients needed to get along smoothly during these rough patches.

### **Visiting Outreaches**

We only have one outreach location

which I have been able to visit twice. That place is called Elliot. It is a nice place - beautiful! Elliot is an ideal place, there are lots of villages surrounding that little town. People there know each other.

Elliot is different from Tennant Creek. People will welcome you when you go to their homes. We visited many homes and people were happy to see us. We shared, encouraged and prayed for them.

When we settle in Elliot permanently, something good will eventuate. Many strong Christians are there and they are waiting for a pastor to come.

### **Praying and Sharing with Leaders**

It is wonderful spending time with the leaders in Tennant Creek - particularly the Indigenous leaders - to share, pray and encourage them to be dedicated and committed to the roles that the Lord has placed them here to play.

A few times two of the leaders came on different times to visit me. These leaders need somebody who can come alongside them to work together with them.

### **Tennant Creek**

Tennant Creek is a nice place and I have enjoyed myself here, apart from the flies and the heat. We have flies in PNG, and in Port Moresby is just as hot as here sometimes, so these should not be a big concern. My main goal here is to at least have someone come closer to God and make Him the Lord and King over their lives, and to love, serve and worship Him.



# SERVING IN VANUATU

*John and Unuba Weimani*

## What encouraged you to become a missionary?

**John:** I got saved in 1980 through a coastal evangelism outreach organised by Bethel Centre, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG).

It was not until 1990, after graduating from Bethel Bible College, that I began my involvement as a missionary.

In fact, the actual desire to go and tell the Gospel of the Kingdom of God came about after giving my life to Christ when I saw and met people from different nations and from around PNG.

I felt a strong conviction that I too should go to the nations and tell others about Christ.

**Unuba:** I felt called to be a missionary in 1989; I had a deep desire so I prayed about it and waited until the right time came.

It took 21 years of waiting until I became a missionary in the nation of Vanuatu in 2010.

I asked God silently in my heart so it was made known to Him and He answered my prayers.

## What do you do as a missionary?

**John:** In my early years as a missionary I did outreach into new places, as well as church planting and evangelism.

Now, I am currently involved in the training side of things at World Missions Faith Training School in Vanutu.

**Unuba:** I tell people about Christ; serve others; teach, train and instruct others about Christ; encourage young people, children and mothers; and pray for people.

## What are the greatest challenges you face as a missionary?

**John:** There are many challenges, but there are common ones like personal health conditions, culture shock and ministry.

Sometimes it takes a while to see the results of what is expected, and we also have to trust God in the area of finances; however, in these areas I have never seen God fail in keeping his promises.

**Unuba:** I find it challenging when I do not lead someone to the Lord, when I go through spiritual dryness, when I face sickness and when I come across different cultures.

## What is the greatest reward as a missionary?

**John:** One of the greats rewards I enjoy is when people come to Christ and seeing God's Word bearing much fruit right before my eyes.

**Unuba:** I feel the most blessed as a missionary when I accomplish different tasks, when I meet someone's needs and when I love the Lord.

## What advice would you give to someone who feels called to be a missionary?

**John:** God has His own way of putting our lives together for His glory.

Missionary life is really a faith adventure and God will definitely use anyone who makes themselves available for Him to use.

So why wait? Wherever you are, start engaging yourself.

**Unuba:** My advice for someone wanting to be a missionary would be to always seek God, be strong in the Lord, be an encounterer, do not be lazy, work hard for the Gospel, always tell people about Christ, and if God saved you save someone else's life and always embrace the missionary work.



# CALLED TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

*Merrilyn Michael*

I have had a desire to share Jesus to people from different languages, tribes and nations since I was eight years old. I did not fully understand it at the time, but I knew one day I would be a missionary. A missionary couple confirmed God's call to me through words of prophesy, and I continued to pray about it; I did not let go of my desire. In 1998, God opened the door for me to attend Bethel Bible College. Several years later in 2007 I attended World Missions Faith Training School.

My time at Bethel Centre confirmed that God would send me somewhere as a missionary. In God's timing this came to pass and in June 2015 I was sent to West Papua, Indonesia. I served there for almost two years before returning to Papua New Guinea. In 2017 the Lord sent me to the Solomon Islands where I am currently serving.

One of the most important things I do as a missionary is sharing the Gospel. I begin by building relationships with people and then I see God opening doors for me to share His Word. Talking to people about God's love for them is one of my greatest joys as a missionary.

I also do other tasks: daily personal devotion, work around the church property, cooking, cleaning the kitchen and bathroom, church setup for Wednesday night prayer meeting and

Sunday services, flower decoration, welcoming people into church, preparing communion, being part of the missions committee, missions awareness, preaching, Sunday school teaching, women's ministry, lecturing Gateway Missions School students, leading prayer meetings, and being involved in Gateway Kids Club.

I have also been able to help in CRC churches in different provinces: Makira, Renbel, Isabel, Malaita and Guadalcanal. One thing the Lord led me to do in these provinces is feeding programs for children and reaching them with the Gospel. This includes singing, sharing Bible stories, saying memory verses, playing games and feeding them. I love telling children about God's love for them. Through these programs I see lots of children coming to know God. I also involve leaders of local churches in the programs.

The greatest challenge I face as a missionary are cultural barriers, such as language, dress and living standard – especially in the villages. Religion barriers is another challenge. There are people who claim to believe in Jesus but they still have customary beliefs, such as believing in created things like leaves and snakes. I explain scriptures to these people to help with the mix up in their belief system; many then respond to the Salvation message.

Lastly, at this time the Lord has given me opportunities to share to people who are in fear about this COVID-19 pandemic. Two things the Lord has impressed upon me are: 1) have faith in God and never give up in praying; and 2) hold onto Gods word firmly.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

CRC MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING**

Thursday 23 July, 2020

## **NATIONAL MISSIONS DAY**

Sunday 26 July, 2020

*Our offering will focus on purchasing equipment needed to maximise the use of Zoom calls, and other online forms of communication, across our CRC fields. Online mediums enable our pastors, particularly Pr Barry Silverback, to teach, train, disciple, preach and minister from afar.*