



PULSE MAGAZINE

September 2021

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Pulse is the voice of CRC Missions International

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FROM THE EDITOR

Mikaela Groom

Welcome to our September edition of Pulse Magazine for 2021.

As in our June edition of Pulse, we have sourced further ministry updates of progress from various CRC nations.

It is great to see that despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our workers throughout the nations continue to serve God and His people in various different ways.

As I read through the articles included within this edition of Pulse, I am inspired by the initiative shown by our faithful CRC workers and ministry partners, as well as the eagerness to incorporate new ways of doing ministry to ensure the gospel of Christ continues to be preached throughout the nations.

John 14:27 says, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'

Be encouraged by and embrace the peace God gives us. No matter what is going on in the world, no matter how crazy our current situation may seem, God still has the world in His hands and we are safe in Him.

As we continue on in Christian ministry and fellowship, let us be encouraged to continue giving our best for God!



FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Pr Mike Cronin

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact many nations around our world I am thrilled to hear how many of our pastors and churches are making significant steps forward, in spite of the pandemic.

Now is not a time to wait for COVID-19 to be over and for our world to return to normal. It will never be the same as it was in 2019! Some people have been profoundly impacted by fear, others have been

emboldened to rise in their faith and take new creative steps forward.

Pr Sina in Cambodia was recently asked by some local pastors, "Aren't you afraid of COVID-19?" His reply to them was, "No, I'm not afraid of COVID-19, but I'm afraid of Jesus. He has said go, so I must go!"

As Jesus expressed in Matthew 8:23-27 regarding the disciples in the boat when a storm came up, your faith will set you free from your fears, or else your fears will cripple your faith. As in Hebrews 10:39 we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and are saved.

Continue to face your fears with faith and rise above the storms that come along. We have a great high calling that is not dependant on our circumstances, and even in these times we can make great steps forward for the Kingdom of God.

TENNANT CREEK CHRISTIAN FAMILY CHURCH

Pr Mike Groom

In 2016 the Eldership team at Adelaide Christian Centre (ACC) felt that the Lord was leading ACC to intentionally pursue Indigenous ministry. After investigating various existing ministries that were known to ACC, nothing felt in alignment in how the Lord was leading us. We decided to set aside \$50 a week towards Indigenous ministry as a seed of faith, whilst we trusted the Lord to open an avenue for us to walk into.

In August 2018, through a remarkable set of circumstances, we were introduced to Tennant Creek Christian Family Church (TCCFC) in the Northern Territory (NT). Pr Barry Silverback and I went and visited the folk in Tennant Creek and discussed future possibilities. After discussions with Pr Mike Baker and his team, ACC was approached by TCCFC to become their governing church. In November 2019 this process was legally formalised and TCCFC became an official congregation of ACC, and to date we are enjoying this God appointed partnership.

TCCFC has been reaching the Tennant Creek and the wider Barkly Region of the NT for more than 30 years with a purposeful focus to reach Indigenous people for Christ. TCCFC have their own property on the main street of Tennant Creek and they also own a property in Elliot, a town 250km north of Tennant

Creek, where we are reaching Elliot for the Lord as an outreach.

Pr Mike and Lorraine Baker, who pastored TCCFC, for many years recently relocated to South Australia. They were very faithful and deeply respected in the church and in the wider community. They are an inspiration to many for their faithful service.

TCCFC reflects the Tennant Creek community. The congregation is made up of many nationalities, with a focus in reaching Indigenous people for the Lord. Papua New Guineans have proven to be very effective in reaching Indigenous Australians for the Lord. We currently have a PNG missionary family serving at TCCFC and we are in the process of arranging for a family to come from Bethel Christian Centre, in Port Moresby to Tennant Creek in early 2022 to assist in the work there.

We are currently in the process of setting up a Foodbank shop in Tennant Creek, which has progressed from our Food Relief Ministry over the COVID-19 season. This is a big faith step for TCCFC, but it will be a massive benefit to Tennant Creek and the surrounding communities. We are encouraged by the support for this venture.

We have a very dedicated leadership team at TCCFC and we are looking enthusiastically to what the Lord has in store for the future as we reach out wider into the Barkly Region of the NT.

The Lord has really honoured His leading for ACC to pursue Indigenous ministry and our small seed of faith. God is good.





UPDATE ON THE WORK IN NEW ZEALAND

Pr Craig Jourdain

Kia Ora from New Zealand!

Over the past three years there have been numerous changes here in New Zealand (NZ).

Beginning with the change of our name here to Revive Churches NZ and a real sense of a returning to the core DNA of our movement.

We also had a change of leadership of the movement at our most recent National Conference, with Pr Craig Jourdain from Revive Pukekohe now leading our movement of churches here in NZ.

Several of the churches here in NZ have gone through substantial renovation projects and the establishment of new children's areas, playgrounds and so on.

Wellington CRC has gone through major earthquake strengthening of their building and have created some amazing spaces for their children's ministries.

Revive Waiuku has built a fantastic playground for the children, that is also used weekly by groups within the community.

Both the Revive Pukekohe and Wairoa CFC have had extensive renovations also.

Revive Christchurch has brought a brilliant property in a new subdivision of Christchurch, with a future church plant in mind.

When you change things in the natural, you see a shift in the spiritual.

This has certainly rung true for all of the churches here in NZ, with growth, salvations, healings and really starting to sense a move of the Holy Spirit.

We have certainly still had our fair share of challenges during this time for our churches.

This includes serious health issues for some of our Pastors; to the passing of Pr Nigel McGimpsey in Wellington and Pr Paul King in Wairoa.

Of course, we have all faced challenges dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our most recent time together was our National Conference with the theme of *By His Spirit*.

We had Pr Brent Liebezeit, leader of New Zealand Christian Churches and

Senior Pastor of Annesbrook Church in Nelson, as our guest speaker for the conference.

Our intention during this National Conference was to see people within our movement reignited with the power and encounters of the Holy Spirit.

We saw God break out in physical and emotional healings throughout the conference.

The last night of conference the presence and power of God was so present, we had no speaking, just God moving.

We genuinely believe we are seeing the return of the DNA of our movement in all of the churches here in NZ.

We are excited for the future here and cannot wait to see what God unfolds for each of us.

HUGHES FAMILY UPDATE

Pr Warwick Hughes

On the 6th of August, our family celebrated three years here in Walhalla, United States of America (USA). We are thankful as we have been able to, by the grace of God, build good relationships with the people here at Faith Center Church and with other pastors from other churches.

We have seen the congregation grow in number and also in faith. We have been through some very difficult and challenging times together these last three years, but those times have only helped launch us out in faith even more. Glory to God.

Thank you to everyone who prayed for my mum who had a stroke back home in New Zealand. My mum is doing really well now, it's like it never happened. My mum is now in assisted living. Thank you also for praying for Pr Kaye with her heart. Pastor is doing much better now.

Before the pandemic climaxed and increased, we were visiting and preaching at an old folks home, where one of our church members lives. This has been good and we have seen some good responses from the people there. At this stage we are not able to visit.

One congregation member came down with COVID-19 in August so the next Sunday we did a Facebook live service. He is now doing well and thanking Jesus for getting him through the tough time he went through.

The congregation here are doing well and have not been discouraged by all that is happening around them. They have been coming to church faithfully, with only a few staying away because they have had symptoms of the flu, but not sure if it is COVID-19 or not.

We had seven congregation members celebrate their birthdays in August, so plenty of celebrations happening!

The men and ladies meetings are going well with a good number in attendance at these meetings. The ladies had a small get together recently and painted some small clay pot plant pots. They look really neat and colourful.

We also have missions prayer and Bible teaching Wednesday nights. These are great times of prayer and teaching.

I had a lunch meeting with a congregation member that I am encouraging. While we were having our meal the manager came along and gave us a free coffee mug each. We could not believe he gave them to us for free.

We had a couple that did their missions training here at Faith Center some years ago come and visit us recently. They are missionaries in Taiwan, Pr Richard and Jessie Roberts. Their base is in Georgia, USA. It was good to hear about how the church is growing and extending. They are planning to start a mission training school in Taiwan which is exciting. Everyone here that knows them were blessed to see them.

I have been able to encourage and keep in contact with a young man that Omega and I ministered to when he was here at Faith Christian School.

We continue to see answers to prayer for people requesting prayer. We had a time of praying and fasting for the sick on the last Sunday of August.

We are home schooling five boys through Faith Christian School. Sister Kathleen and Vilmarie oversee the home schooling and are doing a great job. The first Thursday of every month, we have the boys come in and bring all their school work with them. We have that afternoon full of activities for them.

Our family is doing well and we are in good health. Jethro and Warwick Jr are progressing well in school. They are attending a church youth group where they have a number of friends. This is an answer to prayer. They go every Wednesday night from 6:30-8:00pm.

Omega, in between home schooling the boys, is regularly meeting with some of the congregation ladies and speaking into their lives. Along with singing practice for Sundays, ministry and being a mum, Omega gets to spend some time tending to her beautiful flower and vegetable garden she has near the house.

Omega was invited by Tim Johnson to share about what missions means to her at a church where they were raising awareness for missions. It was a small meeting but a good start for promoting missions in the church there.

I enjoyed taking a break and took the family for a drive up to a pretty place called Cashiers. One of our congregation members has their business there. We are slowly getting to see more of what is up in the mountains here in South Carolina.



THE COVID-19 ROLLER COASTER

Pr John Warren

You never know what is around the corner in life, but no one expected the situation we are currently faced with.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused untold sickness and suffering, and has been a setback for the Body of Christ. God hasn't stopped working of course, but the whole thing has Satan's fingerprints all over it.

Here in the United Kingdom (UK) there is a feeling that the pandemic is pretty much behind us, and life is now quite close to normal. International travel is the main exception.

The following are things that I have learnt, both from the experiences of our church and from others here in Britain:

- It has been very hard to keep the fringe of the church engaged in any way. Your core people are going to get through on some online services even if they do not particularly like them much, but the fringe have mostly floated away.
- God is still at work. New people will still come, even in the most unlikely circumstances, and get saved. As the song goes, "You never stop working." Praise Him! We have had a steady trickle of baptisms since we properly reopened in May.

- In every season of church life there are some people in the process of coming and some in the process of going. The pandemic has made it harder for the comers to come, but easier for the leavers to leave.
- The things that the pandemic has forced us to stop, need to be resumed very deliberately and with direct encouragement. For example, hospitality – both spending time over coffee at church and having people over to your home – has substantially stopped. But when you stand up and say that hospitality is commanded by God and we must now bring it back, people deeply appreciate the leadership that says plainly what we must restore. Similarly, we are going to do a substantial sermon series on the gifts of the Spirit because online church doesn't make it easy for people to prophesy, lay hands on the sick and so on.
- Smaller churches have found it much easier than larger ones. The mechanics of assembling a small group are just so much more straightforward when you have to consider social distancing.
- Acts 2:42 remains a key scripture and should inspire us in every season. These are the things that are central and always will be, regardless of the internet, of the disease or anything else we encounter: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

BIBLE COLLEGE IN KENYA

Pr Mike Cronin

CRC International Missions Bible College (CRC IMBC), promoted by Pr Phil Cayzer from Turningpoint Church Cranbourne, is very active in Kenya and many other East African countries.

Recently there have been three graduation services in Kenya, including both Certificate and Diploma courses.

The graduations took place in three separate locations.

In Njoro we had 62 students graduate, led by Bishop John Masika.

In Eldoret we had 48 students graduate, led by Bishop John Masika and Bishop Shadrack Ochuodho.

In the capital city of Nairobi we had 103 students graduate, led by Bishop Shadrack Ochuodho.

Students and lecturers all made considerable sacrifice and effort to complete this study program over the past year.

They are now eagerly stepping forward to fulfil the calling of the Lord on their lives, be it in their home area, other parts of Africa, or elsewhere in the world.

Pr Phil and Pr Norma Cayzer, Pr Mike Cronin, Pr Sam Eli, and Terry Aeschlimann joined these graduations in Kenya by Zoom.



THE CROSS OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

Pr John Boateng

The year 2020 was a difficult and challenging year for The Cross Outreach International in Ghana but the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ kept his church afloat.

The global COVID-19 pandemic was wreaking havoc across nations but Ghana was only witnessing the havoc until the President of the Republic of Ghana announced a partial lockdown and indefinite restrictions on public gatherings, including church service.

This announcement was really difficult for the church because we were being prevented from meeting together as a family to share our faith, worship and pray together. For three to four weeks, we did not meet as a church, yet we had to carry out the basic responsibility of the church - feeding the spirits of members with the Word of God. We also had bills to pay without any revenue or cash inflows. Members were scared and worried about the pandemic, yet their place of meeting to build faith and wait on the Lord was in lockdown. Members were losing their livelihood and jobs because of the pandemic and they were looking up to God through the church.

The senior pastor met with the church board to think through and trust God to find some relief for the members of the church. So the board decided to

have Home Cell Meetings once a week with a message from God through Pr John being shared among members. We now have about thirty home cells across the five branches of the church.

The funds we received from Christian Family Centre Seaton and Adelaide Christian Centre, supported members who were hard hit by the pandemic with food items and some cash donations across the branches of the church. These Home Cell Meetings served as a place of comfort and support for the church members.

The year 2021 was anticipated to be a year of recovery by the church but there were still some amount of restrictions on how we worshipped. We still kept hope and trusted God to help us achieve some of targets set for the year which included; the Mampong and Agona Nkwanta church building project, construction of a 6-unit classroom block at Terri International Christian Academy, a computer laboratory and a venture that could employ some of the youth in the church and community.

Mampong Branch Project

Mampong is a farming community in the Wassa East District of Ghana and is the home of one of the branches of the church. The church there had been worshipping in a classroom block for so many years. But churches were barred by the government from holding church services in classrooms; we therefore, acquired a piece of land in the community to build a structure for the church. By the infinite grace of God we cleared the land of hills and bushes to make way for construction of the

foundation for the church. Though funds for the project are drying up we are trusting God to make way for us to be able to complete the building.

Agona Nkwanta

Agona Nkwanta is the business capital of the Ahanta West District of Ghana and it is also a home for one of the branches of the church. We bought a building for the Agona branch but over years of usage, the building needed redevelopment to serve the current demands of the church which includes a guest room for pastors and guests who visit the branch. We, therefore, started the foundation and laying of blocks in the month of April 2021. Work was progressing but the effects of COVID-19 on the church's finances are slowing the progress of the construction. But it is our target to complete the projects to serve the required purpose.

6-Unit Classroom Block

The COVID-19 outbreak came with demands and requirements by the government and the Ghana Education Service. The pandemic had placed an almost year-long lockdown on schools from February 2020 to January 2021. As part of easing of restrictions, schools were mandated to have more classrooms because no school is permitted to have more than twenty-five students in a classroom. Therefore, we needed to put up a 6-unit classroom block in order to maintain the current population of the school and to meet the new government requirement.

As part of the requirements; schools were also mandated to have a fully

functional computer laboratory to ensure easy running of school activities online in future pandemics. For this we have constructed a block to serve as a computer laboratory and are now looking to install internet facilities and enough computers to be able to cater for the information communication and technology needs.

The Pig Project

Tullow Ghana develop a sustainable pig project for some dwellers in the coastal communities of Ghana because the activities of oil companies of the sea have affected the fisher folks greatly, hence the project. The beneficiaries were to provide land for the construction of the structure to house the pigs they provide. After recouping the investment the project is handed over to the land owner. So as part of the church's vision to generate some employment for the youth, it provided land for the project which is currently doing well with some young members working on the farm.

Greater Grace Power Crusade

With all that has happened in the last year and this year because of COVID-19, we have a strong conviction that a lot of the faith and fire in most Christians has waxed cold, hence the need to organize a Greater Grace Power Crusade to cause the power of the Holy Spirit to rejuvenate all who have gone cold in spirit and to win those who are lost back to Christ. This was a one week spirit filled crusade that was held at the headquarters of the church in Abuesi from the 22nd of August until the 29th of August, 2021.



PRESCHOOL MINISTRY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Viema Vakacegu

The following is a brief report of my trip to Gaire village in PNG on Wednesday 4th August, 2021.

First of all, I want to thank Pr Ai and Pr Gwaibo for allowing me to go and pay my first visit to the preschool in Gaire. My husband, Soni, accompanied me to take some stationary for the preschool and also to observe the teachers.

I was really blessed to see how the children have developed holistically. We arrived at around 9:30am and I went straight into the classroom to see the children.

Our teachers at the preschool are graduates of our Preschool Teacher Training Course from last year. Serah was the only one teaching during our visit. She was accompanied by a helper.

Laki, our other teacher, brought her mother to the hospital as she has not been feeling well over the past few months. She is having some serious medical conditions and needed someone to be by her side. Therefore, the management released Laki to be with her mum.

Anyway back to the children, they are all doing great and so are the teachers and helpers. During my visit, I managed

to run through the alphabet sounds that they have learnt and was very encouraged to hear the children saying them correctly.

I salute the teachers for the great effort and being creative even though it was their first time to teach. They will need more encouragement and frequent visits so they can also be able to feel confident in what they are doing.

We were able to also communicate with Pastor and Mrs Lucy, and had lunch with the family.

Just a need that I really felt should be considered as soon as possible is the covering for the floor as children are sitting on the used canvas that is wearing out.

The current flooring does not meet the Occupational Health and Safety protocol in Early Childhood Education centres, and it can also be a threat to children's health and wellbeing.

There is a need to purchase a proper canvas and a rug for the preschool's use only. I believe the canvas they are currently using is used on Sundays as well.

Other than that, everything is going on well in Gaire. Please also keep Laki's mother in your prayers.

We arrived safely back to Bethel Centre at 4:00pm on Wednesday 4th August. Thank you for partnering with us in this new work of preschool ministry.

We currently have two preschools running in PNG, with a third currently under preparation, and more along the way.





Kids Can Do *Missions*

FOUR WEEK SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

**AVAILABLE FOR FREE FROM THE CRC
MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE**

The Kids Can Do Missions curriculum features some of our CRC missionaries in various countries, but most importantly, it is designed to teach children the importance of missions.

We believe that God can, and does, call many of our missionaries to the mission field in their childhood years.

This curriculum can be used at any time