

THEME: "Taking the whole WORD to the whole WORLD"

Matt 28:19-20

Speakers: DR STAN & JOAN DEKOVEN and PR MIKE & KELLY GROOM



# PULSE MAGAZINE

September 2023



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# FROM THE EDITOR

## *Mikaela Groom*

Welcome to our September edition of Pulse Magazine for 2023. In this edition we are taking a break from our focus on missionaries (this will come back in our December edition), and we are featuring articles from short-term missions trips.

Now that the COVID-19 pandemic no longer affects our ability to travel internationally, we are able to embark on short-term missions trips once again. A number of our CRC personnel have been travelling around the world ministering in various nations.

In this edition, we have reports from people who have travelled to East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and Congo), Ghana and Papua New Guinea; a mixture of team trips and solo trips.

Short-term missions trips are an excellent way to gain exposure to the mission field, to meet people from many different nations, and to experience a range of different ministries. They also play a role in developing our individual relationship with God and encouraging us to step out beyond our comfort zones.

Short-term missions trips have played a key role in my own decision to become a longer term missionary. I encourage everyone to go on a short-term missions trip when the opportunity presents itself. I believe you will truly enjoy it!



# FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

## *Pr Mike Cronin*

This issue of Pulse reports on a number of mission trips that have taken place recently.

A short term missions trip is an excellent way to start to embrace God's vision for our world.

In order to fulfil our International Vision of a presence in every nation by 2045, it is going to require many people being involved in mission trips both short and long term. Not only Australians going to other nations, but people from many different nations going and sharing the

gospel and the vision to many other nations.

We tend to think going on a missions trip is only for special or unusual people, but this is far from the Biblical position. In the early church every believer was filled with the Holy Spirit so that they were equipped to 'go and make disciples' of all peoples. This leaves no position for ethical barriers or biases.

As we go, the river of life continues to flow through us, but if we slow down the river ceases to flow.

In CRC we have a great vision which can be fulfilled by people who respond to God and GO!

This issue of Pulse is the last one while I am the Australian Missions Director. After about 13 years during which we have seen a number of significant steps forward taking place it is time to hand the role over to another person who will take further steps to see our international vision of a presence in every nation actually being fulfilled.

I am very appreciative of the opportunity to contribute to our movement in this role.

Ps Phil Cayzer, who is doing an amazing work in Africa expanding the ministry of CRC, will now take over the role of Australian Missions Director. I am confident that under his leadership we will see great forward steps take place.

Thank you for the support of my wife, Lois, who is also very supportive of our involvement in global missions, as I am sure Phil's wife Norma will.



# EAST AFRICA MISSIONS TRIP

## Stella Thalluri

We arrived at Nairobi Kenya Airport on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 5:55pm. We were met by a welcoming party and we spent the evening acquainting ourselves as the team of six women - Pr Norma Cayzer, Pr Lois Cronin, Stella Thalluri, Pr Sandie Thomas, Kyla Brereton and Favor Margaret - along with the pastors who were accompanying us.

The following day as the rest of the team took some time to relax, Pr Lois and myself facilitated the CRC Kenya Executive meeting with Chairman Bishop Wycliffe in the morning. Our team then travelled to the IMBC students' luncheon and reunion of

those who had completed the CRC Bible Course over the past four years.

On the Sunday we all went to different churches around Nairobi to preach. On Monday and Tuesday the team facilitated the Women's Conference in Elderet, Kenya. On Tuesday afternoon we ministered at a reunion of the prior IMBC students.

On Wednesday we farewelled Elderet and went on a six hour drive to Migori and visited Connie and the Mercy Orphan Home and Migori school. Here we connected with a team from the CRC Gippsland area (African Action).

We were blessed with the most comfortable safari van to continue our journey to the next destination - the Neat Mara Hotel - where we stayed for the next two nights. On Thursday we spent a whole day at Massai Mara

Game Drive. This was a greatly anticipated day for our entire team.

We left Kenya early the next morning and travelled over the border into Tanzania. The church at Sirari was located amidst the farmland so we had to walk about 2kms. The women came singing and dancing to greet us. We had a mini Women's Conference before our first IMBC graduation ceremony. We then had lunch before we started our long journey to Mwanza.

In Mwanza, we stayed at Missionary John Zembwe's house (who lives in Canada) until Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. A big thank you to Pr John for accommodating us and following our every move. It was a pleasure to see the CRC IMBC temporary office. We also visited the MIBOS office within the compound where girls that have been subjected to abuse or teenage pregnancy are trained in sewing, tailoring and handicrafts. These girls are given a hope and a future.

On Monday we made our way to Burundi. Pr Moise welcomed us and we headed off to the hotel. The following day Pr Moise took us to meet Madam Denise who is the Chief Deputy General of Burundi. We all signed the visitors' book, prayed for her and had photos taken with her. Madam Denise thanked us for serving her community. She had given us the permit to visit the Muyinga, Gasowe Refugee camp.

On Wednesday we spent some time resting, regrouping and preparing for our next lot of ministry. In the afternoon we went to see Lake Tanganyika - the huge inland lake.

On Thursday we travelled to the border to cross over into the Congo. On the first day of the Women's Conference at Uvira, Congo, we had various CRC churches come to attend. About 800 people came from all over the area. The church couldn't contain the attendees, so we had moved our sessions outside.

On Friday we continued to minister in the Women's Conference. In the afternoon we facilitated our third IMBC Graduation. After a quick lunch we travelled back over the Congo border into Bujumbura, Burundi.

On Saturday we spoke at our fourth Women's Conference in Bujumbura, and then facilitated our fourth IMBC Graduation. In the evening Pr Lois and myself facilitated a Burundi, Congo and Rwandan Pastors/Leaders meeting. There are many needs but we are seeing God do great things.

The final Sunday, we wore our second gifted outfits and we looked like one big family! On Sunday afternoon a van full of pastors, pastor's wives and leaders came to bid us goodbye at the airport. What a grand farewell.

This missions trip eventuated due to the desire and prayers of Madam Furaha Kimwanga Diallo. She wrote an email to Pr Phil a couple years ago requesting the CRC to hold a Women's Conference. She was one of the graduates that received her certificates from the IMBC during this trip.

Praise God and a big thank you to CRC for giving us this opportunity to lead this team. I remain forever grateful and humbled to continue to serve in CRC.





# GHANA TRIP REPORT

*Pr Mike Groom*

In July I travelled to Ghana in West Africa. This was my first visit to Africa, and I was really looking forward to it.

My purpose in going to Ghana was to visit Pr John Boateng, his family, their church - Cross Outreach Church International, their Bible school - Institute of Discipleship and Ministry Training, and their primary school - Terri International Christian Academy.

It was lovely to be greeted by Pr John and his lovely wife Mercy at Takoradi airport. After a meal together we arrived at their home and were greeted by five of their six children.

The following day I was welcomed to Terri International Christian Academy by the children and staff. I loved seeing the joy on the children's faces and was entertained by their dancing. It was also an honour to inspect their Christian Cadets as they paraded.

Pr John and his team, including the Bible school students organised a three night crusade at one of Pr John's four outreach churches in a rural area about 60 minutes from his home. The first night was very wet with heavy rain but we persevered and a number of folk gave their hearts to the Lord.

Over the three nights more people attended and many people were ministered to in prayer. I enjoyed preaching in the open air and was

enjoying the freedom of their worship and dancing. Mind you, I didn't join in and reveal any of my moves!

Pr John took me about 60 minutes away to the coast to visit the Cape Coast Castle. This was an emotional experience. To be in a place where the depravity of human wickedness was so evident, it was emotionally disturbing and moving to me.

The guided tour we had was very informative regarding the horrific conditions the slaves lived through. They accommodated up to 1,200 at a time, 800 men and 400 women. Just horrible and traumatic - evil!

On the Saturday night I spoke at a marriage seminar. About 30 couples were in attendance. It was a good night and I enjoyed my time with everyone and the interesting questions that were asked by those who attended.

Sunday morning was a great time celebrating with everyone in Pr John's church. They are a lively bunch and very receptive. There was a great spirit within the meeting which is a credit to Pr John, Mercy and their dedicated team for their leadership.

Mercy's cooking and their hospitality was fantastic, and I was most welcomed and felt right at home. The Boateng family are a great family, and it was a real joy to spend time with them in their home. I am looking forward to more visits in the future.

Please continue to pray for Pr John, Mercy, their family and their team as they navigate through the numerous difficulties they face within the ministry.



# MINISTERING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*Pr Craig Jourdain*

My parents, Pr David and Ursula Jourdain, were missionaries to Papua New Guinea (PNG) during the 1960s. My father heard the call of God, obediently packed up his wife and two-year-old daughter and headed into the highlands of PNG.

They spent six years there, expanding not only the work of God, but also their own family; with my sister and brother both being born there. I wasn't born until after they had returned home to New Zealand.

My father and I had planned a trip to go to PNG in 2020, unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic laid waste to these plans. Early in 2022, my father passed away, never having returned to the place he deeply loved. I decided to honour my parents by going to PNG, to meet these people that they loved, and to celebrate the work they had done there.

PNG is one of the most diverse countries on earth, with over 850 indigenous languages and at least as many traditional societies, out of a population of approximately 10 million. It is also one of the most rural, with only 18 per cent of its people living in urban centres.

PNG is famous for two things; snorkelling and its Virgin Islands where

you will find nature at its best. I didn't travel there to explore it as a tourist, but I travelled there to meet the people. The people of PNG are incredibly friendly, welcoming and they became wantok with me.

The students, staff and pastors at Bethel Centre were amazing. I thoroughly enjoyed the honour of speaking into their lives. The students were hungry to learn, and it was a joy to teach them.

The hunger for the things of God there was amazing, and it was their hunger that led to incredible moves of God in the services. The power and presence of God built in each service culminating on the Sunday night outdoor service that saw 60 odd decisions for Christ and hundreds in attendance.

It was also great to catch up with the Vakacegu family, missionaries from Fiji, that we have been supporting for the past years. Ilisoni and Viema are the real deal and are doing a fantastic work there.

My time with the pastors was a real honour and coffee with Papa Fuwe was always good. He made sure I got some Goroka coffee before I left for New Zealand.

I came away feeling like I had been ministered to, more than I had ministered. And while I was not a part of my family's initial missionary time in PNG in the 1960s, I left with a sense that I will be back, with my family in tow, not only to share our personal history with them but to continue to minister into the wonderful nation of PNG.







## NEW SOUTH WALES TEAM

Having led many teams on short-term missions trips over the years, to various nations including PNG, Sri Lanka, Serbia and China, I loved being on this team in more of a support role.

I was very blessed watching Jodie and Beka confidently lead the team from Narrandera and Condobolin, and observing the whole team, from the youngest to the oldest, minister and serve in a variety of settings outworking their individual gifts and talents.

It was such a joy and privilege having time to share mutual fellowship and encouragement, hanging out with all the pastors, staff and students, many of whom I've developed such love and respect for over the years.

Following are some brief thoughts and testimonies from the team.

### *Pr Trevor Murphy*

It's hard to put into words the many things I have learnt and experienced on this mission trip to PNG. A deeper revelation of God's love and character, witnessing the transforming power of the Holy Spirit at work, the wonderful world in which I live and the many layers of myself, was both humbling and empowering at the same time.

A missions trip allows you to live and breathe God 24/7 100% without the distractions of home. I won't lie I was stretched and felt inadequate a lot, but God equipped me every step of the way in all areas, and because of this continual answer to prayer, my boldness and confidence in God and myself grew. It never ceased to amaze

me the more I gave to bless others, the more blessings I seemed to receive.

This mission trip really hit home how much the world is hurting and needs our Heavenly Father and how timely it is to share the good news with our neighbours around the world.

### *Annie Warren-Porteous*

Going on a short term mission trip to PNG in July wasn't something I had expected to do this year. When Pr Barry Silverback came to Narrandera for Pathway to Missions at the end of May, I felt stirred and encouraged not to pass up this opportunity.

This was my first trip outside Australia and heading over to PNG I was expectant for what God was going to do, but I also had no idea what to expect. I was excited but also nervous. But from the time we arrived at Bethel

Centre with their beautiful welcome, I knew they were instant family.

Being only 18, I had a lot to learn on this trip, doing many things for the first time. Including praying for healing and for people during alter calls, sharing a testimony with the church at the Sunday and Wednesday night services, leading a group of over 40 kids during the children's ministry, some who couldn't fully understand what I was saying, and praying over the students from the Bethel International Training College and the Sunrise Bethel Christian School. I experienced a lot of growth, both from doing things for the first time and also by learning from the other members of our team.

I never could have imagined the impact this trip would have on me and the way it has changed my life forever, but I'm so grateful that I had this opportunity.





And now I cannot wait to go on some more mission trips and hopefully back to PNG soon.

**Rebekah Beer**

Our time in PNG with the team at Bethel Centre was nothing short of amazing. We had so many incredible opportunities to minister and be ministered to.

A highlight for myself was the youth rally we got to be a part of in a nearby village, Gabi, on the Friday night. The turn out was amazing but even more amazing was the amount of responses to salvation, and the opportunity to pray with people in need. Beyond this Friday rally, we got to see the ongoing impact of that night as their local Sunday church service a few days later was overflowing, the kids program on Saturday was packed with kids from the village and the opportunities for follow up discipleship with the pastor and the Bethel Centre team was exciting.

Another highlight for me during our time at Bethel Centre, was getting the chance to connect with the students, staff and pastors. The opportunity to get to know one another and share stories about life, ministry and culture was really special. The sense of community and connection that we felt was really encouraging and enabled us to minister together in a special way.

**Rebekka Dennis**

One highlight of the trip for me was going into the community of Gabi to invite the people to attend an outreach crusade the following night. We had the privilege of being welcomed into the

homes to pray and fellowship with the people, with many impacted by the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Many accepted our invitation and came to the crusade responding for salvation and prayer for healing.

It's great spending time with the team at Bethel Centre, and being inspired by how sold out for God they are.

**Scott Elliott**

I enjoyed being back in PNG, spending time with the students and staff at Bethel Centre. To be able to partner with the team in ministry was my greatest highlight. I left feeling inspired and challenged by the commitment and devotion of the students to follow the call of God on their lives and to see firsthand the work God is doing in PNG.

**Jodie Elliott**

I really enjoyed meeting and spending time with all the kids at Bethel Centre.

I also enjoyed getting up at 4:00am with the team helping to setup for church each Sunday morning. It was fun doing it together with all the other people, knowing that we were getting ready for the church family to come together. I got to go to the Sunday school with dad and Viema, which was fun and I learnt a lot.

I loved going to the Gabi community, walking across skinny bridges over the water to visit people's houses. Another highlight was visiting the preschool at Gaire village, joining in the class and seeing all the kids. I loved seeing the pig in the cage by the sea.

**Banjo Elliott (10 years old)**





# GLOBAL TRAINERS' CONFERENCE

From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of September, the Global Trainers' Conference was held at Bethel Centre in Port Moresby, PNG. This conference was open to our CRC provincial trainers and principals, as well as our Bethel International Training College (BITC) staff.

The theme of the conference was 'Bringing the Whole Word to the Whole World'. Dr Stan DeKoven from Vision International University in the United States of America was the guest speaker. Dr Stan, along with his wife Joan and Pr Mike and Kelly Groom from Adelaide Christian Centre, travelled to PNG to be part of the conference. This was Dr Stan and Joan's first trip to PNG.

The conference was a great opportunity for people to gather together - many of whom do not have the chance to see each other on a regular basis. Many attendees were old Bible College classmates (some from years back) who are now serving at Bethel Centre and throughout the nation running and helping in their own schools.

The Bethel Centre staff did a fantastic job preparing meals and ensuring all of the delegates who came from outside were well taken care of. It was a successful event and our amazing helpers and organisers are to be commended.

Everyone is excited for future training conferences that are to be held in the coming years.



# A PRESENCE IN **EVERY NATION** BY 2045



## **PATHWAY TO MISSIONS**

Pathway to Missions is for those who have a passion and desire to be involved in missionary service in the nations, whether it be long-term, short-term or a missions trip.

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