



PULSE MAGAZINE

December 2023

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FROM THE EDITOR

Mikaela Groom

Welcome to our final edition of Pulse Magazine for 2023.

In December we are continuing on with our focus on CRC missionaries serving in various countries around the world.

I have enjoyed hearing from different missionaries and people who have gone on short-term missions trips this year. It is great to see the ministries people are involved in and the amazing work they are involved in throughout the world.

In this edition of Pulse we feature missionaries serving in the Philippines and Vanuatu, as well as CRC personnel who have spent time in Fiji and Pakistan - a new field for the CRC.

I trust you will enjoy reading through all of the articles included in this issue. I pray that you will be inspired by the work taking place and by the dedication of these men and women.

I encourage anyone who has a passion in their heart for missions to continue finding ways to be involved in missions. You never know where God will take you! His plan for your life is far more exciting and grand than you could ever imagine.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Stay safe during this holiday period.

I look forward to creating more issues of Pulse next year to share with you all.



FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Pr Phil Cayzer

What a privilege it is to follow Pr Mike and Lois Cronin as the newly appointed Australian International Missions Director for CRC Churches International, Australia. Mike and Lois truly captured the heart of what was started some 75 years ago when Pr Leo Haris and Pr Tom Foster joined together to consider what could be done to bring REVIVAL to Australia, after the devastation of the second world war.

Now we see this REVIVAL sweeping across many nations of the world as

CRC churches across Australia, along with other nations, have taken up the challenge to see a CRC presence in every nation of the world by 2045. Over the years we have witnessed great men and woman step out in boldness and vision, such as Pr Barry Silverback. Yet God is still in the work of raising up more men and woman to the call of missions, to pioneer into new areas.

So, as you read this edition and see and hear of what God is doing today through our CRC missionaries and those who have taken up the challenge to support missions around the world, I pray you will be encouraged as you identify with the PULSE of the CRC in taking the Gospel to all the world.

Have a Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year.

Above: Thanks to our past AMIT Director Pr Mike Cronin and Lois Cronin who administered the CRC Missions office.



A LIFE OF MISSIONARY SERVICE

Rachelle Hardy

Philippians 2:13 says, 'For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.'

This is how the Holy Spirit started with me in my personal call to become a missionary.

Before I was even a teenager, I started to feel deep compassion for people in great suffering, people in need and those whose lives are in difficult and painful circumstances.

I had a childhood dream to become a nurse or an aid worker and to work in

nations that have great suffering and impoverishment.

Well I never did become a nurse but during that time a pastor visited our church – Reality Fellowship Church – in Traralgon, Victoria where my home was at the time. This pastor called me to the front and spoke a word of prophecy over me.

Among the things he spoke, he said 'here is a nurse in the kingdom of God, you will stand in a nation that is not your own'. These words confirmed the desire that was already in my heart and has led me to serve Him in the nations.

God has taught me many lessons over the years and He has brought many people into my life who have been a part of my journey.

I am so honoured to be serving in a denomination that is doing their part in

obedience to the Great Commission of Jesus.

Mark 10:29-30 says, "Truly I tell you" Jesus replied "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for My sake and for the gospel will fail to receive a hundredfold in the present age – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, along with persecutions – and in the age to come, eternal life."

Jesus' words are true. This has been my experience and continues to be. My parents released me many years ago and at the beginning I thought I would not last very long without my own family and home, but as I began to build relationships and work with people from many nations, as well as coming to know and work with many people from my own nation, God has

more than supplied me with a wonderful international family.

These are the people who have spurred me on as I see their own sacrifices and commitment to Jesus and to the nations.

Learn to say 'yes' more than 'no'. 'Stay faithful to the stewardship that has been given to you'. 'Remember that wherever you go, no matter how different the culture, the language, the people - they are God's people. God knows the culture, the language and he will guide you in all of that'. 'God says "don't forget, I love your family even more than you and I will keep them"'. 'Keep me as your first love, even before your career.'

These are just some of the ways God has led and kept me and continues to do so.



MY JOURNEY INTO MISSIONS

Shalom Copland

Since I was eight, I always wanted to be a missionary but I didn't know how or when it was going to happen until I was sent to Vanuatu for three months of missions exposure in 2011. During this time I noticed a shift in my thinking and my heart and I have never had any doubt ever since.

Now as I look back I don't have any regrets because serving God is a privilege and being a missionary is a dream come true. There are challenges and difficulties along the journey but I've learned to trust God. I've learnt that the Lord never promised us a safe journey, but He promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. When my

faith is challenged, I grow more in trusting in His Word.

Mark 16:15 says, 'And then He told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere."'

We are commanded to go into all the world and preach the Good News and that is not an option.

One of the many things I've learnt about missions is taking risks for the sake of establishing God's kingdom in the hearts of mankind, not only where it's safe and comfortable.

Missions isn't about the places that we like to go to, but it's about the people living in the places that we like to go to and even the places we don't like.

If you know that God is calling you to take that one step and make a difference

in someone's life or a people group, why not take up that challenge in making that difference?

C.T. Studd once said, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last. And when I am dying, how happy I'll be, if the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee."

He also said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

Earlier this year I was given another opportunity to come back to the Philippines and coordinate the *Pioneers School of Discipleship and Ministry Training*. I arrived in Manila on the 8th of May and I am still here, but soon I will be going to the school.

We currently have five students - two females and three males. While I'm in Manila, I'm conducting online lectures

and devotions with the students, prayer meetings with the staff and more.

The students are on their three months practical now. Please keep them in your prayers that God will use them. Please also pray for new intakes for 2024.

From time to time whenever I am free, I also help Pr Liza and Pr Jedong in church ministry. We go out for evangelism, Bible studies, children's ministry and preaching; we help wherever we can.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has been and continues to be part of my journey one way or another. Thank you to everyone who is supporting me by praying, supporting and mentoring.

Also, a special thank you to my Bethel family in Papua New Guinea. Without you all I wouldn't be where I am today so thank you.

GOD IS GOOD

Pr Peter Hauje

2021-2023 have been challenging years for me personally, and for our pastors and leaders throughout the Philippines trying to initiate and apply changes to meet Government requirements and regulations, creating and restructuring our functions and operations, plus our church in Pasig having to move into a new location, which has been all very costly, but God is Good and faithful

In spite of the challenges, we have seen God's amazing grace in so many ways with growth in our local churches, growth in the numbers of young emerging leaders, growth and stability in relationships within our pastors and leaders from different regions, growth in number of new pioneering church activities throughout Philippines, so that has been by God's Amazing Grace.

CRC Philippines (Official Name CMGO Fellowship) work in the Philippines looks bright and promising for exponential growth in every area, but specifically in the areas of leadership development, ministry functions, and new church plants, as we intend to adopt and implement EACH ONE, REACH ONE strategy as emphasized in the 2023 CRC Conference in Australia

Haggai 2:4 says, 'But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty.'



SERVING IN VANUATU

Benjamin and Asinate Wari are serving as missionaries in Vanuatu. They are based near Luganville on the island of Espiritu Santo.

Since they have been in Vanuatu, they have begun a playschool for young children. The playschool has been going very well and the community has shown great support.

Report from Benjamin

Towards the end of October we had a cyclone alert. It was a category 5 cyclone that just passed us and hit the outer islands to our left and hit another Island in front of us.

Praise God for all of your prayers. We only experienced strong wind and heavy rain. Other than that we are all okay and haven't experienced any damage from the wind and rain.

One Sunday in October, my wife and I were invited to help at a church called Hope Ministries which is pastored by a man named Pr Ron. Pr Ron is married to a Fijian lady. Asinate was asked to show the mothers some Fijian ways of cooking on the Saturday.

Mothers from around our area came and it was fun to see so much laughter and enjoyment. It was also nice to see that our work together with these mothers here was encouraging.

On the Sunday evening I was asked to preach at their night crusade. During the crusade I spoke about guarding our

hearts from bad influences if we want to see a changed community. The response was positive.

We had a lot of young boys and girls come out for prayer (about 33 of them). We also had four young man give their hearts to Christ and about nine older women recommitted their lives.

Just a testimony from Asinate which happened that Sunday during the night crusade. As I was making an alter call for the sick she came to me and asked if she could say something. She began to move in discernment. She began to speak of two things.

1. There's a woman that's trying to leave her husband and children and she has packed her bags all ready to leave.
2. There's a young girl that tried to commit suicide and her younger sister stopped her.

Those two ladies came out for prayer and they were both touched by power of the Holy Spirit. Some of the women standing beside started to speak in tongues as my wife started laying hands on them.

We had a great move of God's Spirit and about four people with special needs came forth for prayer and my wife and I prayed for them.

I prayed for a man who had chest burns and was having problem breathing. He is now back to diving and catching fish in the sea and we believe God has healed him.

We thank you all for all your prayers and we also continue to stand with you all in prayer as well.



ENJOYING MINISTRY IN FIJI

Salome Rajaratnam

I have known for some time that I have been called to serve on the mission field. I knew that I had to wait until God opened the correct doors for me to move into missions ministry. Although this was not my first trip to Fiji, it was my first time serving the church in this capacity and supporting the development of the church community.

As part of my preparation I read many books about past missionaries navigating the mission field and the numerous challenges and obstacles they had to overcome. At times this was worrying, but I reminded myself of the privilege that I have to serve God as I was blessed with the time and opportunity to do His work. Although I had to jump many hurdles while serving, I was constantly reminded that just like any other mission field it takes time, patience and God.

I first arrived in Navua, Fiji which is a little town located four hours from Nadi airport. Pastor Ritchie, who is the senior pastor of the Suva church, picked me up and took me to Suva. This is where I spent the first two weeks. During my time in Suva I visited mothers of preschoolers, I attended mid-week prayer meetings and went on a number of home visits where I was able to pray with families and encourage their faith while they encouraged mine.

For the next two months I stayed in Navua. Navua is a small village with only

a population of 3,000 people. Despite the small population it is a well facilitated area with a government hospital, schools, intercity bus services, a police station and two supermarkets.

One of my highlights was attending the local farmers market everyday, this was a place that many people would come to and this gave me the opportunity to meet and connect with people. I also came across some women who were waiting at the bus stop, I found that these women were going to the hospital for themselves or to visit family members. This gave me the opportunity to pray for people who were seeking comfort from God and this often led to many others gathering around for prayer. I am grateful for God's timing and placement and for creating these opportunities to serve the community and for giving me the words and the boldness for Him to use me in this ministry.

When I first attended the church in Navua there were three elders and four members of the church. The church had not had a consistent pastor for over six years and this unfortunately resulted in church members struggling to stay connected with the church. With the support of the elders and the existing church members we were able to grow the church to 27 members within the two months of my stay. This was made possible through home groups, visiting new families, spending time in ministry, Sunday fellowship lunch after church and prayer.

It was evident that a lot of the new members of the church had struggled through many difficult times and day-

to-day challenges, however, seeing these new believers draw near to God and be supported by the church community in growing their faith, they saw a lot of breakthroughs in different areas of their lives. It was always my intention to follow God's plan for my time in Navua which is why every morning I would ask "Lord, what is my assignment for today?", and without fail God put me in many places where I was able to minister to people, whether it was family disputes or health needs, God's plan prevailed.

I found that I was often invited to different homes for a meal, fellowship and prayer. I was always supported during these home visits by a church member who accompanied me. I know that Jesus often would meet people in their homes to disciple and minister and I wanted to practice this principle and have faith in the fruits that will come from this. As expected, after a few weeks in the community I noticed on Sundays at church that numbers were slowly but steadily increasing. During my time in this church community, I was able to witness stability and growth in a church that had been around for 20 years. I was able to support the church community in strengthening their roots and commitment to cultivate a change and commit to the ongoing growth.

When comparing the life of a missionary today and 100 years ago, I can definitely say that in some ways it is not as hard, I had many luxuries. I was able to communicate with my friends and family, I had access to good health services, healthy food, clean water, secure transport and a home to live

in. However, the spiritual battles have not changed in 100 years, I believe that when 'The Good God, the Kind God and Loving God' is put in the centre of the community and people are starting to draw near to Him, this irritates and antagonises Satan. There were many challenges, distractions and diversions put before the growing church community, however, through your prayers some of these spiritual attacks have been brought down. I want to encourage you all to continue to pray for the work in Navua as God's plan for the people is not yet finished.

These last few months in Fiji have grown my faith tremendously, I was able to grow in many areas in my personal life that allowed me to serve the church community and the people around me. I have personally struggled in many areas of my life where I have had great doubt of the abilities that God has placed within me, I have experienced a miracle and a touch from God in my personal faith journey with Him most of my doubts and fears have gone away. I know that I am a work in progress for His kingdom and I thank Him for choosing me and my family.

So, I would like to encourage anyone who is reading this article, walking on water is only possible if you step out of the boat and keep your eyes on Him. We are all called to GO into the world and share the Good News. How we do it, when we do it, where we do it is all in His hand.

I also want to thank my immediate family and my church family for praying for the work that He has started.



THE CRC IN PAKISTAN

Pr Steve Pidd

Pakistan has over 240 million people and it is the world's fifth most populated nation. Reportedly, it is 96.47% Muslim. Christianity makes up around 1.27% of the numbers there, which still constitutes over 3 million people.

Having had an overwhelming number of invitations to conduct our healing training we decided to commit and go and see if we could help. It is a door that God is opening for us as a movement.

A number of those wanting the training are hoping to become a part of the CRC Missions effort to deliver God's

promises and provisions into their nation.

Not having worked in South Asia before I had no idea what to expect. I'm sure as all people involved in missions have found, it doesn't matter where you go in the world, even though culture is different, it is automatic that you connect as the family of God.

As you can imagine in a culture with a Muslim majority, to be a Christian is a matter of considerable dedication. I found the Pakistani Christians to be incredibly friendly people, quite loving. They are very social, and family, and extended family oriented.

When not ministering, I spent quite a bit of time in people's homes which were crowded with family and friends, eating very spicy food, often late into the night, for the cause of Christ!

I worked in Lahore, Sialkot and Karachi. In some of those cities I didn't see any other foreigners. Many foreigners feel that they would be perceived as terrorists, and so they are afraid to visit.

Being a nation birthed in the process of religious segregation there is a pervading sense of religiosity and many religious practices.

Aside from these influences I was delighted to find that Pakistani Christians in general have a simple uncomplicated faith, and receive relatively easily what God has promised to provide.

During our time in Pakistan, we ran three Conferences in different major cities to train pastors in healing and freedom ministries, each running two days. Additionally, we held nine healing services, open to the public where

several hundred were healed, others freed, and a number filled with the Spirit. A very satisfying launch for the CRC in Pakistan.

An important element of my mission was to identify the right people to train, promote, and then to release the CRC into their nation. It was very evident that Pr Amir Siddique and his great team based in Sialkot were eminently qualified, and stood out as capable to fulfill the task.

With the right support, I believe that we will see God moving powerfully in the coming years across the nation of Pakistan. We already know that it is God's desire to reach these people with the good news.

I have no doubt that the CRC could be greatly instrumental in helping to bring a Christian revival across that nation.

Are you interested in receiving quality ministry training that will establish you in the Word of God and prepare you for Christian ministry and service?



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