



# PULSE MAGAZINE

March 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 first edition of Pulse Magazine for 2021.

This edition we are focusing on online communication and teaching. We hear from a few of our pastors from the CRC in Australia about their online training endeavours during the COVID-19 season.

Although we are not able to physically travel to enjoy fellowship with people from all different nations, various online communication tools have allowed CRC training to continue despite the numerous challenges. This is a great encouragement to all and shows that no matter what, we will continue to teach and share the Word of God.

In addition to articles surrounding the topic of online communication, we have also included a couple of updates from around the world. These include an update from the Hughes family in Walhalla, South Carolina, USA, and a report on the construction of a new church in the Nyakanda Refugee Camp, Burundi.

I trust that you enjoy reading through this edition of Pulse and that you are encouraged by the stories and the incredible work that is still taking place throughout the world, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic.

I look forward to more issues of Pulse this year. I hope you are also excited to see what they have in store!



# FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

## *Pr Mike Cronin*

When Jesus gave the commission to His followers to go and make disciples of all nations (people groups) it was not to people in easy conditions. They were a people under a lot of opposition and persecution from the Roman occupation army and from the Jewish leaders who were violently against the followers of Jesus. Yet it was in these adverse circumstances that the gospel spread by both Word and Power.

In some countries where CRC personnel are working there are many threats of danger and persecution. Yet the ministry of the gospel continues to go forward. The COVID-19 pandemic over the last year has made particularly challenging circumstances for many people, but the ministry of making disciples and preaching the gospel has continued.

As many churches adapted to online services, our missions work adapted to Zoom and similar technology to teach, encourage, inspire and build up our leaders in other countries as we could not go in person. As a result Jesus' command has continued to be fulfilled.

Although 2020 was a very different year from what we expected, it has been a year of new steps, and taking up new opportunities that will better equip us for the years ahead.



The CRC family is continuing to grow, and we need to be connecting. Also, conducting the meeting via Zoom was a much more cost-effective way than in-person meetings.

I have been teaching in Zamboanga, Philippines over recent months. On a Wednesday night at 11:00pm Melbourne time, or 8.00pm Philippines' time, the leaders in Zamboanga gathered.

Some of the leaders gathered at the pastor's home watching a computer screen, some joined us from home on their phones in Zamboanga, some joined us on their phones on Basilan Island (a significant rebel stronghold area).

We had three sessions each on aspects of faith, the church and missions. I send notes ahead of the session, speak on the topic, then provide opportunities for local discussion.

A representative of the group then presented me with questions, or they were put into the chat. By 12:30am (Melbourne time) I disappeared and left the Zoom call running for the local team to discuss further.

The local pastors – Pastor Marlon and Pastora Ann Sala have been excellent in facilitating the discussion from their end. This certainly helped make the sessions effective and workable for all involved.

A picture of Pastor Marlon and Pastora Ann Sala can be seen on the opposite page. A few pictures of a church in Zamboanga have been included above as well.

## NO STOPPING!

*Pr Mike Cronin*

In 2017 there were 168 mission trips reported by Australian CRC pastors to approximately 50 countries around the globe. There was a similar but growing number of trips that took place in 2018 and 2019.

On these trips there was mentoring and encouragement of pastors and leaders, visionary inspiration of forward progress, Biblical teaching, evangelism and leadership development. In addition to this, teams engaged in practical help and social welfare concerns were also addressed.

In March 2020 in-person mission trips were halted due to COVID-19. However, the command of Jesus to make disciples of all nations (people groups)

has never been rescinded, so we had to adapt the means to keep fulfilling the command!

As churches became innovative by conducting their services online when in-person services were banned, missions also became innovative and Zoom teaching, encouragement, and fellowship from one nation to another became popular.

Our horizons have broadened, and what seemed impossible without going in person can now often be done online. We certainly look forward to when we can go in person again, but much can be done online now and in the future.

As a result of this, our CRC Missions Sunday offering in July 2020 focused on the purchasing of electronic equipment to assist our churches in various nations.

Equipment purchased included computers, cameras, speakers and sundry technical supplies for Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, India, and Ghana, as well as for Pr Barry Silverback in Australia so that they were able to receive online teaching and encouragement.

Some churches have directly helped other fields, including Cambodia, Bolivia, Brazil and nations in the Middle East and East Africa.

The International Leaders' Gathering, a gathering of key leaders from the nations CRC is involved in, held just after the Australian National Conference each year was conducted via Zoom in 2020.

Although the various time zones were a challenge, we had far more people involved in 2020 than we have ever had before.



## THE NEW NORM: TEACHING VIA ZOOM

*Pr Mike Groom*

As we all know, with the COVID-19 pandemic, over the last 12 months we have all had to adjust to doing things differently than we did prior to the pandemic. This is especially true in regards to training, in particular in our training programs and ministry schools overseas.

With no opportunity for international travel, we needed to find a new approach to continue training our many overseas students; this new approach is very much still needed to this day and does not look to be disappearing anytime in the near future.

I did not even know what Zoom was prior to COVID-19. Maybe a fast car as it sped past – zooooom! Well, now we all know about Zoom and other similar online platforms.

With the upgrading of many media facilities in churches this has assisted in the ability to use technology to be able to teach the Word to many students across the world, in cities and also in many remote places.

It was my pleasure to be able to teach a number of times in the Institute of Discipleship and Ministry Training (IDMT) in Ghana under the leadership of Pr John Boateng.

I had two planned trips to Ghana prior to the pandemic, but I was unable to make the trips due to various circumstances. However, now being able to go in a different way by teaching through online technology has been

awesome. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time teaching and speaking with the students.

I have also enjoyed the opportunities that I have had in teaching on Sunday afternoons to our many younger men and women serving in India.

The advantage with online technology is that you can reach many people from different locations and you can even have people from different countries in one teaching session. This is the case in the times I have taught and shared in India. What a fantastic tool to be able to reach many people at one time with the Word.

It has also been a delight to be able to share and teach on a number of occasions in Fiji. I travel to Fiji every year to visit our CRC ministry bases and it has been disappointing not to be able to visit physically on site in recent times.

However, through teaching sessions via Zoom, I have been able to connect with our awesome folk in Fiji and have had awesome opportunities to teach the Word of God.

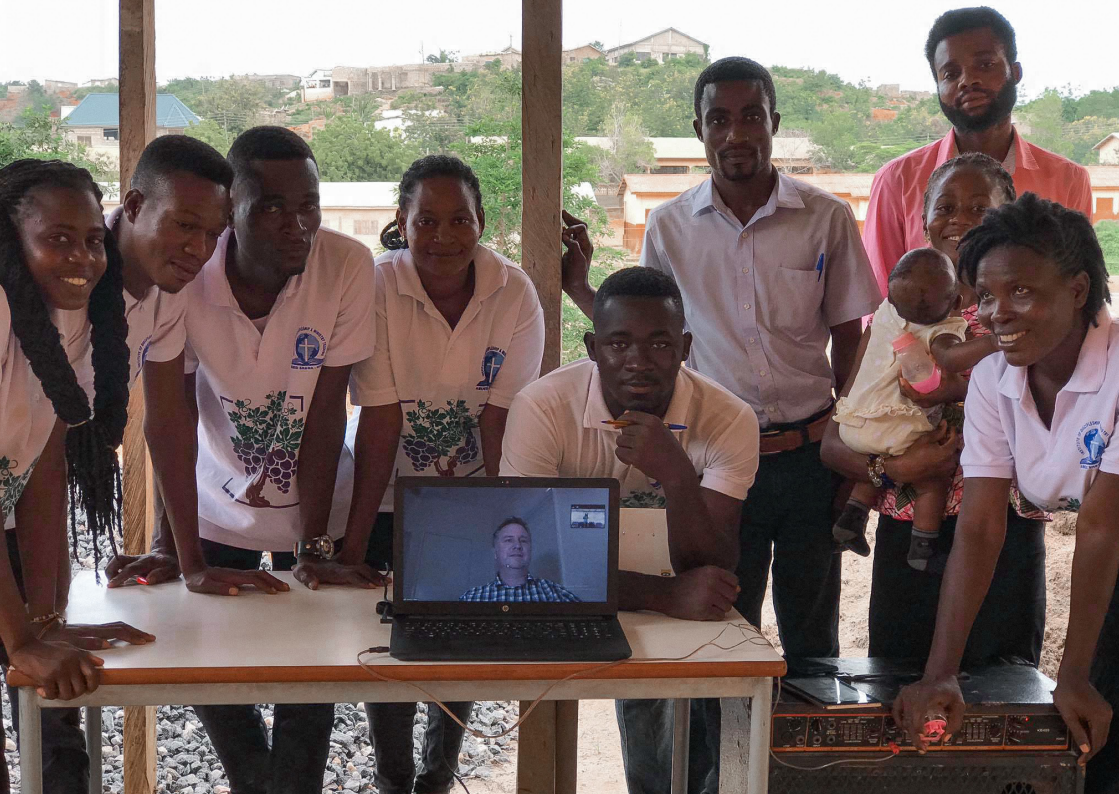
Lastly, I have had various opportunities to minister to our key leaders, staff and students at Bethel Centre in Port Moresby, PNG. This includes Wednesday morning Chapel and other ministry opportunities. I always enjoy connecting with our folk at Bethel and I am encouraged to see ministry training continuing to operate during these tough times.

Online technology has been a real blessing over the past 12 or so months in being able to continue the ministry of teaching the Word of God in our CRC training programs across a number of nations.

At times it can be a little frustrating with quality internet connection. We can have the best computers, devices and cameras, but it all comes down to the quality of the internet connection in-country in the end.

However, despite the obstacles that are connected with online communication and technology, we have all made the best with the circumstances as the opportunity to continue to connect, teach and fellowship online far exceeds not doing it at all.

I cannot wait until international travel recommences so we can all meet in person as this is still the best way of enjoying fellowship together. Online communication is a fantastic substitute until then, but I'm sure we would all love to see each other in person!



# TEACHING AND TRAINING ONLINE

*Pr Jeremy Steel*

2020, the year we all learned how to Zoom and it looks like 2021 is going to be many more hours spent looking deep into the camera and at faces on a screen.

Thank you to the amazing generosity of various CRC churches for their giving towards the technology needed to conduct online communication. Funds collected during the National Missions Day in July 2020 have been an amazing provision.

The funds raised during this time have allowed us to improve the quality of the Zoom sessions at both ends, by purchasing laptops, video cameras and upgrading Wi-Fi connections.

However, there are still some elements that remain out of our control. For example, the 24-hour blackouts. This means, mobile phones and laptops cannot always be charged, and Wi-Fi internet connections do not always work. But we have still been able to make significant improvements in the quality of our Zoom sessions.

Although I have not been able to physically travel to the nations and share God's Word, it has been a joy to be able to continue to share the Word using technology in many different nations. This includes the following nations and ministry.

## India

Weekly devotional sessions with the whole team in India: Imphal team, Assam church team and the Siliguri team. These sessions include training, encouragement and prayer. These times are a great joy.

The training schools in India were closed for most of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic so we tried Zoom sessions once a week with the students connecting in via their mobile phones. We gave it a good attempt, but between issues of poor internet connection, flat batteries and no data, this was not sustainable.

## Ghana

The training school was able to reopen towards the latter part of 2020 so I was able to conduct weekly lectures into Ghana.

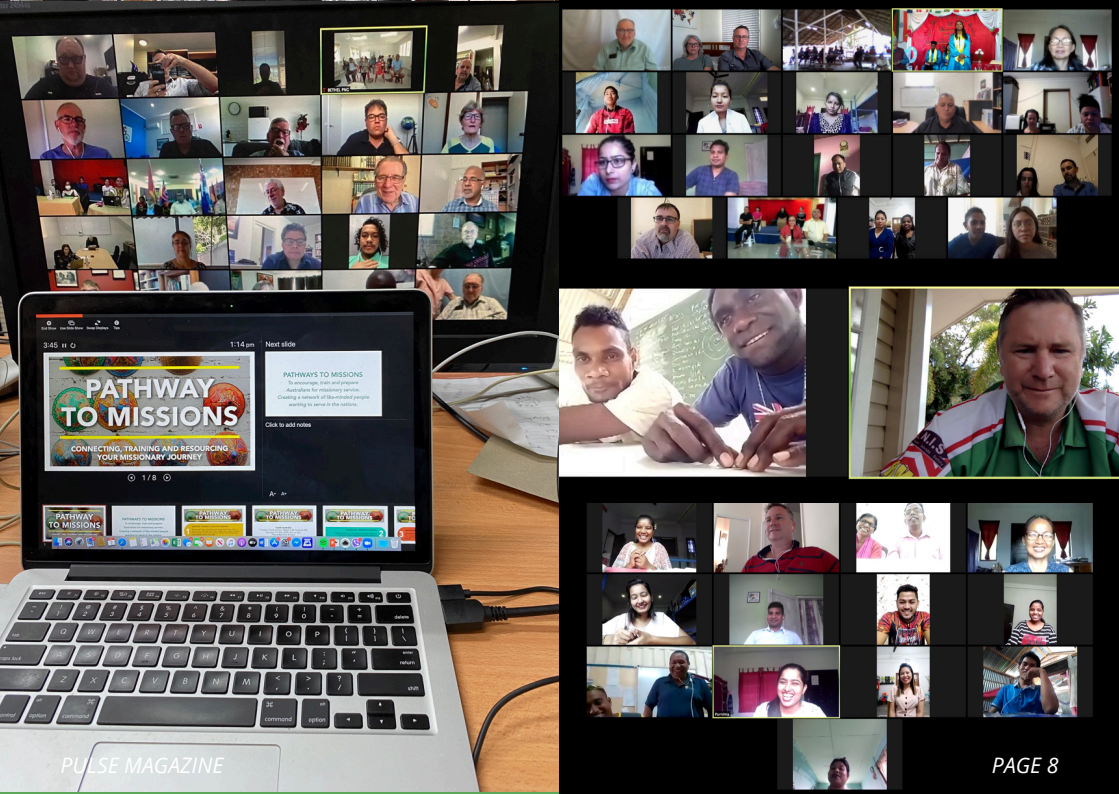
## Papua New Guinea

Throughout 2020 I was able to be part of the Bethel services in Port Moresby, chapel with the Bethel staff and students on a number of occasions, as well as regular time with the Frontier Evangelism team.

## Other

In addition to the above, one other thing that I have been able to do is post online devotions, for about four months, through the Pathway to Missions Facebook group.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shut down many things, but the Word of God has continued to be carried and planted throughout the nations.





## AFRICA: CRC INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS BIBLE COLLEGE

*Pr Phil Cayzer*

2020 is behind us and 2021 is well and truly here. We are incredibly excited for all that God has been doing, and will be doing through the CRC in Africa.

About 12 months ago, in the height of the pandemic, our team geared up to take on the challenges of being locked down. As a result, we have seen Bible Colleges pioneered in various countries, trainers being trained to teach and run courses, pastors being equipped and sent out, churches being built and hundreds of students graduating at a

Certificate or Diploma level in Christian Ministry and Theology. Praise God!

Our aim has always been to equip and empower those within the mission field (Africa) to carry out the mission themselves (the Great Commission and the CRC's International Vision to have a CRC presence in every nation by 2045). This aim allows us to utilise the resources within the countries, dissolving cultural barriers and operating as efficiently as possible. Most importantly, we are able to support our brothers and sisters in Christ in their Godly calling. We can also provide opportunities for them to grow and excel in their Christian journey.

Last year our structure was put to the test when travel restrictions were introduced and the world shut down. Today we are honoured to report how no matter what, God continues to move powerfully in Africa through the CRC. In

Kenya, there are currently six CRC International Missions Bible Colleges (IMBC) running. In Tanzania three are running, in the Democratic Republic of Congo two are running, Mauritius and Uganda have just finished their first Certificate course with a class, and Rwanda have just completed both the Certificate and Diploma level of IMBC.

All these countries have invested time into preparing teachers to run the courses, which are provided from here in Australia. They have also opened it up to pastors to come and be trained. Governments are applying strict controls on pastors, beginning with the requirement to have a certificate level training and resulting in harsh consequences for those without (i.e. the shutting down of churches and removal of buildings etc). As you can see, the demand for solid Biblical training is significant.

IMBC is offered to everyone and anyone interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the Word and those who seek to grow in ministry. The courses are offered at a low cost and sponsorships are available from sponsors here in Australia.

This year in March we rolled out our first trainer's course in Zambia with the aim to start the Bible College Certificate and Diploma courses soon. In April we will launch that same course in Malawi and the preparations are underway to pioneer a Bible College in Dar E Salaam, Tanzania in May.

As a result of IMBC, a church was planted in Burundi and within 18 months has grown to 450+. Today they are halfway through the construction of

their church building that will seat around 1,000. This is just one of the many testimonies of the effectiveness of training and equipping Christians!

We are in communication with a growing team of key leaders online (i.e. Whatsapp and email), working especially close with a core group who joined the cause very early on and have been fundamental in growing the CRC movement internationally.

In 2020 we launched our website, which has helped filter all applications to IMBC and keep track of the hundreds of students that are receiving the official Australian Award that we offer. Our website provides a face for what we do and who we are, for anyone interested in further Christian study in Africa. It is also a place for our trainers and CRC International leaders to access CRC resources, training resources and more. Please visit: [www.crccollege.org](http://www.crccollege.org)

When the international border restrictions lift we look forward to taking a team (or many teams) to help facilitate graduations and minister to CRC churches and ministries. We welcome all CRC pastors and leaders to join us on the mission field and even to come and establish new ones. Plans are underway to visit Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique as the movement spreads across Africa so, when it comes around, make sure you don't miss out on the opportunity to go!

A special thank you to the churches who are supporting this mission. Please continue to pray for our African brothers and sisters in the mission field as they continue to advance the gospel across the nations.



## HUGHES FAMILY UPDATE

### United States of America

Firstly, on behalf of our family of God here in Walhalla, South Carolina at Faith Center Church, especially those of us that were infected with COVID-19, a big thank you to Pr Barry Silverback and Pr Mike Groom for initiating prayer for us among the churches in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, India, New Zealand and other nations.

Secondly, thank you to all pastors and leaders that organised your congregation members to pray with and for us all. It was very encouraging for us and comforting to know that other family members around the globe were pressing on in prayer for us.

We certainly appreciate all the prayer, and we have seen the power of prayer operate in all we were going through. God has been helping us through it all.

A couple of our congregation members have had some other health issues arise in their lives as a result of having COVID-19. They are regaining their strength slowly and are doing well.

### February 2021

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February we had 30 people, including children, attend our Missions Sunday service. We had Pr Joshua and Sister Bethany Bridges with their three children: Isaac, Phillip and Lydia speak on that Sunday.

Pr Joshua is an ordained pastor with the International Pentecostal Holiness Churches here in South Carolina. Pr Joshua and I have been meeting together for prayer with other

Pentecostal senior pastors in the Walhalla and Seneca area. For this month's senior pastors prayer time we met at Faith Center Church and we enjoyed a great time of prayer.

Pr Joshua and his family have been accepted officially as missionaries by their church missions council to Wales, the United Kingdom. Omega and I had the privilege, at Pr Joshua's request, to join the official prayer time and committing of them to missions work via a Zoom meeting. It was an awesome time of prayer.

Omega and I have been getting back into visiting congregation members. We are able to visit them during the week on weekdays. This has been really good and encouraging for them and us.

We continue to get prayer requests, for people who are sick, who have family members that are sick or are just going through some of life's challenges and difficulties.

Recently while we were out on a family outing, Omega saw a young man having trouble getting his basketball out of the basketball net as it was stuck. He had tried pushing it out with an umbrella but he was too short.

Omega said, "we need to help that man," so we did. Jethro, being tall, took the umbrella, jumped up with it and knocked the ball out for him. We got talking and his name is Justin. He and his wife it turns out are Christians looking for a church to fellowship at.

I invited Justin and his wife to church. He asked if we could pray for him and he said he believed God was calling him

to ministry, but he was not sure what area of ministry.

I said yes we will be praying for him. Justin said he believed it was no coincidence that we met. It was an opportunity that we could have easily missed but we are thankful we took the opportunity. We never know what might come out of it.

I have been able to get some much needed work done on one of our trailers. I blocked a gap at the bottom of the air conditioning unit so skunks could not get into the area under the trailer home. One had already done so but we had that caught in a cage by a couple from the wildlife group we have here up in the mountains.

I also patched up a hole in the bottom of the block wall that had some damaged blocks. We also fixed a minor water leak in our dining hall kitchen.

Omega met with some of our ladies from the church. They have put together a committee to come up with activities for the ladies meetings.

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February all of us men had our first men's breakfast.

Jethro and Warwick have enjoyed a second lot of snow. They are getting up early in the mornings and doing their school work, which is really good as they themselves initiated doing that. We were given a weight lifting set so they are lifting weights now.

Blessings to you all from us at Faith Center Church,  
**Pr Warwick, Omega, Jethro and Warwick Jr Hughes**

# CRC CHURCH IN NYAKANDA REFUGEE CAMP

## Burundi

I am delighted to update you on the construction of the church in Nyakanda, Burundi. It is very encouraging to see where the building is now and it is a big surprise that our dream of believing that the money we sent should finish the roof as planned. The church is so big - 30 metres, 15 metres. It's the first big Pentecostal building in this camp.

Although the dream is not yet attained, the stage we have reached is very encouraging. As the house is large, the elders used a lot of timber; the timber cost a lot of money. I truly take this opportunity to thank our brothers and sisters in the Nyakanda church, especially Pr Magorwa and Brother Guy for their strict supervision of the activities. Their efforts allowed the church to attain such a great step that has been reached. I know that we have not finished yet but the action taken and the step reached is not bad.

The elders of the CRC Nyakanda refugee church asked me to deliver their report to you. They also urged me to express their gratitude to Pr Phil and Norma Cayzer particularly, to Pr Mike and Lois Cronin and generally to all CRC Australia leaders and all members of the CRC movement. They thank everyone for their financial and moral support and their strong partnership with the church in Nyakanda.

The pastor of the CRC church in Nyakanda Refugee Camp, with his church elders, continue to request you as their spiritual guiders (coaches) and supporters to continue supporting them until this church is completed. They said that through the construction of this church in Nyakanda Refugee Camp, CRC Churches International speaks loudly by actions and communicates in practice in Burundi.

The news that encouraged me and surprised many people, is what I heard from the coordinator of the department of women. She said that due to the pain of not having a place to gather for worship, and especially the difficulties they encounter during the rainy season when they gather under trees, women themselves are strongly supporting the construction work with their own hands. Others sold their clothes and contributed the money to help in constructing this church. She said that she encourages a big group of women to support the work with food so that builders may have meals to eat.

I personally thank all our Australian brethren for your considerable contributions to help our brethren in the Nyankanda refugee camp but also because these brothers are refugees, they contribute and give their contributions in-kind and especially when its to support with the workforce. However in terms of contributing money, they certainly do not have anything because even their food is received from the United Nations High Commission for refugees ( UNHCR).

Thank you very much,  
**Pr John Zembwe**

# PATHWAY TO MISSIONS

## CONNECTING, TRAINING AND RESOURCING YOUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY

**Speakers: Pastors Barry Silverback, Jeremy Steel,  
Rachelle Hardy and Julie Fonorito**

This event 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 – this weekend is for you.

### NSW / ACT / QLD

Colour City Church (8a Little Brunswick Street, Orange)  
4th-5th June 2021 | 7-9.30pm Friday / 9am-4pm Saturday  
Coffee & breakfast Saturday morning at 8.30am

Cost: \$25

To register your interest please contact  
Johanna Taylor | 02 5310 6207 | [contact@colourcitychurch.com.au](mailto:contact@colourcitychurch.com.au)  
or register online [www.colourcitychurch.com.au](http://www.colourcitychurch.com.au)

CREATING PATHWAYS  
CONNECTING WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE  
VALUABLE INSIGHTS  
MISSIONARY NETWORKING







# Kids Can Do *Missions*

FOUR WEEK SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

**FREE FROM THE CRC MISSIONS  
INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE AT THE  
END OF MAY 2021.**

The curriculum 'Kids Can Do Missions' will feature some of our CRC Missionaries in various countries, but most importantly, it is designed to instill in our children the idea and importance of missions.

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

**Ideal for your children's ministry in July prior to  
the CRC's National Missions Day on Sunday 25 July  
2021.**