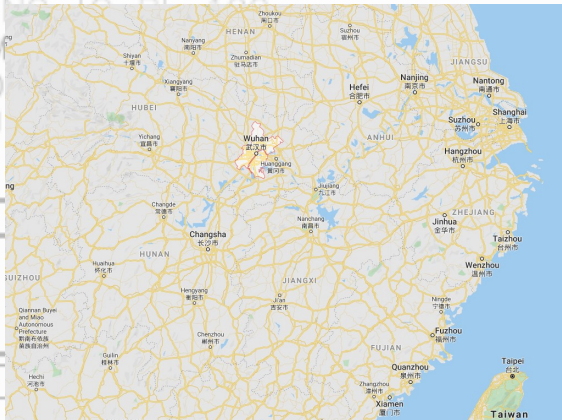


EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

During January this year we were all getting over a wonderful Christmas/New Year period, getting used to writing a new date, planning for a busy year, and hearing news of a viral breakout beginning in Wuhan province in central China (*a place not many of us had ever heard of*). Wuhan is a vibrant city on the Yangtze river about 600km east of Shanghai, it is so strategically placed that it would be considered a transport hub to a large portion of eastern China.



As we ventured into February we watched as this epidemic begin to have a major impact on life in this normally thriving city, and then as Chinese New Year was approaching the gravity of the situation began to show through as they closed travel across China, quarantined an entire province into 95% lockdown, and began a social isolation program never seen on such a scale.

Who would have thought even then that this would impact the lives of everyone globally? For MMM Australia we cautiously considered the impacts as our leaders were briefed on the potential impacts, but life was continuing almost as normal until March 12th when the

World Health Organisation declared it a pandemic. The words Coronavirus and Covid-19 had entered our common vernacular. For MMM in Australia we needed to postpone all project work immediately the government advised, something we have never conceived possible in our 45 years of ministry. The world had changed and we were all trying to understand the impact of this insidious virus.

For myself as CEO and the MMM Australia Board we needed a calm considered approach that acted according to the directives being issued daily from our government leaders as well as ensuring the health and wellbeing of our staff and volunteers. These were uncharted journeys and the only proper thing to follow was the directions from our leaders. Never before has it been so evident that we need to pray for all of our leaders in Government, to make wise and considered decisions for the benefit of all Australians.

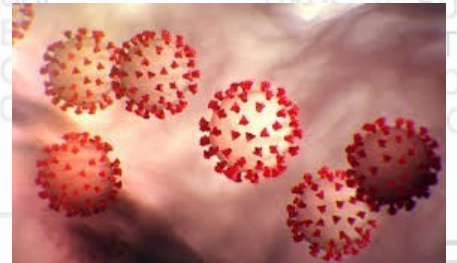
The impact of social distancing and the attempts to stem the spread of the virus has been immediate and far reaching for MMM. A significant portion of our expected income was lost immediately, along with the schedule of fundraising activities that generate almost 1/3 of our income. Three major fundraising activities were postponed from March, and we have no idea when these might be able to be rescheduled.

The Board has met several times using remote technology and the daily communication between our CEO and Board Chairman has highlighted the gravity of what MMM (along with just about every other charity in the NFP sector) is facing. More than ever we need our people to seek God and be open to His leading in the area of giving to support the ministry of MMM. The expenses of running a national Missions Agency continue even when no project activity is taking place. We will continue as a ministry because God is still in control, and at this time we need you to find in your hearts how you can help financially.

Terrence Baxter
CEO

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serving those who serve





Project Opportunities

PROJECTS & PEOPLE UPDATES

MMM Australia Projects

On March 24th the Board met to consider the evolving situation with the Covid-19 pandemic to specifically weigh up the government directives and how it would apply to MMM project activities.

The decision was made to postpone all project work until advised by the various governments and medical authorities that general community activities can recommence in some form. Several projects underway at the time were either completed or made safe and closed for the time being.

Normally we would produce a list of upcoming projects for people to consider, however until the situation is resolved and we can proceed with project planning all project activity is suspended.

As and when project work recommences we will be rescheduling two Papua New Guinea projects as soon as possible. We are continuing to plan the [Build-A-Bond](#) components for one of these PNG projects.

New Board member

Joining the MMM Australia Board in Late March, Dale Stevens has specific skills and experience to bring to the Board. Dale runs her own business in communications and messaging "Present with Presence" and her skills and talents have been shaping our communication strategy especially during the current pandemic issues. Welcome to the team Dale!



Hendrik Alberts



Earlier this year we received news that Western Australia Committee Chair Hendrik Alberts had been diagnosed with lung cancer. Since the initial diagnosis Hendrik has undergone a range of tests and has commenced a schedule of treatment to help manage the cancer. Please continue to pray for Hendrik, that God will do a miracle in healing this disease. Pray also for wife Irene as she journeys this pathway alongside him. Pray that they will know the perfect peace of God throughout this time. We love you Hendrik and uphold you in our prayers

Geoff Jarvis

On Sunday April 5th Geoff was with his 93-year-old mum as she passed into the presence of her Lord and Savior. We feel for your loss Geoff and Gill and extend our sympathies and love to you and the wider family at this time.



Steve Grace

Our national patron Steve Grace and his wife Kerrie are at present in outback NT helping out a friend with some farm work to gain some income. They are isolated there until travel restrictions are lifted. Please continue to pray for Steve as they face their own financial strains with limited income streams at this time.



Shane & Ruth Goelst

It's with great joy that Shane & Ruth advised that they will soon be grandparents. Daughter **Stephanie** and husband **Aaron** are expecting their first child in September.



This will be a first also for Tasmanian volunteers David and Jenifer Meadows as they take up the exciting role of Great Grandparents. Congratulations to everyone associated with this wonderful happening.

MMM Australia Board Report – 7 April 2020

It is only April and it is clear that the year 2020 will go down in Australia's history books as a tumultuous year. This will be a year that many of us will never forget. We started the year with the devastating bushfires that impacted many parts of Australia with 34 deaths and leaving many people homeless.

Then in late February we saw the Covid-19 Corona virus start to impact Australia. Since then we have all directly experienced continuous change to our lives as new rules and laws were introduced by our National, State & Territory leaders. These actions have been deemed necessary to reduce the physical and financial impact on Australians.

The consequences of this pandemic have already had a significant impact on MMM Australia operations. The MMM Board held an unscheduled meeting in March as the National, State & Territory governments started to rapidly introduce the current restrictions. The decision was made to suspend all project work and to ask our office staff to work from home where possible. Region Managers were also directed to postpone all planned fundraising events due to the social distancing requirements and banning of large gatherings.

These decisions have been necessary to comply with changes in laws but also to protect our volunteers, staff and those we work for. But it is also very important that MMM is seen by our communities to be compliant with these changing requirements. MMM cannot undertake its valuable work without our volunteers and as many of us have done a few miles it is important that we take particular care.

In times like these we can easily find ourselves dwelling on the negative aspects of the restrictions and the financial consequences for us individually, for our loved ones and also for MMM but it is good to remember that God has only good intentions for each of us. I am confident that He will provide and protect. Matt 6:30 reminds of His love for each of us.

Please continue to pray for God's protection over all our MMM volunteers and staff at this time and also that He will meet all of our financial needs. Also please pray for our Prime Minister and the National Cabinet as they make the decisions that will impact on the control of this pandemic.

Dale Richardson

Board Chairman



How Can You Help?

In this special edition of TeamNews dedicated to the current crisis we are all facing we've tried to give you the best update possible, and the best information available. This is a rapidly changing situation that is taking significant effort just to keep up with.

So you might be asking **"How can I help?"**

Obviously at the present time project work is off the table, and we are largely confined to the locality where we live. There are three main things you can do to help MMM though this most difficult period.

Pray

Pray for every aspect of MMM's operations. Pray for our people, some of whom are doing it tough at the moment. Pray for our finances, that God will provide for our ongoing expenses. Pray also for our clients and those we support through the ministry, many are severely impacted in their finances and operations. Pray for our Board as they navigate through these never before encountered situations, pray also for our CEO as he leads us and guides the Board with information. Lastly Pray for all of our governments that they would have godly wisdom and insight to lead us through this dark passage.



Give

Many fundraising events and a lot of our income has diminished though the postponement of events and project work. Ask God how you can contribute financially. We expect this situation to extend for 4 to 6 months. We have included in this TeamNews a DL flyer on ways to donate to MMM.



Connect

Find ways to connect with other MMM'ers from your region offices, the national office, and from your area of engagement with MMM. If you're a part of a local Prayer Team we encourage you to ring others and pray "together apart". If you normally work in one of the project teams around the nation connect up with others from those teams and encourage one another. Lastly, keep in contact with your region managers. They need your encouragement just as much as you need theirs.



Finding ways to stay engaged is critical to our rapid resumption of activities when this crisis is past us, and ensuring we continue financially through your donation (*big or small*) keeps the mission alive and well through tough times.

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A Time to Pray — Like Never Before



It is more important than ever to be praying to our God. In a time of unprecedented shut down around the world, God is still working, and as Christians we have work to do to. God is counting on us to be pressing in and seeking His face, to be interceding for the tremendous needs around us right now. While we've certainly been given a lot of information to process and there have been huge changes we've needed to adjust to, we know it is only for a season and will pass. God is ever faithful to us. Remember **2 Thessalonians 3:13** which reminds us "do not grow weary in doing good" and also **Galatians 6:9**, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up". I encourage

you not to withdraw in this season, but continue to give, be a blessing, consider creative ways to do good works and continue in your faithfulness to our God.

Here at "virtual" Head Office we will be continuing to run our monthly prayer meetings online via **Zoom**. We may be in our homes but we would love to stay connected with you! Everyone is welcome, wherever you live in Australia. Our prayer fellowships will be held on the 3rd Wednesday each month at 1:00pm (AEST, Melbourne). If you would like to attend, please send an email to prayer@mmm.org.au and we will send you the link which will enable you to attend the prayer meeting. Video will be enabled, so if you wish, you may use the camera on your phone or laptop to join in, or if you prefer you are welcome to join by audio only. Please consider coming along and praying with us for our Nation, our Government and MMM Australia.

We would also specifically like to request your prayers for our finances and for God's provision. We have been deeply impacted by the crisis and our income has dramatically dropped. Would you consider giving financially if you are in a position to do so? Would you consider praying for God's provision? Our hearts desire is to be able to continue the work He has given us to do when restrictions are lifted. Thank-you for your ongoing support, we are in this together and are so thankful for you.

Below are the friendly faces at a couple of our monthly prayer meetings. These are just some of our prayer warriors who faithfully give of their time to cover MMM Australia in prayer. We are so incredibly grateful for them as well as the many others who pray for us.

Robyn Fedrick

National Prayer Coordinator



Head Office (Victoria) Prayer Meeting

Noel & Marg Taylor, Rachel Littlechild, Terrence Baxter, Sutha Jayanthan, Kim Roediger, Geoff Jarvis and Dale Richardson.



Western Australia Prayer Meeting

Trevor Beard, Rod Heape, Karen Beard and Hendrik Alberts.