

MMM News

Australia 2022 Volume 1



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THOUGHTS from the HEART



What Really Matters

According to Napoléon “a sentence of death wonderfully concentrates the mind! Ever noticed how a

health or life-threatening crisis impacts a friend or family member's life? Slashing through their priorities and activities, drawing their attention to now see what ‘really matters in life.’ This is especially true for young, otherwise healthy individuals suddenly diagnosed with a terminal illness.

We may not initially welcome reminders of our mortality, but welcome them we must! They're important ‘texts’ from our heavenly Father, gently reminding us that this world is not our ultimate home. Our disciplined walk with Him during our life, is rehearsal for the unimagined future realities in which we will partner with Him in the ages to come (1 Cor 2:9).

“Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.” (Ps 39:4)

But these prompts that life is brief and fragile, also lead many to consider the vital questions of ‘Who am I? Why am I here on earth? Where am I going? What am I on earth to accomplish?’ When Saul encountered Jesus in a stunning download from heaven, he asked

“Who are you Lord? ... What do you want me to do?” (Acts 9:5-6)

Begin with the end in mind! So wrote Stephen Covey as Habit 2 of his ‘Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.’ So, what's ‘the end’ for us? Our destiny in Christ Jesus! We were chosen by God before his extravagant act of creation when nothing but God existed! No galaxies, no zebras, no lattes! (Eph 1:4-5) Created to continue creating with Him.

“For we are God's masterpiece. He has

created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Eph 2:10)

If I was uniquely chosen in God's mind before creation, then at his time and direction I was also born into this world. As his masterpiece, I'm being crafted in Christ to fulfil the destiny which God ‘hard-wired’ into my DNA before creation. Nothing that I do as a Christ-follower, is ‘secular’, because I am consciously expressing my authentic identity and ministry as a redeemed child of God! Whether I frame up a house, teach High Schoolers maths, manage a superannuation fund or read my pre-schooler a bedtime story, I am anointed to express Father's heart through my work. See Col 3:23-24 MSG)

It's this intentionality to express Father's will and calling in all of our lives through continually giving him our primary allegiance, that transforms our ‘work’ and life into an authentic destiny! Our lives become crafted tapestries of our willing partnership with Christ, reflecting the glory of God. Viewed from beneath, they sometimes appear as a jumbled set of knots, but from above, a masterpiece of beauty, pleasing to our Father's heart.

As you live out daily your convictions about God's purpose in your life, you build your testimony of his calling in your life. Your ultimate testimony is the accumulated average of your daily testimony. Stephen Covey again asks us to imagine that we spectate our own funeral and listen to what people say of us. There's some truth in that, but more critically, what will our Master and Saviour Jesus say was the ultimate testimony or fulfilled destiny of our lives?

As we walk passionately pursue Jesus daily into our post-Covid world, may I plead with you as Paul encouraged Archippus

“See to it that you fulfil the ministry which you have received in the Lord.” (Col 4:17)

Dr Ian Grant

FROM THE CEO'S DESK



From Disappointment to Opportunity

Our front page shows the moon rising over Arnhem land in the Northern Territory. This image came across my desk on the day I had to make one of the most disappointing phone calls to a client. As I looked at the image it reminded me of the pressing need in the indigenous communities, and the impact we can have to meet some of their most pressing of needs.



In mid-2021 we had a team of volunteers from all over Australia visit the Northern Territory for the 2021 TopEnd Safari. We had a full schedule of work for the team stretching from Alice Springs in the south to Maningrida in Arnhem Land, this included several projects in and around the Darwin area and two in indigenous communities.

The final project was to be in Maningrida, where we had been asked to enclose a prepared area underneath the Uniting Church Mission House there. We knew beforehand that several of the team were unable to make it to Maningrida, but plans were in place to bolster the remaining team with some that were going specifically for the Maningrida project.

With the ever changing status of state borders and public health orders

around the Covid-19 pandemic it became evident about 4 weeks prior to the scheduled start date that we could not get the team in and out of Arnhem Land and/or the Northern Territory, and for the first time in 8 years I had to ring the client and tell them we could not do their project. My disappointment was weighing heavily in my heart, because I knew how much this work was needed in the community there. Just before I was to make this call, the moon rise over Arnhem Land image appeared on my screen, my heart sank with disappointment at the next conversation.

After contacting the client sponsor I explained the situation and without hesitation he told me this was OK, that the community was very apprehensive about 'outsiders' coming in at that time because of Covid-19. We chatted for nearly half an hour about the situation, and although disappointed he was comfortable with the cancellation. His disappointment stemmed from a knowledge of the accommodation issues being faced by indigenous communities including Maningrida.

The startling fact is that there are over 250 families awaiting housing in this small community! As soon as this statistic was revealed the discussion changed direction about how MMM Australia can help. We chatted about our Build-A-Bond projects and pretty soon we agreed we would provide a proposal for Frontier Services (Uniting Church Australia) to produce, deliver, and construct a significant number of house frames.



BUILD-A-BOND HOUSING

The proposal delivered, further discussions with the CEO of Frontier Services has progressed and the plan continues to develop. From the initial disappointment of having to withdraw from a small one-room addition to the possibility of delivering 5 or 7 houses has seen disappointment turn to opportunity. It's a tough journey at first but the joy of being able to make a real difference in the next year or two in that community makes it all worth it.

Can I ask you to pray for the Build-A-Bond team led by Ian Graham, that they will know wisdom and direction in such an ambitious project? Pray that this will lead to other opportunities in indigenous communities throughout Australia, to meet their need and show the grace and love of God in the process. Pray also that Frontier Services will have access to the much needed government funding for this vital project.

In all of this I've been reminded again that trusting God to lead and guide us in every aspect of our ministry will always bear good fruit and a positive outcome, and that His name will always be glorified if we just trust and obey.

Much Blessings

Terrence Baxter
Chief Executive Officer

PROJECTS HAPPENINGS



News and images on recent projects & project teams from across the nation.

Camp Clayton Milestone

From the earliest days of MMM over 40 years ago, our volunteers have been helping with the development and upkeep of Camp Clayton in Ulverstone, Tasmania. It's hard to know just how many projects we've done there, but we do know MMM volunteers have spent thousands and thousands of hours on site in a wide range of projects.

In February 2020, the team at Camp Clayton called for assistance again



FOUNDATIONS

with extensions to their Seaview Accommodation facilities, within a few days of that application Covid struck and the impacts of lockdowns were felt immediately for both Camp Clayton and MMM. It's been a long road to get the work finalised.



SHANE GUIDING THE TEAM

In November 2020 we were advised by Camp Clayton staff that their accreditation had hit a wrinkle because the bunk beds didn't comply with Australian Standards, so the Tassie team took on the challenge of

modifying them so compliance could be achieved. These two projects were the last projects that long-time volunteer Graham Scott would work on. With the on-going impacts of Covid, and the ever changing outlook for volunteers the

work was delayed several times, in the midst of these delays Graham Scott's memorial service was held in the main Rec-hall at Camp Clayton

In December 2021 the team completed both projects, a milestone in itself, to ensure the ongoing viability of one of Tasmania's most successful Christian camp-sites. Over all between the two projects, our teams contributed around 315 hours of effort. No doubt we will be back there in the near future on another



CAMP CLAYTON FRAME

project – the partnership continues.

New Creation Church

In December 2020 the Queensland team received an urgent call for help from New Creation Christian Church in Burpengary (not far from the base at Mango Hill). The Church had lost the use of their rented facilities and were faced with massive rents for their existing office and a new shop front church facility which needed extensive renovations before it could be used as a church facility.

Over the past 10 months the team have constructed internal walls, fitted out new toilet facilities, reconfigured stairways, constructed internal offices, and created space for their children's ministry. It's

been a monumental effort which has continued into February this year. The Queensland team have spent over 1,200 hours of effort turning this empty factory shell into a place of worship and ministry outreach.



THE TEAM

Recently our CEO chatted with Ps John Johnston of NCCC about the difference the new site has made. "With the food bank facilities we have reached into the



NCCC BEFORE

community and it's making a real difference. In just 8 months we have 4 new people in our church that have come directly from the impact of this ministry." In the conversation he told us

that they hadn't heard of MMM, but someone passed on the contact and things have blossomed since then. "We're not a wealthy church with lots of resources and we could not imagine how we would make all this happen, but MMM has done miracles."

Well done John, Josh, Trish, and the team working on this difficult project – it's transforming a community



NCCC AFTER

MMM Projects Office

Phone: 03 9837 2700 Email: projects@mmm.org.au



Our new format of “MMM News” will provide the Board with an opportunity to share information about the activities and actions of the MMM Australia Board on a regular basis. This will allow us to communicate details of key actions and decisions made by the Board.

Having just concluded our first Board meeting for 2022, one of our first actions was to formally appoint Dr Elmo Jacob as a new member and Director of the MMM Australia Board. Elmo expressed an interest in joining our Board after seeing our advertisement in the CMA position vacant circular.

Elmo is Managing Director/CEO of Newton Pty Ltd a communications software business based in Canberra. He has previously served on the MAF Australia and MAF Philippines Boards as well as other Boards. He attends the All Saints Anglican Church in Ainslea ACT.

He brings to the Board extensive business acumen and experience with managing international operations. We are pleased to welcome Elmo to MMM and look forward to the positive contribution that I am sure in will make to MMM's future.

We thank God for the answer to our prayers for new Board members with the skills and experience needed. Board Roles & Responsibilities - It has been our practice to review and fill all Board positions and responsibilities at our February meeting.

The following appointments have been made for the coming 12-month period;

Chairperson – Dale Richardson

Vice Chairperson – Paul Bradley

Secretary – Matthew Smith

Audit & Risk Committee – Craig Goldsmith (Chair / Treasurer), Dale Richardson, Matthew Smith, Terrence Baxter (CEO),

We thank all members of the Board for their contribution and willingness to serve in this way. MMM Australia could not operate without their support.

Other Matters to report are:

Strategic Plans - A subcommittee has been established to review and update the MMM Australia Strategic Plan. The objective of this exercise is to ensure that the organisation is taking appropriate actions to achieve the mission's purpose and objectives over the next 3 -5 years.



Vehicles - We have been successful in attaining a grant of \$40K through the Colliers Charitable Fund to assist with replacing two of our oldest work utes. We look forward to replacement vehicles being available in the coming months.



Operations - A report was received showing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on MMM operations. In particular operations in Victoria and New South Wales have slowed. Tasmanian operations have been a highlight with regular activities continuing.

Build-A-Bond – A report was received providing an update on the supply of roof trusses for the Belgrave Heights Convention Centre accommodation and dining facilities development. It great to be involved with this large project. Thanks to Ian Graham and his team of volunteers for the work completed to date. Also, investigations are underway into an opportunity to provide housing for remote communities in Northern Territory. It is exciting to be exploring this new opportunity, our CEO will be continuing discussions with potential partners in the coming months to progress this opportunity.

Prayer – An important part of our Board meetings is to take time to pray for our MMM Australia ministry. This includes praying for our head office staff, regional managers and volunteers across the country. We also find ourselves thanking Him for answers to prayer, evidence that God is with us.

Dale Richardson
Board Chair



Vale Yvonne Harrison



Warwick (Wazza) & Yvonne Harrison became connected with MMM a few years ago when Wazza volunteered for project work with the MMM New South Wales Team.

Yvonne had a life well lived, described in her eulogy as “a life of faith and integrity.” Her memorial service was broadcast online with many friends and family watching from all over the world unable to attend due to Covid-19. Region Managers Greg & Robyn Jackson joined the online service and commented on the beautiful tributes to a life well lived and a peaceful passing to be with Jesus.

Following the online service Greg & Robyn were left pondering on the goodness of God and Yvonne’s capacity to reach and impact so many people in her lifetime. To Warwick and the family, we extend our love and support, and we honour a woman whose life touched so many.



Queensland Christmas Lunch

Back in December 2021, the Queensland team gathered at the Mango Hill base for their annual volunteers Christmas lunch. What a fantastic way to say thanks for a great year of volunteer efforts. With the Queensland borders opening up a few days before, it was the first opportunity for MMM CEO Terrence Baxter to be with the team and share in the fellowship and celebrations.



A great effort by the Northern Australia Region Managers (John & Anne Cooper), Staff (Josh & Trish Baade), and all of the Queensland State Committee, to serve our volunteers, and to share a little of the work done throughout the year. Everyone enjoyed great weather, great food, and great fellowship. Well done to all the Queensland volunteers for a great effort in 2021.



Tasmania Afternoon Tea

In mid-January the Tasmanian team gathered at the Perth base for an afternoon catch up. Covid kept numbers lower than normal with some staying home to avoid risky contact. Contrary to the delightful picture Shane and Ruth were there. A great afternoon was shared in the sun with the usual fare of delights for afternoon tea.



Shane and Ruth have transformed the base at Perth (just south of Launceston) with their hard work and resourceful sourcing of materials. The team enjoyed a great time of relaxing and chatting under the shade sail.

Work around the Perth base has been progressing with a great team led by Ruth (directing things) and Shane, ably assisted by son Simeon, along with volunteers Bradlee, Gary, & Brian. The street-scape has been transformed by all this hard work.



Got Some Time?




have the tools
are you ready to help
there's a place for you to serve



Come and join the MMM Team
serving those who serve

www.mmm.org.au

Tropical Coast Projects in 2022

The Queensland team are organising several projects up the tropical coast from Bundaberg to Magnetic Island.

Contact MMM Queensland
mmmqld@mmm.org.au

dates and locations to be confirmed
have a chat with John Cooper if you're interested
mob: 0407 696 298

WHATS IN A NAME?

We are looking for a great name for our 2022 newsletter publication.
so
We're throwing it open to everyone to make a suggestion!

**put your thinking cap on
get creative
give us your best suggestion**

Maximum of 13 characters
Building Related
No Trade Names
Submissions by March 29th, 2022
to
admin@mmm.org.au

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PRAYER CORNER

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for the Vocational Training College in Ndola (Zambia). They are facing critical funding issues after the cancellation of a contract that would have provided significant funding, and the withdrawal of some students because of a disagreement relating to integrity issues. Pray that God will open doors for on-going funding opportunities.

Pray for Josh & Trish Baade in Queensland as they welcome their first-born into the MMM world. Pray for a trouble free delivery, and a stress free transition to parenthood. Pray also for their on-going financial support as full time MMM Volunteers.

Pray for new volunteers across the South East Australia region (formerly Vic/SA) to deliver the growing number of projects in central & western Victoria and in South Australia.

Pray for the planned fundraising events, that the current Covid situations won't impact any upcoming events.

Pray for new Board members as they engage with the organisation. Pray that they will immerse their hearts into the mission and ministry of MMM Australia and provide good direction and governance.

Pray for the ongoing work in northern Thailand. Pray for the health and provision for Palita as she administers the office in Chiang Rai. Pray for Pedro as he diligently serves God as our projects manager. Pray for provision of funds to replace the ageing work vehicle (15 years old).

Pray for an influx of new volunteers for the project teams across Australia.

Pray for our CEO Terrence Baxter to know Gods leading and direction as he looks to future plans and opportunities.





MMM PRAYER NEWS



Welcome to our newly designed MMM News! I hope it blesses and encourages you in all that God is doing. I'm absolutely honoured to have a little corner to hopefully inspire you in prayer and God's answering of prayer. We are very much in a spiritual battle which prayer is an absolute cornerstone of. We can do all the physical work we like, but if God's not in it, we are just building using our own strength, which is temporary and serves no eternal purpose. But with prayer and seeking God, we hope to do His will and follow His leading to truly see our labour produce eternal fruit for His Kingdom.

As many of you are very aware, following God is a life long journey that is filled with many challenges that would tempt us to walk away or weaken our faith. We may even be tempted to look to man to solve our problems and save us. I love these verses from Psalm 22:3-5 (NIV) that say:

"Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed."

Our trust in God is not fruitless. Will you allow me to share a little of my story with you? My husband Aaron and I have been married for 12 years and my deepest desire has always been to have a family of my own. Ever since I was a very little girl, I knew with my whole heart that my biggest dream was to be a mum. As I entered marriage and we started on our journey

to have children, we met roadblock after roadblock. Throughout the years we had great difficulty conceiving. When we finally did we kept losing our babies. I suffered 2 early miscarriages, 1 late miscarriage of our precious little girl Willow Jayde, after which I thought I would never be able to recover, as well as several years of debilitating illness. I wondered where God was in all my suffering. I wondered if my dream, my heart's desire, could still come true? Even though I knew God was still there, it was so hard to walk that journey and to still trust Him, my faith was challenged tremendously and I was deeply disappointed.

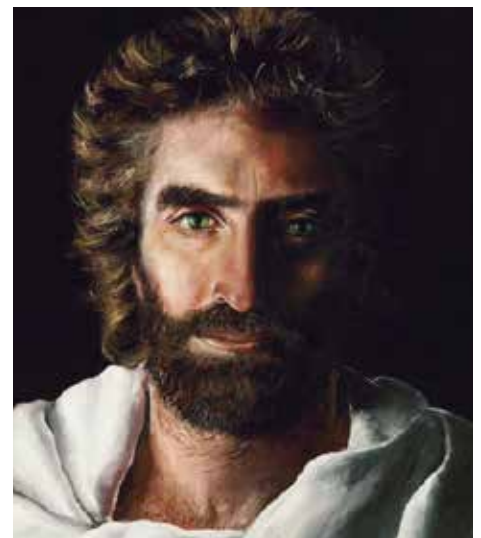
Yet in it all, I knew in my heart that God had promised me a child and so somehow I was able to hang on. To still have a sliver of hope, because the journey wasn't over yet. As I hit the ripe old child bearing age of 43, my pastor encouraged me to consider IVF and we embarked on a new journey. So much prayer went into this journey, so many of you have prayed for us, our church was praying, our family and friends were praying. We were all believing for a miracle! And God answered. On our first round of IVF I fell pregnant, which isn't common, especially for my age. I knew then that God was working a miracle for us. As I sit here and write this article I have just turned 44 years old and I am now 30 weeks pregnant with our miracle baby and answered prayer. While I may not understand the journey I had to walk through, it has shown me the importance that persisting in our faith bears fruit and that we will reap the reward if we do not give up.



I just want to share with you this scripture from Matthew, though it is talking about salvation, it talks about standing firm. It is in our standing firm and continuing to hold onto our faith that carries us through.

Matthew 24:12-13 (NIV)

"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."



This is a beautiful painting of Jesus by the talented Akiane. Remember that Jesus sees you. He truly sees you. He knows everything you are going through, every challenge, every heartache, every hope that you have. He sees you, He knows you, and you are not alone. With Him you can see the journey through.

Many blessings,

Robyn Fedrick
National Prayer Coordinator

MMM Prayer Network

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