

MMM News

Australia 2022 Volume 3



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Front Page Image

Three men on a plank
Pictured (left to right):
John Cooper, Peter Groves, Geoff Payne

THOUGHTS from the HEART



CALLED TO BUILD

I always wanted to be a builder and when I was nine years old my Dad went to Fiji with a

team from our church to help build a classroom for the Gospel School in Suva. That was all the inspiration I needed to decide that one day, I would be a builder and build for God.

After my wife and I had been married a few years and just after our first child was born in 1994, there was excitement at our church one Sunday morning as a new family had arrived from Australia. They had come to New Zealand to begin a ministry called 'Mobile Mission Maintenance' (MMM Australia) and of all the towns, cities, and churches in New Zealand they had just happened to come to ours! I immediately knew this was my kind of mission. However, I loved my building job, playing hockey; leading our church youth group and of course our growing family so my interest in MMM was restricted to helping for a few days on the occasional MMM project.

During 1998 I had a sense of unrest. I was realising if we were to follow this desire, He had placed in my heart to build for God, we would have to trust him. We applied to join MMM.

It's been years since I heard it but there is a wonderful old hymn I sang as a kid called "**Trust and Obey**" and the chorus goes like this "Trust and obey, for there is no other way, to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey;" – it's an interesting order – trust then obey.

To me, it almost seems to be the wrong way around.

Today it seems that we will obey someone or follow their lead, go along with them, even marry them but trusting them will come later if we decide to, because I just trust myself. I don't want to make myself that vulnerable that I would completely trust them. I trust

my decisions; we see life from how it affects me.

In Exodus 19 God asks the people of Israel if they would obey him - 4 "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;"

The people would be thinking, "What is this covenant that we are to obey?" – they hadn't been told it yet. But the people assented to obey the covenant even though they didn't know what it was.

7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do."

God then tells the people to prepare for Moses to go up the mountain to receive the 10 commandments.

They trusted before they obeyed. That's complete trust. They had seen God work in bringing them out of Egypt, the miracles he had performed, how he had provided. They knew that if God was to give a command - it was worth following. A trust in the character of God we should all have. No two parties would do that today – agree to a covenant without knowing what it is or the terms.

After 23 years in the MMM ministry the necessity to trust and then obey is still the same, every day. Continuing to know we have an awesome, providing, faithful, unchanging God; then being prepared to obey him when he calls to the next MMM assignment, to love my neighbour, encourage my co-worker or see the God opportunity in the interruptions of the day.

Trust and obey, my friends, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.

Howard Robinson

National Director - MMM New Zealand



FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Peace versus Stress

Philippians 4:6

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Earlier this year I indicated to the Board this would be my last year as CEO of MMM Australia. The past two years has been pretty full on for the Board and myself as we navigated the unknowns of a global pandemic. In early June I was chatting with our Board Chair Dale Richardson and reminiscing the very early days of the pandemic, and the unknown journey we were venturing through. We had called a special Board meeting to ensure we were doing everything possible to keep the organisation pointed in the right direction.

I recall part of those discussions where we agreed the only thing we really knew was that we had to put 100% of our trust in God, that He would guide us, lead us, and provide for us. To be perfectly honest, just saying that you're going to trust God doesn't take away the stress of the time, we were all concerned for the future of the organisation. For me, there were many sleepless nights, where I would leave the bedroom so as to not keep my wife awake, and spend three or four hours in the lounge chair praying until I fell asleep.

Trust comes into its own when God's word stills the heart and the Peace of God overtakes the stress of our concerns. I found as I prayed the Holy Spirit reminding me of the promises

of God, and it was the catalyst for His Peace to settle in my soul. Life is peaceful when you rest on the promises of God's Word!

Our God is Jehovah Jireh (*God our Provider*). He is our provider, and we do trust Him, we do put our faith in Him. My Bible tells me that Faith without works is dead! And James challenged his readers in Chapter 2:18 "someone may well say, *"You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."* I'm constantly challenged in my spirit to do all that God calls on me to do, and constantly encouraged to see how He responds with His blessing when we are obedient.

Today MMM Australia is in a much stronger position than 9 years ago when I arrived at our Mitcham National office. I've done all I can to ensure I answered the call God placed on my heart, I've been obedient to what God has challenged me to do. It has at times been very stressful, but I've always known I've had a great team of staff and volunteers to rely on. The Board has been amazing in the response to the challenges we have faced. We look forward from this point knowing that God is still in control. We will constantly be challenged to trust



Him, and to rest on His promises for us as individuals, and for MMM as an organisation.

There are still times when I feel the stress of the burden of leadership, that goes with the job! But I'm also much more conscious to remind myself of the promises of God, and the miracles

He has done in providing, leading, and guiding us in the tough times. Rest comes easier knowing the peace of God that is beyond our comprehension, this is the peace that we experience when our natural self would normally be stressed.

There are many who have prayed (and continue to pray) for me as CEO, and to each of you I say thank you, I couldn't even begin to count the number of times I've received emails or notes from people across the nation just to let me know they are praying for



me, it makes a significant difference in my life.

Prayer remains the single greatest weapon we have in ensuring that this organisation fulfils the vision and mission God has given us. Over recent months we've been working on a five-year strategic plan, mapping out the objectives and goals we believe God is challenging us with, which when finished (*in a few weeks*) will guide our planning and operations to see the work of the ministry grow and expand. It will be someone else's calling to implement this plan alongside the Board, for me I heard the call to take on the role as CEO and I can say with surety I have heard the call to step out and hand over to the next person God appoints to lead.

Blessings

Terrence Baxter
Chief Executive Officer

PROJECTS HAPPENINGS



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

Maningrida

We can never underestimate the impact our work has on local communities! In June this year our CEO visited the remote community of Maningrida with the Chaplain for West Arnhem Ministries to investigate opportunities to serve the church there in several projects. We've done a few projects in the Maningrida community over many years. The first thing discovered was what God is doing with the people of this remote community and surrounding area. On the Sunday before they arrived there was a baptism service where 120 people were baptized – Praise God!



PS DAVID AND TERRENCE

On the first night there they held an impromptu church service on the grassed area beside the Church which was attended by

about 100 locals, they sang, danced, and shared the message from 7:00pm through to about 12:00 (or later). We watched as around 18 young men in their early twenties performed a traditional dance to some Christian music, and were told all eighteen young men had given their life to Jesus recently coming from drug and alcohol addiction. Praise God!

We are planning two new projects for the Maningrida community, firstly a Bible Translation Centre on the Church house



land, which will be a MMM Build-A-Bond project for around April/May 2023. Secondly two Grace projects on the Church and Church House which will be part of a TopEnd Safari in July/ August 2023.



We have an opportunity to make a huge difference in this community, if you're

interested in being a part of either of these two teams please register your interest with the MMM Projects Office as soon as possible.

Gawa Community

We have also been in discussion with NT Christian Schools who have invited MMM to assist with much needed Maintenance projects at Gawa Community on the northern tip of Wessel Island.



We are still in the early stages of planning for this, but it will likely be a one-off project of approximately 3 weeks in August 2023. We need to do some significant planning for this project and will need a volunteer to "live-in" on the island for 8 – 10 weeks early next year to undertake minor works and planning for the team to arrive.

We will have more information in coming months as discussions progress. This is an opportunity to immerse yourself into

an indigenous community and culture to experience what God is doing in these remote communities. Again, if you're interested in any of this contact the MMM



Projects office for a discussion.

Build-A-Bond @ BHCC

After almost a year of production and assembly the MMM component of the work at Belgrave Heights is coming to a close. Ian Graham and his team have done an amazing job designing and constructing, hundreds of roof truss's to top off the new building being constructed as part of the most significant facilities upgrade at the Belgrave Heights site in the past 100 years. The difference this is making to their ministry is breathtaking, with capacity for over 450 guests in 'motel' style accommodation.



As the majority of the truss designs exceeded 12 metres in length Ian and his team have had to arrange several semitrailers to ship the bundled frames to site before assembly. After assembly the problem of where to store these long trusses until they are craned to their final position.

A great effort by Ian and all the volunteer team to make it all happen so smoothly.



MMM Projects Office

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



Chief Executive Officer Retirement

It is with mixed feelings that I received the news that Terry Baxter is planning to retire later this year (end October) after a little over 9 years in the role. I am pleased for Terry & his wife Sue as they move into another phase of life, but we will miss the dedication and commitment that he has shown whilst leading MMM Australia. I am sure that Terry and Sue will continue to stay in contact with their many MMM friends across Australia and beyond.



The Board has engaged a Christian recruitment consultant to assist with finding a suitable replacement for Terry. Please pray that God will provide the right person to fill this vital role.

Volunteers

MMM would not be able to help so many Christian organisations without the support of our many volunteers and supporters. Our volunteers are the backbone of the organisation filling most roles from project workers, regional managers, office admin through to the Board of Directors. As an organisation we have very few paid employees.



DAVID FREEMAN

Recently, we have had to say goodbye to

a couple of our valued volunteers. Firstly, Helen Steer and then recently David Freeman were both called home to meet their Saviour. Both Helen and David together with their life partners Barry & Robyn had served God in many ways throughout their lives. Both enjoyed being MMM project volunteers using their practical skills to serve God. I had the pleasure of working side by side both couples on projects within the past 12 months. One thing that stands out is their desire to help others. They were willing to step out and have a go, they said yes to serving God in a practical way.

We thank God for these wonderful volunteers. Our prayers are with Barry, and Robyn and their families as they adjust to life without their loved ones. We will miss them.

Strategic Plan Review

One of the important activities of the MMM Australia Board of Directors is to maintain a strategic plan for the organisation. This strategic plan sets out the focus areas and actions for the organisation to ensure that it remains focussed on its core mission and vision.

The Board has established a Strategic Plan subcommittee to undertake this review. The first step was to undertake a survey of a selection of staff, members, volunteers and supporters in order to understand the areas of strength and weakness in our functions. From the analysis of the survey results we have been able to identify the positive aspects and the areas of opportunity for improvement.

This revised strategic plan will establish some specific goals and objectives for the organisation to focus on over the next 3 to 5 years. It will also provide some guidance for the new CEO. A copy of this revised plan will be available for review by staff, volunteers and supporters before the end of this year.

Positions Vacant

Project Volunteers – MMM Australia's mission is to help Christian organisations across the country maintain their properties and building so that they can effectively undertake their specific ministry. As such there are always opportunities to serve as a project volunteer in each region across the country. If you know how to use a paint brush, push a broom or hang a door and would like to know more about volunteering please contact our regional managers for information about the forth coming projects.

Regional Manager NSW – Greg and Robyn Jackson have given notice that they will step down as Regional Managers at the end of 2022. They have done a wonderful job over almost 5 years coordinating and managing the NSW operations. We are thankful to them for the great job they have done and pray that God will bless them as they move onto the next phase.

We are looking for replacements for Greg and Robyn so if you have or know someone with the required skills and experience our CEO Terrence Baxter would love to talk to you.

Board Vacancies – Our Board of Directors are a wonderful and diverse group of talented people who have put their hand up to serve God in this way. I enjoy working with such a talented group of people to ensure that MMM Australia complies all the governance obligations required for a Not for Profit Christian organisation in Australia.

We are currently looking to fill a couple of vacancies on our Board of Directors for next year. We are looking for a Board Secretary and a Treasurer. If you have or know anyone who has the necessary experience and skills and are looking to serve God in a volunteer capacity, then please contact Rachel or Terry at head office who will forward this info on

Dale Richardson
Board Chair



Vale David Freeman

In May we said farewell to long time Victorian volunteer David Freeman who was called home to Glory after a short illness. David and Robyn volunteered all over Australia, also contributing significantly to the work of MMM in Zambia. Along with projects across Victoria and South Australia David & Robyn were regulars on our TopEnd, and WA Wildflower Safari teams.

Our continued prayers for Robyn and the family.



Opportunities in the West

In early May our CEO visited Western Australia for the first time in over two years. One key visit was with Hein De Villiers the leader of a Faith Community in Oldbury south of Perth. Hein is looking to provide interim accommodation for young prisoners upon their release. Our Build-A-Bond modular housing could be the right solution for this faith filled church.



There are opportunities everywhere if we just open our hearts and ask the question "How can we help you?" God will continue to open door's if we "knock" on them.

Orientation Returns

Over the past 18 months the National Office team have been working hard to redevelop the MMM Orientation Course for new volunteers. After an absence of over 12 years the first (test case) Orientation Course was run in Western Australia. From this small team we had great feedback which has been incorporated into the new courseware.



WA ORIENTATION CREW

The second course was planned for late May, but had to be postponed until early July because of Covid issues, but a great team of 11 individuals spent a fruitful 2 days in chilly Colac for the first 'full' course presentation. We have just completed the third orientation, this time in Queensland in late July. They've been waiting for this one for over 14 months!

If you're interested in deepening your involvement with MMM and would



VIC ORIENTATION CREW

like to attend an Orientation Course, please contact admin@mmm.org.au and we will keep you posted on upcoming opportunities in your region, or somewhere you can get to easily.

Extended Leave

Our National Prayer Coordinator has been on leave for the birth of their beautiful daughter Daphne Grace, and was originally planning to return in July. With Daphne struggling with a virus for the 6 weeks or so in June & July Robyn has extended her time at home to get through this tough period.

Pray for Robyn and Aaron as they cope with the stresses of a new baby and the sleep deprivation that brings. Pray for Daphne to fully get over this virus and to flourish in this loving family. Pray that everyone gets some good sleep.



Wanted - NSW Leaders

Greg & Robyn Jackson will finish in their role as Region Managers for MMM New South Wales at the end of this year. We are looking for a couple to take on the role as Region Managers. It's a fantastic opportunity to serve God and make a difference.

If you think this might be something God is challenging you about, or you know someone who might be interested, please contact our CEO and we will chat about the possibilities in God.



**YOU'RE INVITED
TO JOIN US**
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10th 2022

Fundraising Dinner
EVENT

Support the work of MMM in South Australia

ALDGATE CHURCH OF CHRIST
54 Strathalbyn Road, Aldgate
5:30pm for a 6:00pm start

Tickets \$40
jane.bayliss7@gmail.com



PRAYER POINTS

Pray for baby Daphne Fedrick to be free of the virus that has affected her for several weeks. Pray for full health, growth, and lots of sleep so mum & dad can sleep too.

Pray for Karen Beard's brother who suffered a brain aneurysm in July. Pray he will be restored to full health with no impact from this unexpected condition.

Pray for those impacted and affected by the latest wave of Covid-19 infections. Let's pray for a complete clearing of this virus from our nation and total healing for all infected.

Continue to pray for the Board as they search for new Board members to fill current and upcoming vacancies. Give thanks for the 11+ years of service Matt Smith has given on the Board and all his contributions.

Praise God for His ongoing provision for our needs. Praise Him for His protection of our volunteers and staff, as they travel the nation on His mission.

Pray for many volunteers for the upcoming work in the Northern Territory in 2023. Pray for those planning the work schedules and coordinating the project efforts.

Pray for the Build-A-Bond team as they develop proposals, plans, and materials for potential projects in remote indigenous communities.



PRAYER CORNER

2023 TOPEND SAFARI

INTERESTED IN THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME?
WE'RE PLANNING OUR 2023 TOPEND SAFARI
MAY THROUGH AUGUST 2023

SPEND 30-32 WEEKS IN THE BEAUTIFUL NORTHERN TERRITORY
WORK ON 5-7 PROJECTS IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES AND MAJOR REGIONAL CENTRES
EXPERIENCE THE LIFE AND CULTURE OF OUR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE
CONTACT: PROJECTS@MMM.ORG.AU IF YOU'RE INTERESTED

Thailand Vehicle Appeal

Can You Help Us?

We need to raise a total of \$30,000 to replace the Thailand Work Vehicle which has served us for 12+ years and over 330,000km

Donate today at www.mmm.org.au
100% of all funds received will go to MMM Thailand



GAWA COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

A local community on the northern tip of Elco Island (NT) is in need of a maintenance coordinator for 3-4 months in 2023.

An exploratory trip is being undertaken in late August to determine what is needed and how this will work for MMM and the Gawa Community. This major project effort is on behalf of NT Christian Schools.

A one-off project team will work on the facilities for 3 weeks in Mid 2023. If you are willing to serve by getting your hands dirty contact project@mmm.org.au.



MMM PRAYER NEWS

There are hundreds of faithful people across the nation and around the world who pray for the ministry and mission of MMM, prayer is the single most important thing we can do to affect the outcomes of our ministry. We are encouraged in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to “pray without ceasing”, so we regularly communicate needs to pray for which God answers, he is the supplier of all our needs.



I have unsaved friends who challenge me saying “how can you say God supplies all your needs when it’s people who are donating to your cause?” My answer is both swift and confident, that no matter who’s hand it comes through, God is the ultimate source. By His Holy Spirit he stirs the hearts of people to respond and contribute. Even for non-Christian individuals or secular organisations to contribute to our mission they do so under the influence of the Holy Spirit who stirs their heart.

God continues to be our provision, and we need to acknowledge the great things He is doing to supply all our needs. Here are few things we’ve been praying for recently, give God praise and glory for His provision.

Thailand Work Vehicle

We praise God as we’ve seen the blessing of God as just over 50% of the funds needed have now been received. We continue to see God encouraging individuals and organisations to contribute to the replacement of this 14-year-old work vehicle.

If God is stirring your heart to contribute, our bank details are on page 2 of this publication. Just designate your donation as “Thai Vehicle” and 100% of funds received will go to that need.



New Volunteers & Orientation

It seems we are always asking God for new volunteers to serve with the Mission. After more than 12 years we have recommenced our MMM Orientation program for new volunteers with courses held in Western Australia, Victoria, and Queensland (see page 6).



Praise God for the influx of enquiries experienced in the past 12 months or more as we have seen 20 individuals attend the orientation courses with 14 committing to serve with MMM locally. Praise God for his provision as he encourages people to serve with MMM.

Strategic Planning

In recent months we have asked for prayer regarding the development of our 5 Year Strategic Plan. We give thanks for the contribution of those who responded to a stakeholder survey, from their input we have identified key initiatives to pursue us over the next 5 years.

Praise God for His wisdom and guidance as the Board considers these goals and strategies to implement



and incorporate into the plan. Praise God for the clarity of purpose, and the unity around the vision and mission of MMM going forward.

Safety and Protection

We are thankful for Gods protection over all our staff and volunteers through the Covid pandemic and for safety on the worksites. We continually ask for His protection and He is faithful in keeping us safe. Giving thanks for the wisdom behind the WH&S plan we operate, our workplace injuries are way below industry levels and we have had zero major incidents in the past 9 years.

We have so much to thank God for, and so much to give Him the glory for. Thank you to each and every person who prays for the ministry and mission of MMM Australia. We praise God for each one who supports us in prayer, it really does make a difference and we see what God is doing in and through the ministry of MMM.

MMM Prayer Network

Address: 5/621 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham, Victoria, 3132 **Phone:** 03 9837 2700 **Email:** prayer@mmm.org.au