

International Council gathers in India

Following a great time in June 2006, when we laid important foundations for future BMi International growth and development we are planning a second Gathering of the International Council of BMi, this time in India when Pastor Samuel Babu Merupu will be our host.

Our Australian NLT will be there; Mark Crawford, Paul Glazbrook, Hanna Fakhouri and Peter Frogley along with Joe Chavez from the Philippines, John Dean from Fiji and Julius Wafula Macheusi from Kenya. Samuel Babu is planning two simultaneous pastors' conferences, one in the Capital of Andra Pradesh, Hyderabad and the other in town of Rajahmundry (home of Naioth Children's Home). These teaching and inspirational conferences for local pastors will be followed by three days together in Rajahmundry seeking to understand the Lord's plans for the future of BMi. This will be a great time in the Lord and a blessing and encouragement to the brethren in India.



UK

The umbrella organisation in the UK, Christian Growth International (CGi), is moving ahead.

Pastors Rick and Bev Murrill released from their pastoral duties in Chelmsford and now fully occupied in building the CGi network of churches. Pastors Paul and Lis Gutteridge are now pastoring the Chelmsford church.

CHERISH UGANDA

CGi is currently establishing Cherish, a village for orphaned children who have HIV/AIDs. Twenty acres have been purchased near Entebbe on Lake Victoria and a team of twelve people have now relocated from the UK to Uganda to establish the village.

Top: Pastor Rick Murrill and the Cherish Uganda team on site

Left: Pastor Andrew Waiblinger from Adelaide and International Coordinator Peter Frogley visited the project as part of their BMi international trip in November





Fiji

After enjoying a somewhat stable political situation for several years Fiji has once again been wracked by a coup.

It has not seemed very significant to outsiders, but Pastor John Dean reports that it has a strong effect on his church and people. As an Indian church there is not much unity between indigenous Fijians and Indians who were transported to Fiji in the nineteenth century to work in the sugar industry because locals were not interested.

Pastor John advises that many Indians have left the country and others are considering the same action as they don't see a good future for them in Fiji. This, of course, is a great challenge for John as he believes God has called him to pastor Indian people, but his flock has been somewhat decimated. He would greatly appreciate our prayers and support at this time, so hop on your computer and say hi. John's address is covenant@connect.com.fj.

When things settle down a little perhaps some would like to visit the church in Suva to encourage the brethren, and also enjoy a holiday on the side!

Philippines

We are happy to inform everyone that the proposed plan to build the campsite will resume in October this year.

This plan comes possible through the churches joint effort in raising the funds. Ps Chris Alpas who is the official owner of the land had donated this land for the use of BMi activities such as conferences, meetings and fellowships.

BMi finance generating projects are up and running well: the hog-raising, rice, and lending projects are continuing to function in supporting different churches and are useful in training personnel in administration. We were so thankful to God for entrusting these projects to us. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our BMi family who have gladly invested their resources to make these projects possible in the Philippines.

Times' Bread Bakery which had started in 2006 through the kindness of people who have given their support has brought everyone an excitement to see the production of bread which enables us to feed the hungry, particularly children from the slums are being fed. Three of the BMi Pastors are gladly helping us sell the bread from the city to the mountain. We thank God for the people who continue to work with us, despite all odds. We are looking forward to an even greater success with this project. Thank you all.

The visit of the Aussie youth team headed by Lynden Russell in January 2007 has brought awesome happenings in the lives of the youth. A lot of youth from San Enrique High School were saved during the two successive nights of the crusade. Also, the one evening crusade at Abada Sky was particularly powerful. The prophecies that were given by the visitors brought confirmation and changed lives, which has led these youth to seek God the more by coming to City Harvest Church, joining the worship and seeking to fellowship with other youth. There is hunger for God! Glory to our God!

We have witnessed a miracle of God! One of the MPFG (Mission Possible for Future Generations) child, John Rey Tanoco was found floating in the pool with no breath at all during their "Educational Field Trip" last March 6, 2007. He turned purple. There was no clinic around and people panicked. Ps Rafael Tamayor who was present at that time ran to the child, prayed, and gave him a mouth to mouth resuscitation. The child was restored to life without any complications to his health. God is great! Halleluyah! Please include MPFG fund raising for a bus in your prayer points. MPFG Sponsorship program is continuing in its mission to extend help to those who are less fortunate. For further information, please contact Ps Jacqueline Goelst of Tamar Valley Christian Church, Tasmania, Australia. Email: jgoelst@cbmdesign.com.au or you may also email us at primrose101968@yahoo.com



Pastor Joe Chavez

Kenya

The Bethesda Savings and Credit Society is now up and running in Bungoma, Kenya, providing an opportunity for members to save with interest and to be able to borrow for church and private projects.

This is a government approved and monitored program which helps ensure integrity of operation. When we were in Bungoma in December there were already 75 members of the society from within Bethesda Fellowships in Africa.

MISSION INVESTMENT

Bethesda Savings and Credit Society is able to receive investments from outside Africa and it may be that other Bethesda people will be interested in investing in the society. Deposits are interest bearing so investors can make some profit or choose to reinvest in the ministry in Africa. Deposits can also be designated to particular projects planned to be financed through BSCS. Such process ensures that monies will be properly accounted for and benefactors fully informed of their investment. For those interested in investing in Africa there are various incorporation documents that can be made available for your scrutiny. Please contact the office of the International Coordinator for further details.

It is also possible for the society, under existing legislation, to become a bank in Kenya when they have a modest investment. The Kenyan Government is keen to foster self improvement programs to enhance the economy.

BENEFITS TO AFRICA

Bethesda Savings and Credit Society aims to fight poverty by empowering the body of Christ financially. Rather than be limited to 'sending money to Africa', churches and individuals are able to invest in the Society which in turn will finance projects. The projects vary from the purchase of materials for new churches (a few thousand dollars builds a new church!) to the funding of projects that are planned to make the ministry in Africa self-funding such as a water bottling plant. Already a bore has been sunk to an excellent supply of water which after minimal processing can be bottled for sale throughout the area (many people rely on bottled water for drinking). An investment of less than \$20,000 would see this venture fully equipped with excellent potential to quickly return the investment and release finances to fund churches in the area.

Pastor Julius Macheusi

India

The India team has recently returned from the Naiioth Children's Home 10th Anniversary.

A team of 25 people went and we were also joined in India by Simon, a YWAM missionary from Papua New Guinea. Alan, Kerry, Adam and Laurine Lee went straight to Rajahmundry to work with Paul Babu. Their mission and vision is supporting the local Pastors and a widows Sewing Centre. The rest of the team visited Sankarapuram and Christ Special School where we spent time doing craft activities with the children, building a stand for a new water tank, electrical repairs, some painting and roof repairs. We bought new desks and benches and shelving for the children and a Bible each. We also arranged for all the children to come to our hotel one morning for an outdoor breakfast feast and games on the lawn. We had to stop the children washing their hands in the never before seen swimming pool that the guests used.

In Tirupathi the team held a Pastors and Wives Conference and the ladies ministered to the Women's Prayer Group supported by our ladies group. We visited women in prison and gave them all a new sari, shared the word, prayed with them and heard their stories. We also visited a children's prison where all 40 children asked Jesus to be Lord of their lives.

At Naiioth Children's Home the team was given a hearty welcome 'home' by the children and staff. Building work continues with the first half of the second floor nearly finished. Gavin and Elisha worked hard and completed the wiring for the new floor. It is hoped that the team will be able to stay at the home in future. This should reduce some costs and travel time for the team. A new rice husk stove has been built for Shanti the cook. This, along with new exhaust fans installed by Gavin, will hopefully reduce the smoke filling the kitchen from the current open fire. A solar hot water system will soon be installed on the roof of the second floor so the children will have warm water for bathing.

In Rajahmundry the team spent 10 days having fun doing a range of craft activities with the children. Pastor John did an electronics course on security systems and Sue set up a hydroponics system. We held a Pastors and Wives Conference and went to a village wedding! We then held four medical clinics in three different villages which was a huge challenge. Jo, who has a vision to help the elderly, gave out saviour packs of rice and blankets and saris to the destitute elderly. One night we had a big celebration for the 10th Anniversary of the Naiioth Children's Home—the children performed songs and dances and we gave all the children and staff gifts. We finished with a relaxed picnic day and returned to Australia happy but tired.

Pastors John and Jenny Barnes

Opportunities for Giving

INDIA

Assistance with costs for the International Council meeting and Pastors Conferences in India in July. Between all BMi churches we are looking to raise approximately AUD\$18,000 for airfares, accommodation, pastors conference costs (pastors in the villages are so poor they cannot afford full costs to attend training conferences).

UGANDA

Assistance with finances, prayer and possibly personnel for the Cherish Uganda Project now underway just outside Kampala, Uganda. This project is an initiative of CGI in the UK and it is planned to provide homes for orphans with AIDS.

KENYA

Assistance with the Living Word Conference in Kenya, where hundreds of BMi pastors and leaders gather in early December each year.

INDIA

Sponsorship for children and staff at Naioth Children's Homes in Rajahmundry and Sankarapuram, India. Sponsorship is available for these two Children's Homes for \$35 or \$20 per month.

PHILIPPINES

Mission Possible for Future Generations are raising funds for a bus to enable them to expand their operations.

If you are able to assist in these areas please send your gifts to BMi International Office, PO Box 777, Launceston, TAS. 7250.

Opportunities for Service

INDIA

Pastors John and Jenny Barnes will be planning a trip to India again this year in early November for three weeks. An opportunity to be a blessing, for details contact the Barnes at barnesjj@bigpond.net.au.

UK

There is opportunity for internationals to spend time with the church in the UK as an intern, along with studying in the M-Power Bible training program. This is a great opportunity for young people to gain invaluable overseas experience. Contact bev@christiangrowthinternational.org.

Please note that all overseas ministry within BMi should be organised through Peter Frogley, the International Coordinator, to avoid clashing trips or other issues.

Churches and individuals are encouraged to contact the International Coordinator about opportunities to visit our international locations in various capacities. You may wish to start a team, or join an existing team who are already planning a visit.

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