



International Gathering

PHILIPPINES, JULY 2008

The BMi International Gathering in the Philippines was a great success.

Pastor Joe and Primrose Chavez were wonderful hosts who made our time not only enjoyable, but also profitable for the kingdom.

Julius Macheusi from East Africa and Samuel Babu from India joined Joe, Mark Crawford and Peter Frogley for what was a unique international gathering - what an interesting group who drew attention everywhere they went because of our different nationalities.

We began our meetings with two days in the School of the Supernatural; and the local leaders experienced a varied feast of messages from the varied personalities. At the conclusion of the sessions the students and visitors enjoyed a meal together at a local restaurant which proved to be a good time to get to know some of the local pastors better.

Our International Leaders assisted with the costs of travel in a modest manner and we were appreciative of their endeavour and desire for fellowship. Samuel Babu was delayed with visa issues, but despite his ticket being cancelled went ahead



Pastor Joe and Bishop Julius

and travelled at his own expense. We were able to retrieve most of the ticket cost from the airline to be able to reimburse him, but it was an indicator of the commitment the brethren have to meeting together. We are also very grateful for assistance that came from several Australian churches that have seen the importance of this International Gathering.

The actual International Gathering for BMi was for two days and our leaders shared their hearts, discussed and prayed for one another in what was a very blessed time. Each location has its unique challenges and it was a wonderful privilege to hear from each man and then to pray for them in their challenges. The value of this relational exchange far outweighed its cost.

Perhaps the most heartening thing and also the most exciting for me was that we saw the same growth of unity amongst the international leaders that we have seen developing amongst us in Australia. This is God at work through His Holy Spirit bringing and depth of unity that I have not seen before and for this we give praise to our God who is the spirit of unity.

Peter Frogley



Pastors enjoy fellowship over a meal

Philippines



Pastor Joe and Primrose Chavez

The International leaders were able to visit Pastor Joe's home and to encourage him to by faith pursue purchase of the land next door to the church which has recently come on the market. It is a

great challenge for the people to rise to the occasion. The extra land is available for AUD \$15,000. The church has just begun to meet in another rental facility which is adequate for the needs presently (pictured below), and the new land would enable them to build a permanent facility large enough to accommodate the growing church.

Pastor Joe Chavez reported that there had been some unfortunate activities with the pig project which has necessitated restructuring and it is now headed up by his brother (Leo) who is seeking to rebuild the project.

The bakery is going well and providing for the children's project as well as producing a small profit. Another new project is the chicken grill which it is expected will produce a fair profit.

The church is anticipating the arrival of an American/Filipino couple (John and Marsha) who will be able to assist with many things and particularly business operations.

There are now 45 churches in Philippines on 4 islands and Pastor Joe is negotiating with a brother with 30 churches on Mindanao, around Davao, who wants to join BMi.

Peter Frogley



City Harvest Church, Bacolod City, Philippines



Mayanja church project, Kenya

East Africa



Bishop Julius Macheusi

Bishop Julius Macheusi reminds us that a good tree is known by its fruit and it was good fruit that is being produced through BMi in East Africa. Tensions have now eased following the riots and life is back to

normal in Kenya. However, there are significant needs arising from the destruction caused during riots.

The Bethesda Credit Association continues to function well with \$20,000 invested. The water bottling project is being developed through Pastor Chris Whiting in Melbourne, with a plan to build a plant in a container and ship to Kenya.

There are two new church building projects, Mayanja and Khawuli. Both projects have walls built from locally produced bricks and need concrete for floors and iron for roof cladding to be completed.

A new initiative is the Bethesda Dental Clinic which opened in May 2008 to provide basic dental services at low cost. The project was funded through World Missions, Washington and is staffed by a dentist and a nurse. The Clinic also provides some basic medical services.

The split water tank is replaced and moved to new location to provide better access, thanks to assistance from Australian churches.

Pastor Julius Macheusi

Fiji

Warmest greetings from Fiji, please convey our love and regards to the brethren. Things are not working all that well for the church even the family that suffered bereavement have moved to New Zealand. Another four church members gone to New Zealand in the month of May. So we are feeling the pinch financially resulting in the repossession of my car and I may need to sell the house. But trusting God for things to change in the near future. I am very disappointed and even my family members now living in New Zealand are telling me to come over there for a time. I could leave the church with my daughter, Rebecca, and her husband to pastor for few weeks. Sorry to bring such news but that is the situation here in Suva.

Pastor John Dean

Vanuatu

Since the visit from Pastor Greg and Annette Phillips and Peter Frogley in April, Pastor Eston Hakwa and his team have been busy. At present he is travelling to Vila to spend two weeks to teach the people in the new Church planting established there. His 80-year-old father moved over to Efati to begin the new church and see it established. The team in Vanuatu have also started another outreach Church on the island of EspiritoSanto as well as the church in Luganville.

Now we have 5 BMi churches in Vanuatu; two on Santo, one on Ambae, one on Malo and one on Efati in Port Vila.

Pastor Greg Phillips is planning for Pastor Eston to travel to Australia next June for the Australian Pastors Gathering.

Peter Frogley

Opportunities for BMi members

East Africa

Bethesda Savings and Credit Society is providing opportunities to invest in the work of our churches in East Africa. Deposits are interest bearing (currently at 6%) so investors can profit or choose to reinvest in the ministry in East Africa. This secure initiative is a new approach to supporting churches overseas and is highly recommended.

There is a ladies conference in late August run by Pastor Christine Macheusi. Support would be appreciated in the form of prayer, speaking and finances.

The annual Word of Faith leaders conferences are on again in late November to early December. They will be held in 6 locations around Kenya and Uganda and will this year include Nairobi. Peter Frogley will be speaking and would like one or two others to join him.

India

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

The annual missions trip to Indian orphanages will depart during the week of 16 November and be for just 3 weeks. You will visit two orphanages and 3 different locations. There will be opportunities for village ministry, a medical clinic

India



Pastor Samuel Babu Merupu

Pastor Samuel Babu Merupu has been facing many personal challenges in building a team, but he was greatly encouraged in meeting with the brethren at the International Gathering in the Philippines in July. The Naioth Childrens Home in Rajahmundry continues its effective ministry with approximately 280 children. See below for details of the next visit to India.

Samuel has also been working to establish LEM Phonics in schools in India and although he faces huge challenges in finding and developing assistants is pressing on to see this work established to raise funds for the ministry in India.

Peter Frogley

and a varied skill-based program for the children. Total cost should be a little less than \$4,000. Contact John and Jenny Barnes for more details.

Philippines

Some of the needs in the Philippines churches are: for land for BMi to build a new facility in Bacolod, a bus for Mission Possible children and the completion of the Campsite at Patag.

Trips to the Philippines are in planning stages and new participants are welcome. Contact the BMi office for details.

There are other opportunities amongst our churches for ministry visits that have not been specifically mentioned here and churches and individuals are encouraged to contact the International Coordinator for opportunities to visit our international locations in various capacities.



Pastor Mark and Bishop Julius at the shops, the Philippines

Other News

Finances

We have explored tax deductibility status for BMi and reported to our June pastors' gathering. Basically it is very difficult to get tax deductibility for the type of projects we are usually involved in, but members who have businesses can establish family trusts and give through that entity. We encourage those with businesses to visit their legal/financial advisors to discuss the benefits of a family trust.

Contact

For expression of interest, more information on a visit to BMi locations or assisting through sending gifts please contact:

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Primrose, Julius, and Joe



Khaweli church project, Kenya

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