

One becomes three at the BMi Office

Since 2008 the administration for BMi has been functioning out of the office of Light Educational Ministries in Canberra.

Many of you will have had contact over the past few years with Melissa Walker, BMi's Admin Assistant. After struggling with health issues for some months Melissa has resigned from the position to allow some rest and recovery.

With her resignation the NLT has decided to expand the administration portfolio somewhat and appoint three other staff to perform the various administrative functions required to keep BMi moving into the future.

Ginninderra Christian Church pastor **Phil Oster** has been appointed as Executive Officer (the 'face' of BMi), responsible for liaising with the NLT, arranging meetings and agendas and several other financial and administrative functions. In his pre-pastoral life Phil was an insurance superhero in Adelaide and his financial and administrative knowledge combined with his rapier wit and sparkling personality make him ideal for the task.

In the red corner (actually the walls are a kind of cream colour) is **Linda Garrard**, known for her amazing mud cake and extremely fast driving. Linda will be taking over the lion's share of Melissa's administrative duties such as emails,



phone calls, levies, banking and accounts. Linda is an active homeschooling mother of four (making her well equipped to run a small country should the need arise) and is very excited about taking on the job of BMi's Admin Assistant. Linda also happens to be the most attractive of the three new staff members by quite a significant margin.

Taking up the remaining slack is **John Garrard**, youth pastor at Gininderra Christian Church and a man who is wise in the ways of computers, the 'internet', graphics and stuff like that. John's role has been named 'Communications Assistant', which basically means he is responsible for the newsletter, the website and any other kinds of graphics for print or web. John's most redeeming feature is the fact that he is married to Linda.

You'll more than likely be hearing from one or all of these people over the next little while, so please be patient while they settle in to their new roles and be assured they are eager to serve BMi and the people who make it great!

John Garrard



12 February

New South Wales State Gathering

9 April

Tasmania State Gathering

6-10 June

National Leaders Gathering, Coffs Harbour (featuring International Leaders)

23 July

Victoria State Gathering

15 October

South Australia State Gathering



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around the churches

Abundant Life Church, Coffs Harbour NSW

Andrew Jarman has taken over the food bank ministry which continues to bless the Coffs Harbour community.

After a fairly difficult period in recent years, Pastors Russell and Helen Jones are about to have long service leave. Please pray that they will be refreshed and that God's Spirit will minister to them as they take it easy for a while.

Cliff and Audrey Roper from Launceston will be looking after ALC during that time.

Bethesda Christian Centre, St Marys SA

Greg and Annette Phillips and the team at Bethesda Christian Centre have been experiencing many healing miracles lately — lumps on knees and shoulders have disappeared, gallstones and pain have gone. There's never a dull moment at BCC.

Cornerstone Family Church, Georgetown Tas

After their amazing mission to Africa in November, James, Christine and the team are having a Saturday night presentation for the church and others about their trip, featuring a visit from Peter Frogley himself. They're also looking forward to another great year serving the Georgetown community, including projects such as a mentoring programme in local schools.

Grace Outreach Assemblies/ His House, Sydney

The Fairfield church last year saw 30 new people with several baptisms. Pastor Hanna Fakhouri is excited about the new people coming into the kingdom.

Down in Picton the Bridge St Sports Centre and 7Cafe are running

well, with profits going to support community and outreach projects including the op-shop 'The Way Ahead'. The shop is also functioning as a 'drop in centre' for people in the community to build relationship and through Christ find 'the way ahead'.

Youth leaders Aaron and Kelly Dunn have made a move to Hobart and while they will be sadly missed, the very capable James Wong has taken over the reins.

Ginninderra Christian Church, Canberra

GCC's development application for their building has gone to public notification, which means that the church will be famous, appearing in *The Canberra Times* and having signs put up all around the place. 2011 will hopefully see some good movement on this project which has been on the table for a long while.

House of the Rock Church, Gisborne Vic

HOTRock has many projects planned for 2011, such as the 'School of the Spirit', a foundational faith course. Around 20 participants are signed up so far. The leaders have been exploring the possibility of an outreach at Daylesford, as well as new ways to impact the community.

Also on the agenda are several workshops (Pastor John stresses that they are not 'seminars' because there will be a strong practical component) including evangelism, deliverance and the prophetic.

Missions continues to be a major focus with missionaries in the USA, Africa and Vietnam in addition to the two orphanages already established in India.

Houses of Light, Glenalta SA

In 2011 Houses of Light is continuing their home group, reaching out to those who aren't fitting into the mainstream church, those who've been hurt or disenfranchised. They gather together fortnightly for a meal, fellowship, prayer and teaching.

Pastor Rod Klimionok is also Principal of Temple Christian College, Bethany Campus. Despite being in an extremely rough area (recently vandals set fire to the school and stole computers causing about \$50K damage), Rod is running a school outreach and has started a 'youth church' at the school. These endeavours have seen around thirty decisions for Christ from the students,

Add in the Saturday night prayer group and it looks like 2011 will be a busy year!

BMI Kenya/East Africa

Bishop Julius Wafula Macheusi tells us that the new Bethesda Girls Secondary School is running with 47 students and 21 boarders.

They have completed their second school building and have converted the dormitory into a hall to accommodate around 50 students.

One blessing was a school nearby being sold, which means several of those students have moved to the Bethesda school, along with a supply of textbooks, beds and lab equipment.

Please pray for Julius and the team as they continue establishing the school.





The Church in a Hardware Store

Willunga Hardware was selling up. The larger hardware store down the road at McLaren Vale continued to grow, and Bob the owner was struggling to compete.

Of course Rod and Alice Dowie of Coast and Vines Church wanted to support local Willunga business, but they also needed a church facility. Rod and Bob chatted about the possibility of the church buying the hardware business, selling down the stock and then using the premises as a church.

Initially the price was way too much, and Bob had lots of interested people in buying the business — but God had other ideas. None of the other potential buyers would commit, and Bob was midway through his lease with very little room to negotiate.

So the price came tumbling down like a Jericho wall, and eventually Rod and Bob came to a three-way arrangement with the building owner.



Coast and Vines would take over the lease of the building, run their op-shop 'The Attic' in a corner section whilst Willunga Hardware could use the remainder for several weeks while they sold up and closed down the business. So Bob had his closing down sale (word around town was that his 20 percent reduced prices were now about what they should have been all along!) and Rod and Alice began the planning process with the council.

Fortunately having the op-shop meant that re-zoning to retail wasn't an issue, but engaging a planner to liaise with the council and wrap all the red tape neatly for a church auditorium was another faith step in terms of costs.

But, as always, God was faithful and now the op-shop, auditorium, foyer, kitchen and creche are all spoken for. There are still two large areas left over which are planned to be sub-let for storage and will ease financial pressure even more.

Two nearby Uniting Churches combined and had some nice retro sculptured pews left over — which Rod and Alice happily snapped up. Rod says that the shiny finish on them is

helpful because if people fall asleep during his sermons they slip right off and he can tell who they are straight away.

It also turns out that the Dowie boys and several others in the church are pretty handy at putting up walls and such, so after a handful of working bees the walls are gyprocked and things are looking a bit more like home.



The next hurdle (after the ceiling of course) will be a good heating and cooling solution. Thankfully Sunday weather so far has been beautiful and mild — just another of God's many blessings along the way.

It looks like it's going to be an exciting year for Coast and Vines and we trust a great testimony to God's grace and faithfulness.

Rod Dowie, Coast and Vines Church

A Bridge to Africa

In late November 2010, a team of seven people, under the leadership of Pastor Peter Frogley, visited Uganda and Western Kenya.

While Peter has previously visited Africa a number of times, the remainder of the team had never been, but shared a life-long passion to do so.

This trip was about building relationships with African Christians. It was the means for providing encouragement (a two-way process) and it enabled us to gain an understanding of the African communities and people's needs. God taught us about ourselves too, while we talked and walked together, being built together as a team.

Our initial impressions were of heat, dust, bumpy roads, traffic chaos and lush green vegetation. We visited Uganda for the first three days, staying with Pastors Frank and Michelle Heyworth, from Christian Outreach Mission and Evangelism (COME). We saw Christian schools they had established, medical clinics and their outreach into the major



hospital in Kampala. Here the COME team see up to nine salvations a day and we were privileged to share in their experience, praying with patients and families in the hospital. We also saw a project called 'Cherish', where children diagnosed with HIV and abandoned by families are taken in and nurtured in a family-like environment of a cottage with a house mother. Cherish have witnessed wonderful reversals in their children's health and general wellbeing simply because the children have been loved within a Christian environment.

In Western Kenya, the team stayed for two weeks with Bishop Julius Wafula Macheusi and his wife, Pastor Christine Macheusi, in the





town of Bungoma. There were many opportunities to visit local families, especially those looking after orphaned children in their homes. Some had never had a visitor from outside their district into their own home. So it was a privilege to pray with them and to encourage them. We gained an understanding of the types of needs facing these families. Poverty is widespread and resources are minimal. However, wherever we went, the love of God was evident in their lives.

Bishop Julius also organised for the team to be involved in conferences in

Bungoma and its outlying districts, where we met many local pastors and their wives. We participated in giving testimonies and preaching. The four ladies on the team met with the African women to teach quilting, and to wash their feet. The team also spent time with the children in a games afternoon and Sunday School lessons. Mostly we simply spent time together with our African brethren, just getting to know each other.

At the end of our safari, the team decided that monies raised in Australia as a gift for the churches and communities in Africa, should be used to establish a fund, named 'Bethesda Child Support — Kenya'. The fund aims to provide relief to orphans and their guardians who are bearing the cost of raising an extra child, and will be used to assist with basic needs such as shelter, food, water, and medicine. Orphans will be identified by local pastors and the

fund will be administered by Bethesda Church at Bungoma.

Did God direct us over the time of this 23 day trip? Yes, He did. He provided for our needs, kept us well, reminded us to rejoice all the time, and gave us understanding of being part of the Body of Christ throughout the world. Will we go back? Probably: the bridge is there now and the way is open to build relationships.

Jane Cairns, River City Life Christian Church



got something to contribute to HeartBeat?

email john.garrard@bmi.org.au or phone the office on (02) 6259 3946