

## BMi welcomes the Macdonalds of Salisbury North

Those of you who attended the NLG in Coffs Harbour would have met David Macdonald, the newest member of BMi.

David and his wife Yvonne have been pastoring Northern Family Church in Salisbury North, South Australia, since 2003. After spending a year as an independent church, they have decided to join the BMi family for the relationship and covering it provides.

David is not strictly a new BMi addition — he actually spent time with Peter Vacca at the original Bethesda church on Marion Road. After that David and Yvonne spent around seven years with Pastor Morrie Thompson at Teen Challenge at Elizabeth, ministering to street kids and setting up and running their rehabilitation program. Then through the unfortunate event of the original pastor succumbing to cancer, David was asked to pastor a small fellowship of six people in Salisbury, one of the northern suburbs of Adelaide. Since then Northern Family Church has grown into what it is today, and David and Yvonne continue to pastor it!

They have three adult children who live in Adelaide, Sydney and South Africa. David and Yvonne also have 7 grandchildren, the oldest being 19 years of age.

Northern Family Church's vision is to bring people into an understanding and knowledge of Jesus Christ and bring them into fellowship in His family. David and Yvonne have a heart to mature and equip people for ministry within the church as well as out in the world.

NFC believes in the power of prayer to impact the community. In a more practical sense they've recently held barbeques at the back of the local shopping



centre, as well as Wednesday night free meals. The church is also involved with the local community centre.

In their spare time, David and Yvonne enjoy retail therapy, gardening and just quiet times reading.

We trust that the Macdonalds will feel a welcome part of BMi and we look forward to fellowshiping with them into the future.

*John Garrard*



**August 2011**

BMi Month of Prayer

**15 October 2011**

South Australia State Gathering

### Don't Forget: BMi Month of Prayer

We have assigned August as our 'month of prayer'. A calendar of prayer points from BMi churches across the globe will be circulated in the near future to enable you and your church to devote time to focused prayer during this month.



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# Sue Dare's Wins

## on the mission field

**Sue Dare** is an itinerant missionary based at House of the Rock Church in Gisborne, Victoria. Her latest travels have taken her to the UK, where she has been studying at Ellel Flagship School.

**IT APPEARS** that for this season of my life, I don't have to travel out to the nations because God is bringing the nations to me. I have not slept so well the past weeks but I have had a lot of fun with my Dutch, Kenyan, French and American roommates. The African one insisted that I was her twin to our very last day together!



I have enjoyed being able to sit in on several ministry appointments and sometimes even knowing what the next step to take was! We had finished praying with one lady and as she was leaving, I felt I needed to say how sorry I was that she had to suffer like she did and also acknowledged her deep sense of loneliness. She burst into tears after that and was able to let some of that emotional pain go. She told our team that no one had taken the time to listen to her story before and it was very healing for her to just be able to tell it. This reinforced to me that you don't have to be an 'expert' to be used by God, you just need to have a willingness

to listen and to show love and acceptance when people are feeling the most vulnerable and unlovable. Training is important of course but we can all show care at a basic level and lessen the burden of those who are struggling.

I loved seeing fellow student's lives 'change before my eyes' and experiencing more healing and restoration in my own life as well.

The fellowship and depth of relationship here has been like a 'little piece of heaven.' When we said goodbye to most of the school today, there were lots of tears and only a few students were in a particular hurry to leave (planes to catch). I have not experienced a school as meaningful as this one before or one as rich in its diversity.

### Travel Plans

- One night in London, visiting a sick friend and then off to Northern Ireland for 8 days
- A week with my English family in Southampton
- A week down in Bolney, visiting friends and maybe helping out with a children's holiday program
- Norway for 2 weeks

### Future Plans

- I will not be returning to Australia in September as planned but will be a volunteer with Ellel Grange



until the New Year. This is a non paid position but will include free board and lodgings. The position I take up will most likely be an administrative one. In my free time I plan to do an online course with Ellel Ministries and hope to also get some more ministry experience. Find out more about the online course at [www.live.em365.org](http://www.live.em365.org).

- From January till late March 2012 I will be doing the NETS 2 course with Ellel Ministries, which is the next step up from the Flagship. I have decided to do the second course as I feel that I need more experience and teaching before coming back to Australia or going overseas again. More details on this course are at [www.neververthesame.com](http://www.neververthesame.com).
- In late March to April 2012 the plan is to return to Australia!

A big thank you to all the BMi family for your prayers and support.

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# Enough to warm the cockles of your heart

It is said that the 'cockles of the heart' are its ventricles, named by some in Latin as *cochleae cordis*, from *cochlea* (for snail), because of the ventricles' shape.

As a boy my mum would speak glowingly of good solid food prepared against the winter cold as being capable of 'warming the cockles of my heart'. Gladly she never put snails on the menu as being those 'cochlea' which might warm my cockles. More properly understood the saying means to warm and gratify one's deepest feelings. It is an experience which gladdens the inner desires and emotions.

Recently we had an occurrence at Open Door which satisfied both my mother's use of the term and its more emotive resonance.

Once a month during the winter months we have 'Soup Night'. This is an opportunity for us to provide food and companionship to those in the

community who are wanting for either. We don't get lots of people but we are starting to build a coterie of regulars who come along for the food and fellowship. At one recent evening a certain man came in for the second time and was chatting to one of our helpers. Later a mother and her adult daughter joined us and after some time the daughter went across and began speaking to our new regular. It became evident to our helper that the man and lady knew each other fairly well.

What made it all the more amazing was that they were father and daughter, but were estranged and hadn't spoken to each other for nearly two years! Yet here they were at our



modest Soup Night, catching up with family developments and being reconciled. For indeed that's exactly what happened — our helper was able to urge forgiveness between them and prayer was offered in this regard.

Soup Night is not the most extravagant of nights and it hardly rates as the most highly attended event in the City's array of community meal projects. But seeing good food dispensed and good relationships re-established is enough to warm the cockles of your heart — whichever way you understand the term.

*Chris Whiting  
Open Door Christian Church, Melbourne*

## God Bless Vanuatu

Vanuatu is a nation that still has a lot of tribal custom and occultic activity among its people. We are endeavouring to reach out to them and to train and release ministries to go out and plant and preach the gospel to them. There are still tribes who only have their own language and communication is difficult. It is amazing that in our day and age that there are still people who have never seen or communicated with the 'white man'. The gospel needs to be declared to them! Leadership training is vital in Vanuatu and we will be doing more of that in the future. We are about to send another container to Santo with donated goods. Mount Gambier Christian Centre has been a real blessing with the Vanuatu vision and we would like to thank them for their continuous support. Please continue to pray for Vanuatu that the move of God will continue and effect the whole nation.

*Greg Phillips, Bethesda Christian Centre, Adelaide*

### My wedding will be Waiblinger than yours...

Congratulations to Andrew Waiblinger and his fiancée Tina, who are getting married in Germany on 6 August. We wish you every blessing in your life together!





# around the churches

## **Abundant Life Church Coffs Harbour NSW**

Russell and Helen and their leaders are entering a period of transition, with a restructuring of the leadership team and many other new developments in planning. They're excited about change!

The Loaves and Fishes food store (part of Abundant Life's community welfare ministry) is thriving, with nearly 900 families being looked after and new opportunities being opened up frequently. Andrew Jarman has even been outreaching into the local caravan park with food parcels with great response.

God is also opening the doors of provision, with businesses like Aldi offering help in stocking the store.

Abundant Life's vision has always involved reaching out to meet the needs of the community and the food store has become an incredibly effective way of showing the love of Christ to people and earning the right to speak into their lives.

Russell and Helen have also been running a community cafe/soup kitchen on Sundays, feeding up to 50 people.

What's next? Plans are in place for a ministry to reach out to men in crisis.

## **Cornerstone Family Church George Town Tas**

Despite a few delays thanks to volcanic ash grounding his flights, Bishop Julius visited and stayed with the Cloudsdales. The George Town church enjoyed hearing from Julius firsthand about the progress of the Child Support ministry, launched from the visit to Africa last year. In George Town the local churches gather for a combined monthly service, which Julius was also able to attend.

Some members have been part of 'Kids Hope', a mentoring program in local schools. Whilst it's a secular program with little opportunity for direct ministry, the power of relationship is something that God can definitely use for His glory. The church is also involved in a kid's 'Super Club' for 7-12 year olds.

The church's intercessory team has seen good fruit recently too.

James was very blessed to spend time building relationship with John and Jenny Barnes from HOTRock in Gisborne when he took Julius to the airport in Melbourne.

## **The Potters Preschool Mittagong NSW**

The Potters Preschool is a registered preschool which began as an outreach of Highlands Christian Church in Mittagong. Kristina, Krisha and the team have recently realised they will have been operating for 20 years in 2013, so they're starting to think about plans for a celebration at that time.

Potters is the only christian preschool in the area, and has a wide variety of children attending from areas all around the Southern Highlands. One parent even walks an 80 minute round trip with a pram to drop off her child!

There are seven staff working at the preschool, with five of them at the school on any given day. Currently the team are busily adapting to the new national curriculum framework, which means more individualised care for the children.

The majority of families with kids at Potters are non-churched, with a lot of single parent families. Some are also dealing with additional needs such as autism and ADHD.

These families know that it is a christian preschool and it has

been rewarding to reach out to the community simply by building good relationships with the parents and children involved. Perhaps more importantly, the children have the opportunity to be exposed to Godly values while they are attending.

In addition to this the preschool has been able to provide help and support to families through Highland Grace, supplying veggie boxes or gifts at appropriate times.

We look forward to hearing about more good fruit coming out of The Potters Preschool.

## **House of the Rock Church Gisborne Vic**

A team of 14 (so far) will be heading to India in November, ministering at children's homes in Rajahmundry and Sankarapuram, and a children's prison and street ministry in Tirupathi. They will also be involved with medical work in the villages, as well as a project providing sewing machines for women in the villages so they can create sustainable businesses.

Terry and Stephanie Barnes are expecting their first child in September, which everyone's looking forward to (especially Steph)!

David and Sharon Smith have adopted a second Indian child and will be collecting her from India when all the paperwork is approved, and Tash Ferroff is in Tanzania working with a group who are helping women with AIDS become self sufficient.

The church has recently completed an exercise called 'looking beyond ourselves' where various church members shared with the rest of the congregation what they're currently doing, and explored what more could be done for the Kingdom of God in the community.

# Philippines in pics

Those at the NLG would have heard Joe Chavez speak of some of the projects BMi Philippines is involved in. Here Joe shares some more details with pictures.



**01/02** Abada Eskay Church is a relocation site provided by the Government to the homeless. This is our new building and the Lord has blessed us with around 70 people. The name of the church is MPFG Worship Centre.

**03** These are the City Harvest Church people supporting the ministry.

**04** City Harvest youth also meet together regularly, having their equipping and fellowship every Sunday afternoon.

**05** This is our block of land, where we are preparing to build a community centre. The plan is for it to accommodate 500 people.

**06** On 9 July the Lord blessed us with eleven baptisms — glory to God!

**07/08** Mission Possible for Future Generations (MPFG) is our sponsorship and education program for underprivileged young people. This is our MPFG graduation last April. All of the students received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour during their training, which also included basketball clinics and other sports. At the end of their training we gave them a bible for their Spiritual growth.

**09/10/11** Palawan is an island to the west of Bacolod. These are our pastors and workers who faithfully serve the Lord in this remote area with different tribes. Pastor Tikis (pic 11) is the head of this group of twenty workers, and last April we had the privilege to visit and to help them equip with Pastor Kevin and his team. It was really great.

**Please continue to pray for Joe, Primrose and the team in the Philippines.**



From 6–10 June 2011, Bmi leaders from across Australia and the world assembled at beautiful Coffs Harbour in NSW for ‘Dunamis’, the annual Bmi national leaders gathering.

Dunamis means ‘power’ and we came expecting God’s Spirit to move powerfully.

After arriving and settling in on Monday, Mark Crawford kicked off the gathering by introducing our four international guests (national leaders of Bmi in their various nations). We had Julius Macheusi from Kenya, Samuel Merupu from India, Joe Chavez from the Philippines and Eston Hakwa from Vanuatu.

On Tuesday Mark Crawford took the morning session on ‘Alignment’, focusing on the need for each of us to become secure in the knowledge of who God is and who we are. Following this session we heard from the four ‘internationals’ about their various ministries and current projects. The AGM was held in the afternoon before some good fellowship over dinner.

On Wednesday morning we were introduced to keynote speaker Phillip Mutzelberg, the National Leader of CLCI (part of the Alliance). He spoke about ‘The Power of Enthusiastic Leadership’ and in his second session

contrasted it with ‘The Power of Meekness’. His final session tied it all together with some valuable thoughts on ‘The Power of Inseparable Love’.

It was good to have some free time on Wednesday afternoon to explore the Coffs Harbour township and spend some more great time in fellowship. Some of the more adventurous among us took to the surf or hit the local go-kart track.

Wednesday’s evening session was a time of impartation and prayer, led by Greg Phillips and Hanna Fakhouri. Many people were prayed for and received a very real touch from the Lord.

Eston Hakwa and Julius Macheusi shared again on Thursday morning, followed by a session from founding apostle Peter Vacca where he shared about ‘Chapter Two’ — the next season for Bmi — and spoke of his desire to be a part of all that God has for us ahead.

After lunch we watched a great DVD from Wayne Cordeiro titled ‘Dead Leaders Running’ — a brilliant and very practical message on avoiding burn out. Wayne is guest speaker at the upcoming Alliance conference in September.

Paul Glazbrook ministered to our hearts powerfully in the evening

session (against some noisy opposition from a disco in the adjoining conference room). There is no doubt that Paul’s message on recognising and dealing with the insecurity we feel as leaders was an applicable challenge to all of us.

On the last morning of the gathering we had a very special time led by Joe Chavez and the other international



Beautiful Coffs Harbour

delegates, where they prayed for the Australian delegates in conjunction with holy communion. It was a real blessing to see Bmi leaders from across the world embracing each other and taking communion together in a true spirit of unity.

Annette Crawford’s final session on ‘The Glorious Church’ was a great way to wind up a powerful and fruitful week.

Now we’re all looking forward to next year!

*Pam Busby  
Almond Grove Family Church, Aldinga SA*

# International thanks

The 2011 National Leaders Gathering welcomed BMi's National Leaders from Kenya, India, Philippines and Vanuatu. Here are some responses to their time in Australia.

## Kenya

I am writing to praise the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for enabling me for the time I spent in Australia.

Most importantly, I thank all of our Bethesda Network of churches and Ministries who prayed and especially those that contributed towards my coming to attend the International Conference. I was able to visit the old friends and also establish the new contacts, my experience in Australia has been wonderful.

I thank you so much for the office of BMi for the good arrangement both for international and domestic while in the country.

God bless the leaders of those who opened their door for me to speak to their congregations. Thanks very much for the gifts and donations received.

God bless you.

*Bishop Julius Wafula Macheusi, BMi Kenya*

## Vanuatu

My Father and I enjoyed being a part of the NLG this year. It was the first time my father has been outside Vanuatu.

He had never experienced anything to do with technology. When he was in a lift he thought the building was going up and down.

We had a very good time at the gathering, seeing supernatural things happening and we have a lot spiritually to take back to my country.

It was good to meet our other brothers from the other nations and get to know them. We now understand that communication between leaders is important to keep building relationships within BMi.



James Banga, Eston Hakwa and Greg Phillips at the NLG

In the natural we experienced great food and fruits of every kind. When we were driving back to Adelaide from Coffs Harbour we realised just how big Australia is.

We visited Dubbo Zoo and saw all different kinds of animals we have never seen before.

Visiting friends in Mount Gambier was a real blessing, and we are enjoying meeting new people in Adelaide. We return home on 15 July and feel we will have a lot to give back to our nation. We feel really blessed and want to thank everyone for their financial and physical support, especially Greg and Annette Phillips for taking care of our every need.

*Eston Hakwa, Vanuatu Christian Fellowship.*

## Philippines

My trip to Australia is worthwhile and most importantly I would like to give thanks to all our Bethesda Network of churches and ministries who prayed, especially those that contributed towards my visits and to attend the International Conference. It was my honour to see my old friends and I also had the privilege to establish good new connections. My experience in Australia has been wonderful. Thank you so much to the BMi office for the good purpose both for international and local arrangements.

God will bless all the BMi churches who really opened their door for me to be part of their family and to speak to their congregations. Thank you so much for the blessings I received. Finally, please allow me to say that the conference at Coffs Harbour is awesome.

Bless you.

*Joe Chavez, BMi Philippines*

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HeartBeat?

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