



# HeartBeat

## Keep the main thing the main thing [and the main thing is Jesus]

How tough it is in pastoring a church to keep the focus on the message we are called to bring.

Some may say that doesn't make sense. The church is all about Jesus and the message is about Him. This is true, but if you are a Pastor you know what I'm talking about.

While we share the message about Jesus and His redemptive love, over time people become more focused on the vehicle or medium that the message comes *through* than the message itself. Thus, the focus becomes the church itself.

Many leaders spend a great deal of time focused on the building of churches, finding better ways to do church, addressing the problems of the church. Our focus is more on the *organisation* of church rather than the person of Jesus.

Without Jesus there is no church. The reason for church is Jesus. Our focus should be on Him. In the book of Acts, those who believed on Jesus intuitively began to share their new life and message with those around them and they began to naturally gather wherever and whenever they could. The church flowed out of the focus on Jesus.

When we focus too heavily on the building of our church we can be pulled away from Jesus. We can depend more on our ability to cleverly 'do church' and focus more on the building the organisation than on Jesus and His redemptive power.

As leaders, if we cause those we shepherd to become more dependent on the church as an organisation and her ability to provide programming for their every need, then they will become co-dependent on the church rather than Jesus. We will raise anaemic disciples who cannot stand on their own faith, or believe in the total ability of Jesus to personally enable them to face all challenges of life.

We must be careful to not focus more on the church than our message. It is a fine line between the two — so fine that we can *think* it's all about Jesus when in reality we've made it more about the church we serve.

Keep the focus on Jesus. If we are in Him, we are the church. Jesus said He would build the church (us) as we lay hold of the revelation that He is the Christ. He is everything you need. Are you letting Jesus build you?

Some final questions:

- Does your life reveal a total dependence on Jesus?
- When was the last time you blamed the church for something that you should have been dependent on Jesus for?
- If you are a Pastor, do you spend more time on the messenger or the message (Jesus)?

I hope this helps you as it does me; to refocus my life which is founded on the Rock of Jesus and not the sand of this world.

Hanna Fakhouri



### 11 February

New South Wales State Gathering

### 24 March

Tasmania State Gathering

### 4-8 June

National Leaders Gathering, Coffs Harbour

### 7 July

Victoria State Gathering

### 25 September

South Australia State Gathering



Bethesda Ministries International

200 Florey Drive  
Charnwood ACT 2615  
Australia

P +61 2 6259 3946  
F +61 2 6259 3945  
E info@bmi.org.au

W www.bmi.org.au



# around the churches

## Tamar Valley Christian Church Exeter Tas

Kevin and Lyn Donohue and the team are excited about David Abbott's visit at the end of January, which should be a great time for the children of the church.

In April and May a team of nine will be heading to the Philippines to work with Joe and Primrose Chavez in the BMI churches there. This trip promises a flurry of activity with a wedding, the Kingdom Builders camp, a women's conference and of course the MPFG graduation ceremony.

The Caring Network continues to expand with a few new faces and fresh ideas coming on board. The core group have been praying together regularly, too. More than just 'doing nice things' for people, God has been providing opportunities for them to actually pray with some of the recipients of care and speak His truth into their lives.

TVCC continues their close relationship with James and Christine Cloudsdale and the BMI church at George Town, with healing meetings, musical support and general encouragement.

And despite having a few health issues last year, Lyn has apparently recovered to the point where she can boss Kevin around again, so that's good news for everybody!

## Coast and Vines Church Willunga SA

Rod, Alice and the crew have all but finished their auditorium, including floor coverings, with just a lick or two of paint to go. The next project is to complete the front section/foyer of the church, which is hopefully going to include a kitchen and café setup. This will allow the church to engage the local community in a

greater way — some of the ideas in the pipeline are to run MOPS (mothers of preschoolers) meetings, provide a place for young adults to connect, and perhaps even run as an actual café for a few days of the week. In addition the various spaces in the building would be available for rent to various local businesses and community groups.

The team recently conducted a SWOT analysis of their current situation (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) and confirmed that one of the threats was planning a bunch of stuff but not actually getting the building finished!

With that in mind they are aiming for the grand opening in the second half of the year. Rod and Alice are looking forward to finishing building their facility and actually *using* it to further God's Kingdom in powerful ways.

## New Covenant Church Nowra NSW

Early in 2011 John started a small workshop, making furniture and other bric-a-brac from used fence palings. It continued to grow throughout the year, and with donations of equipment like a woodworking lathe, triton saw benches, a drill press, welder, air compressor and grinder John very rapidly outgrew his small shed.

From this grew the vision to create a 'men's shed' in Nowra. The leadership of the church met and the vision was clear: this will be a place for the restoration of people. The hope is to create a focal point for males of any age to come and do more than just 'hang out' — they will be ministered to and restored through the power of God. It would have a lounge area, kitchen, workshops for woodwork, metalwork and autowork, and of course a place for gardening.

All they need now is a great big shed to put it all in — but thankfully we have a great big God.

The other exciting development at Nowra sprang from a prophecy from Vicki Norsworthy in May:

*'I have called you to build an orphanage. A building to be a shining light in a dark place. A place for hope for this country. The orphanage will have a school to educate the lowly, the weak, the forgotten and the hungry. Not only in an education, but in my ways, says the Lord.'*

*Through the school, the lost will be found, the sick will be healed and the hungry will be fed.'*

John considered it for a few days before asking Vicki 'Where in Australia is this dark place?' and she replied 'Not Australia. Botswana'.

Fast-forwarding through many other confirmations and connections, tickets are now booked for a month-long trip in April. Hanna Fakhouri and Shepherd Takayidza from Grace Outreach Assemblies in Fairfield (Sydney) had already planned a trip to Zimbabwe at that time, and Shepherd has friends in Botswana. Therefore the team from Nowra will accompany them to Zimbabwe and then Shepherd will take them across the border to Botswana and connect with his contacts there.

It sounds like there's some amazing things on the horizon!

## Ginninderra Christian Church Canberra

The excavators and cement trucks have rolled in — the GCC building project is up and running! God has been so faithful with His provision and the hope is to have the building completed around mid-year.

# Two unroofed churches



Bishop Julius Wafula Macheusi, who has recently been appointed as Bishop's Council leader in Bungoma County in Kenya, shares the latest news.



My heart is pleased to report on the following churches. The Kolongolo church members have struggled but have finished erecting the brick wall of their church from the ground up to the roof. I personally went over and saw it. They have borrowed some old used iron sheets to cover the timber, which might be spoiled with heavy rains.

The Kolongolo church sent over twenty people to our Leaders Annual conference. Besides the roofing problem, they have no space left for them to dig pit latrines and borehole.

I would like to share with you about Pastor Joseph Wekesa. He is an anointed man of God. There was a mad man who was brought for prayer and Joseph laid his hand on him and he got delivered. There were also two

victims of HIV who got healed. This is a good ground, please consider helping with finance.

The Mayanja Bethesda church are fundraising for their church building also. Their major problem is also iron sheets to cover the roofing and they also still need cement to do plastering as well as installing windows and doors. This means the Mayanja members do not have a place to meet on Sundays, as the old structure was carried away by storms and rains — they meet in the open air.

Thank God for what he has done in my life. In the last Pastor's elections, I was appointed as Bishop's Council Leader in Bungoma County. I thank God for this and I am humbled to serve in this capacity. Please stand with me as we celebrate.

Pray for my family as well.

*Bishop Julius Wafula Macheusi  
Bungoma, Kenya*





# Young Action

## David Abbott's Ministry for Children

**David Abbott** is an Englishman with an itinerant Children's Ministry. As part of BMI he travels widely, promoting Christ's message to children. Here is his latest report of his recent activities around the globe.

## Bolivia

### Boy excels through the year

Last year one of the older boys in the orphanage was the one who held out until the last meeting before responding and beginning to deal with the hurt and rejection in his life. But when he did, standing at the front alone as I went to speak to him, he burst into tears and cried on my shoulder for ages. This year he was the one who was most looking forward to my return and every morning he greeted me with a hug and he was one of the first out for prayer.

### The call of God starts now

Last year in the church in Cochabamba God gave me a word for a ten year old boy from a poor family who I felt had a call on his life to be a missionary. I am told since that day every Sunday he insists that he has to pray and he always prays that people around the world will get saved. At this time that is all he can do to fulfil that call, so he is doing it because it is burning in his heart.

### Does God put it together

In the church this year God gave me a word for a boy. Later I was told that he only received Jesus last year and since then his parents have divorced. His mother has remained in the church but his father left and has only been in meetings there two or three times. This Sunday the father was there to hear the word of God over his son.

## India

### God visits the orphanage

It began the first meeting on the first full day — I made an invitation for prayer and the awesome presence of God fell. I couldn't say anything because I could see the Holy Spirit was at work and I didn't want to hinder that. I brought forward the children who were doing the praying in that meeting, and the others stood as if frozen on the spot. As each one was prayed for they sat down, heads bowed, and continued soaking up all God had for them, despite no one telling them to do that. When all had been prayed for, still we couldn't finish because God hadn't finished. A similar thing happened every ministry time after that. Normally this kind of thing only happens once in a series of meetings, not every one!

### Testimony from past residents

Prasad and Jyothi, the only couple so far to be married from the home, now have two lovely little children, Prince and Chandrika. Prasad has bought a little three wheeled pickup truck and moves goods around for people to earn a living while Jyothi ministers to the children in church.

A single young man named Makesh was an unusual resident as he was from a higher caste, not the normal untouchables. His businessman father died and the partners robbed his mother of everything and left her

on the streets with two small boys. She suffered a total breakdown and an aunt put the boys into the home.

Makesh was always a worker, always asking for jobs and was the leaders' constant bag carrier. After he met with God he also had a strong desire to serve Him one day. He grew up and went to college to study ceramic tiling, and after graduating got a job with a building company and does any tiling jobs in the home. He saved his money, bought his first set of work tools and a motor bike and brought them to the home to be dedicated to God (I had the joy of dedicating one last year).

This year he has a little house, and his mother living with him to care for her and has a church in his home. He fulfilled his goals to have a job and serve God.

## Norway

### God knows best

In a young teens meeting in Farsund, two boys came out for prayer along with many others from the younger end of the age group. I went to them and everything in me wanted to send them straight back to their seats because they were not there for the right reason as far as I was concerned. They had been the only ones who didn't listen — they were all over the place. God wouldn't let me say it, I stood for ages with my hands on each one's shoulder in silence while God showed me what He saw at

the bottom of their hearts. What He showed me was very different to the outward appearance. So I began to pray as God led me, which developed into a prophetic word for them. They had almost been the last ones I prayed for, so they had stood at the front for a long time — they hadn't moved a muscle, just stood with their eyes closed the whole time.

### The four musketeers

In Stavanger I had words for four young people. As a result we feel they are ones God has set aside as forerunners of a children's ministry team. Each one stands out in some special way in their lives. One of the mothers told me later that her son had said that it wasn't that he just wanted to come, but that he felt a strong urgency that he had to be there and that it was God's time for him. In the family service I felt to bring the four children before the church and 'nail my colours to the mast' as to what I felt and prayed for them there. Next day I had an email from the pastor who was in another church that day saying as his meeting finished he received a text from the mother of one of the four saying she just had to tell him how thrilled and excited she was.

## Indiana

In four days of children's bible camp meetings we had four consecutive nights of two-hour meetings consisting of praise, worship, teaching and individual ministry. A nucleus of twenty six- to twelve-year-olds attended every night with a total of thirty-two different ones over the whole time. The children had been in school all day, then spending two hours in church for four days — but they were not falling asleep either. The feedback from parents was not that they had made their children go — on the contrary the children made sure their parents took them. One mother told of the night they were running late and her son was so upset all the way there because he

was missing the praise and worship. Walking in he brushed his brow and said 'Phew, at least I don't miss the teaching'. Go for it boy! The results were hunger, and some tough decisions to make. If those decisions are followed through it is not going to make their lives in the world easy, but it was the best fruit we have seen in that church in a long time.

### Day by day run down

Day one: One hundred percent response to go after the heart of Joshua, a man who was prepared to trust God when the greater majority didn't.

Day two: Almost all on their knees or prostrate on the floor at the front, laying down at the cross the things in their lives which were a hindrance to them being used by God. They told us things like addiction to game boy games, friends who lead astray etc.

Day three: Almost all were filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Several who had refused to speak in the past (mainly from fear) let go and burst forth. The boy who had been upset at being late just couldn't stop and got louder and louder and the next night his worship was interspersed with bursts of tongues. A number were under the power of the Holy Spirit, and not knowing the jargon, they just said 'I feel all woozy'.

Day four: About half of them received and shared words from God, making one complete message when all put together.

### What An Opening

Ministering in a numerically growing Christian School in Southern Indiana for four days, the children's response was like dry sponges soaking up their first taste of water. There were thirty eight- to fourteen-year-olds, from a mixture of Christian and non-Christian homes. I had as long as I wanted and a free hand. In the last two days meetings in particular the presence of God was so strong in the whole meeting. Each day we went step

by step through the steps to biblical repentance and salvation and then on the final day made an appeal. All but a few responded and were prayed with and afterwards the faces of some of the children were radiant. There are children there who clearly have the call of God on their lives, one such boy I was able to share with. Several parents told of how their children have gone home excited and full of joy at what they have seen happening.

### Out of the mouths of babes

As a result of what God did and the excitement of principal, staff and many parents, when I go back in the summer holidays they are going to open up the school for several days of meetings inviting every pupil, making it an official school event.

# Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for continued provision for us and the ministry and pray for His continued provision this next quarter.
- In India next year, we plan to take aside a selected group of children who are suffering seriously with hurt and rejection. We will do seminars with them and pray for them to be set free. The ultimate goal is to train that group to be a young ministry team to minister to that kind of need.
- Pray for the children in Norway that God's will for their lives now will happen and the distractions of this world will not rob them.
- Pray for the Christian School in Southern Indiana that the meetings next summer will happen.



d.abbott493@btinternet.com



4 Emlyn Fields  
Boscoppa  
St Austell Cornwall PL253UL  
United Kingdom

# A2A Conference

## Ipswich, Qld, September 2011

During the month of September, some of our BMi church leaders gathered with others from CLCI and ACM for our first 'A2A' alliance gathering.



Worship under the stars

A2A, short for 'Acts 2 Alliance', is the three movements potentially creating an umbrella movement.

For those that couldn't make it, here are some of our pastors' thoughts about their experience of the gathering.

### Renewed Hope and Zeal

To try and describe or summarise impressions of the alliance conference, words such as 'surprise', 'stimulating', 'refreshing', 'challenging', 'enriching' come to mind. Tuesday night began with an excellent meal and the opportunity to meet and connect with people from CLCI and ACM. There was a strong sense of family, belonging and camaraderie. The Tuesday evening session offered inspiring worship (new worship songs... to me at least!), a state-of-the-art audiovisual and an engaging and relaxed 'tri-ologue' between Mark Crawford (BMi), Phillip Mutzelburgh (CLCI) and Richard Kerridge (ACM).

The sessions by Wayne Cordeiro were excellent and well justified the expense of getting there — he succeeded in challenging, inspiring, extending and imparting much wisdom at a practical level that was of great benefit to pastors and I strongly encourage those who were

unable to attend to get the DVDs of each session — they will not be disappointed. Wayne brought with him a selection of his books and I do confess to being once again sorely wounded at the hip pocket because of my weakness as a 'book-a-holic' (please pray for me !).

Both Trevor Chandler and Peter Vacca spoke powerfully as movement founders and the future potential to build the Kingdom of God.

The members and staff of Catalyst church (led by Pastor Carl Mutzelburgh, CLCI) gave generously of themselves in extending every hospitality including a bus shuttle service for delegates staying in the CBD in hotels and motels. Most of us met for a breakfast each morning and the Fellowship continued through lunch and evening meals at the Catalyst church dining room, part of a rehabilitated foundry that was restored as a church centre complex.

The conference concluded the Thursday night with a barbecue and a jazz concert at a local horse farm with a final word from Wayne Cordeiro who basically encouraged us to 'go for it' in pursuing the dreams God had placed in our hearts while we still can.

For Heather and I (and I think many others) it was a prophetic time, a watershed experience where our

local church vision was concerned. There was an absence of barriers and we felt totally at home with the other leaders and members. We were certainly enriched by their fellowship and encouraged that there were more like-minded people that we could talk to and learn from in our common journey to proclaim Christ to our communities — contact details were shared along with the discovery of new resources that might be helpful. The richness of the fellowship to me was indicative of a common set of values. I sense there are some very real synergies to be realised between our groups under the alliance umbrella which is to be known as 'A2A'. Apart from the registration of A2A as a business name, nothing has changed for any of us as we continue in our individual ministry assignments as autonomous churches, but in the spirit I sensed a new dynamic that I think will be pleasing to God as we look for ways to encourage and support one another to proclaim Christ to our nation. Heather and I left the conference with a renewed hope and zeal for the work of our church. Truly, 'Together we can ... !' ...you can fill in the blank for your own church vision.

*Lew & Heather McMaster  
Emmanuel Christian Outreach  
Strathalbyn/Murray Bridge*

### Investing in Relationships

Having just returned from the A2A gathering in Ipswich, I've been blessed to have some time to ponder what just took place. I was most encouraged in many ways, from personal conversation to 'envisioning' what could take place from here. For those that couldn't make it, here is one thing to grab on to. One of the things I love about BMi is the sense of family when we get together, and I was personally wondering what would happen as we gathered with others that I hadn't met before. I can honestly say that the sense of family flowed easily as I established relationships with people from CLCI and ACM.



Wayne Cordeiro addresses the gathering

Any concerns I may have had quickly diminished as I heard the hearts of the others. I could and still can see 'streams of living water' flowing together across this nation.

For me, so many highlights; from meeting with and hearing from Wayne, to just chatting with people over lunch. Perhaps for me was the 'under the heavens' moment as we met, ate and worshipped together outside. The sound of worship carried down the valley and across the fields, young, old, European, indigenous, male and female, all together worshipping with one voice — AMEN!! It was quite a prophetic picture. I am excited to see what will happen from here. For me personally, I've entered into relationships with others that I intend to invest in as we build in this great nation of Australia together!

*Tim Lunnon  
River City Life Church, Launceston*

## Great Excitement

What an awesome gathering! 'When brethren dwell together in unity God commands a blessing'... and what a blessing it was to connect with our brothers and sisters from ACM and CLCI. The sense of love, acceptance and family was the same as when we meet together as BMi family. Have you ever been somewhere and met some people and when you did it was like you had known them for years? Well that is how Helen and I felt as we connected with the other pastors.

We would say this was one of the best conferences we have ever been to (apart from BMi gatherings of

course). The unity, the teaching, the hospitality, the love and connection were world class. Wayne Cordeiro's teaching, was the 'now' word we needed to hear.

For Helen and I the coming together stirred a great excitement of how

much more we can see happening through the A2A connection. We have already met some Pastors we can network with from Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Brisbane areas who have similar vision and outreaches as we do in Coffs Harbour.

We are looking forward to the next time we can connect with our BMi family.

*Russell & Helen Jones  
Abundant Life Centre  
Coffs Harbour*

## Greater Unity

Tim brought a word on the first night that was spot on, it pointed to a fact that the whole conference was definitely a 'Kairos' time. There was great unity and connection with the other pastors from CLCI and ACM. Everyone seemed to have the same heart and journeying in the same direction. For example, I sat down for our first lunch on the Thursday and three out of the six guys around the table had lost their wives in the last three years — it was just a God thing. It is nice to feel you are not the only one and we were able to share our journeys both ups and downs. One guy had just been remarried two weeks before the conference. We made some great contacts with other churches around our local area, which was great considering we are a bit removed geographically from the other BMi churches.

Wayne Cordeiro was fantastic — he is a real leader's leader. The guy just oozed revelation. I loved one of

his quotes 'The devils main weapon is not destruction but distraction.' I encourage anyone who couldn't make it to get the CDs or DVDs because it was an amazing time of teaching, impartation and fellowship.

*Andrew Jarman  
Abundant Life Centre, Coffs Harbour*

# BMi Training

For over a year now the BMi training committee have been working on an update of what used to be Bethesda 'School of the Way' — a second level training program for use in churches.

Pastor Chris Whiting has undertaken most of the rewrite and the committee will be meeting at the end of January to review and plan future developments. We hope that later this year this material will be available on the BMi website for all to peruse and use in their churches.

## Summer School

The training committee is also working on plans for a one week summer school in Melbourne in January 2013. Details of this course will be available a little later. The Summer School is designed for pastors and potential leaders in our churches and will explore basic theology as it relates to the ministry.

got something  
to contribute to  
HeartBeat?

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