

CMS Tasmania 2017 AGM STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is with joy, gratitude and thankfulness to our great God that I present my first State Director's Report to a CMS Tasmania AGM.

Branch Vision:

One of the first tasks given me by the Branch Council was to assist in the drafting of a branch vision, with objectives and strategies, that would guide and focus CMS Tasmania's work, ministry and efforts for the next five years. After six months of prayer, drafting and input from members, supporters, missionaries and CMS senior staff from other branches, I present that vision to you for adoption. This vision, will see our branch grow under God, with more people praying, caring, giving and going. CMS Tasmania's vision will be – ***'Making disciples of Jesus among the indigenous people of northern Australia and to the nations beyond Australia'*** or in shorter form ***'Making disciples of Jesus among the nations'***.

Missionaries:

T&E

It was a delight to work with T&E in preparing and managing their Home Assignment (HA) in the first half of this year. That HA was a great success as they deepened relationships with link churches and supporters. They, with S&J, are now well settled back on location in SE Asia.

Ellie Firth:

As many of you would be aware, Ellie suffered a prolonged workplace injury during her time in Spain. Once this was identified in October last year, CMS and Ellie decided that the only option was for her to return to Australia. During her time back in Tasmania Ellie has been recovering from the injury with CMS' full pastoral and financial support. In coming months Ellie and CMS foresee it likely that she will finish up as a CMS missionary. When appropriate, Ellie and I will be able to provide further clarity to members and supporters.

New MIT (K.):

It was a delight to prepare and discern with K., our newest Missionary-in-Training, God's call on her life and walk her through our very thorough Branch and Federal Candidates Committee processes and interviews, before introducing her to the Anglican Church at their Synod in June. K. will go to St Andrew's Hall in January and then serve as a CMS missionary in a Muslim majority country.

New Inquirers (PIFs and when they will most likely move through BCC/FCC):

I have met with several inquirers, who are now completing Bible college, before offering for missionary service. I anticipate that by 2022 we will, God willing, have four or more missionary units deployed from Tasmania. This would mean a doubling of our annual quota paid to CMS Australia to train, deploy and care for our missionaries when on location.

A WORLD THAT
KNOWS JESUS

Bursary:

In 2018 and 2019, we are supporting by way of a bursary an AFES worker, Suraj Nepali, to reach out to subcontinent Muslim and Hindu UTAS students in Hobart. Suraj is Nepalese, married to an Australian nursing student, Jemima. They both desire to minister long-term in Nepal, after Suraj gains further experience reaching Hindus and Muslims for Christ.

AFES has agreed to provide mentoring and cross-cultural experiences to anyone who needs to deepen their cross-cultural exposure prior to applying to become CMS missionaries.

We see this exciting initiative appropriately fitting within CMS' focus to both reach Gospel poor people and to engage local churches in cross-cultural mission.

Membership growth:

This year, as I have spoken in churches around the state, I have asked supporters of individual missionaries to consider becoming members of our society and have generally challenged congregations to get involved in world mission by praying, caring and giving to those who go to the nations. Since the start of the year we have grown as a branch from three to five hundred members, a 66% growth in those declaring that they will pray, care and give.

Giving:

That growth and the general raising of CMS Tasmania's profile saw a 10% increase in live giving in the 2016/17 FY, meaning we ended the FY with a small surplus, when we had budgeted for a moderate deficit. As more missionaries come on board, that giving will need to increase further, as our quota to CMS-A will likely double in coming years.

SummerView 17 & 18:

It was great to experience SummerView as the new State Director and then in February take over the leadership of this our flagship conference. CMS Tasmania is indebted to Arthur Wherrett and the team he gathered around him for keeping SummerView going. In January we had increased numbers, enjoyed T&E's (with S&J) company and outstanding teaching from Nehemiah from our President. This coming January, our CMS Federal Secretary Peter Rodgers and Principal of St Andrew's Hall David Williams, will open the books of Luke and Ruth respectively, whilst David and Prue Boyd - DR Congo and Sarah (secure worker) - Middle East will be with us, back on home assignment.

World Mission Conference 18:

4/5 May next year will see the inaugural annual non-residential CMS World Mission Conference at Wellspring church, featuring Bible teaching from Mike Raiter, Centre for Biblical Preaching and David Williams, St Andrew's Hall. The goal of the conference is to promote world mission generally and CMS specifically amongst the churches of Hobart (both Anglican and others).

Wider Fellowship:

Members should be aware that as your State Director I represent you at seven mainland CMS fellowship events each year, including Secretaries Consultation, Pastoral Issues Committee, Federal Candidates Committee, Federal Council and Missionaries' Conferences.

In addition to administration support we continue to receive from CMS Victoria, I have negotiated with their State Director to allow up to two Tasmanians to join their regular cross-cultural immersion 'Go Explore' trips and arranged for any suitable future Tasmanian MENTAC (Mentoring Across Cultures) trainees to be supported by CMS Victoria and St Andrew's Hall.

A Tasmanian State Director:

This calendar year, I will have visited the North-West Coast on seven occasions and Launceston even more frequently, speaking in twenty-five churches around the state.

In and for Jesus,



Scott Sargent
State Director
Church Missionary Society – Tasmania



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