

# checkpoint.

AUTUMN 2021 CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY MAGAZINE

OUR HEART FOR  
*long-term mission*



# From the Editor



“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.” (Ephesians 1:4)

God’s plans are long-term!

**Long-term commitment** is one of the several distinctives that CMS is known for—alongside ‘**Bible-based**’, ‘**Gospel priority**’ and the deliberate decision to pursue **in-depth training** of its missionaries.

In this issue of *Checkpoint* we celebrate the **long-term** commitment of many of our current missionaries. Just three of our contributors—J, I and Frances—have nearly a century of service across different locations between them! That by itself is a great reason to thank God.

Their stories powerfully convey the value of a life offered in God’s service. We hope you will be inspired to pray for them and others, to receive their prayer letters (go to the CMS website to subscribe), and in some cases to go yourself.

Alongside this, and as Regional Mission Director Elizabeth Richards notes in her lead article, ‘long-term’ can mean more than the valuable

commitment of one missionary. Read her article to learn more of the ‘what’ and ‘why’ of our heart for long-term mission as a fellowship. Her observation that our Father God has made a long-term commitment to us, since before the creation of the world, is well worth prayerful reflection. May this truth inspire all who see themselves as part of CMS—whether here or in other locations—to see how God’s character underpins the work he gives us to do in the world.

Our prayer, as you read this edition, is that God may continue to grow in you a deep and long-term prayerful desire to see *a world that knows Jesus*.

*Gordon Cheng*

*We don’t have the space to cover all the wonderful long-term stories that CMS has to tell within the pages of this Checkpoint.*

*If you want to read more go to:*

[cms.org.au/checkpoint](https://cms.org.au/checkpoint)

## Contents

Why long-term mission?	4-7
Building trust	8-9
Love for the long haul	10
Time with friends	11
Multiplying ministry over many decades	12-13
Cultivating the culture	15
Since before you were born	16-17
Watching Mercy grow	18
A long yarn	19
Beautiful, broken vessels	20
SAH update	21
Missionary spotlight & Prayer Diary updates	22
Giving thanks	23

## checkpoint.

© 2021 Church Missionary Society – Australia Ltd. Permission to reproduce material may be obtained from the Editor. *Checkpoint* is published four times a year by CMS Australia. CMS is a member of Missions Interlink. For information and feedback, please email us at: [checkpoint@cms.org.au](mailto:checkpoint@cms.org.au). Please send CHANGES OF ADDRESS to your CMS branch office (see back cover). Unless otherwise stated, all Bible quotations are from the New International Version® Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ CMS Australia contracts an independent professional to receive complaints – 1800 070 511 | [helpline@smr.org.au](mailto:helpline@smr.org.au)

Editor: Gordon Cheng; Editorial Coordinator: Naomi Jones; Sub-editor: Sarah Barnett; Communications Manager: David Carpenter; Design: Meghan Kelly; International Director: Peter Rodgers.

CMS is a fellowship of Christian people and churches committed to global mission. We work together to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our vision is for *a world that knows Jesus*. We aim to do this by:

- Reaching gospel-poor peoples for Christ
- Equipping Christian leaders for church and society
- Engaging churches in cross-cultural mission

More articles at:

[checkpoint.cms.org.au](https://checkpoint.cms.org.au)

# MISSION IS FOR EVERYONE!

**CMS** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## DR CONGO

Recommended age range: 9-12

DR Congo is the second largest country in Africa. CMS missionaries in DR Congo are teaching the Bible and helping care for people's needs. CMS missionaries are thankful to God for protecting and providing for them as they show God's love to people.

### ACTIVITY

DR Congo is home to the world's only sanctuary for orphaned bonobos, which are related to chimpanzees. Follow these steps to learn how to draw a bonobo.

1. Draw an oval with a mouth and squiggly line for the nose. Draw a circular line to create the top of the head.
2. Add in eyes by drawing two ovals with a small circle in each.
3. Draw short sharp lines around the head to create the fur. Make it flat at the top.
4. Add in the drawing rounder.
5. Draw more short sharp lines to create the furry arms and body. Use rounded lines to draw the hands.
6. Again use short sharp lines to draw the legs and curves lines to draw the feet. Now add some colour.

Have a go at drawing your own bonobo!

**Did you know?** Virunga National Park in DR Congo is the oldest National Park in Africa.

**Fun fact:** There are over 200 wild bonobos in DR Congo.

**CMS** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## BIBLE CHALLENGE

As CMS missionaries teach the Bible to people in DR Congo, they want them to know that God is like a good shepherd who protects his sheep. When people put their trust in Jesus, he will provide all their needs.

The letters of the words in Psalm 23:1 have been scrambled. Unjumble the words and then put them together in the spaces provided.

1. HET
2. ROLQ
3. SI
4. YM
5. EROHSEPH
6. CAKL
7. HONINTG

PSALM 23:1

### PRAY

Thank God that he provides for all our needs.

Ask God to help people in DR Congo trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

Whenever you visit a **National Park**, pray for DR Congo!

**CMS** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## GERMANY

Recommended age range: 9-12

Germany shares borders with nine other countries in the continent of Europe. Once there were many followers of Jesus in Germany, but today there are very few. CMS missionaries are working with a local church, teaching the Bible, welcoming new people, and helping with the music ministry.

### ACTIVITY

Germany has been called "The Land of Poets and Thinkers," and is also famous for its forests. Have a go at creating your own acrostic poem about a forest using the letters of the word FOREST.

**F** \_\_\_\_\_

**O** \_\_\_\_\_

**R** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**T** \_\_\_\_\_

**Did you know?** Germany is a leading producer of cars, iron, steel and other machinery.

**Fun fact:** One-third of Germany is covered in forests and woodlands.

**CMS** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## BIBLE CHALLENGE

One of the CMS missionaries in Germany teaches Bible courses from a college in Australia, translated into German. Translate the German words above the spaces back to English to decode the verse. Use your Bible to check if you are correct.

**ARM = POOR**      **KÖNIGREICH = KINGDOM**

**GOTT = GOD**      **GESEGNET = BLESSED**

**DU = YOU**      **DEINE = YOURS**

**GESEGNET**      **DU**      **ARM**

\_\_\_\_\_ ARE \_\_\_\_\_ WHO ARE \_\_\_\_\_,

**DEINE**      **KÖNIGREICH**      **GOTT**

FOR \_\_\_\_\_ IS THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_.

LUKE 6:20

### PRAY

Thank God for CMS missionaries in Germany helping the church know God through the Bible.

Ask God to help people in Germany to be open to hearing about Jesus.

Whenever you see a **pine tree**, pray for Germany!



Our Kids Activity Sheets help kids learn about God's global mission. The sheets include fun activities and interesting facts so that kids can discover more about all the locations where CMS missionaries are currently serving. There are also Bible activities and prayer points, to help kids pray for *a world that knows Jesus too.*

TO DOWNLOAD VISIT  
**CMS.ORG.AU/KIDSACTIVITYSHEETS**

# Why LONG-TERM mission?



**CMS Regional Mission Director Elizabeth Richards served in the Democratic Republic of Congo, together with Malcolm, for many years. Here she explains why it's worth being committed to long-term mission.**

'Long-term' is not a new concept for our great God. We believe that God's love for humankind, and his plan for salvation for this fallen world are long-term, since before creation.

There is both an urgency and a long-term aspect in taking the gospel to the nations. We may be longing for Christ's return and we may be longing for more people to turn to Christ, but we accept that the timing of God's kingdom belongs with God alone. As Peter reminds us, "The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

CMS is committed to this long-term approach to mission. It takes time and commitment for workers to learn how to connect and communicate across cultures and sometimes it takes generations to see the gospel message take root.

## A personal example

CMS has had a direct, long-term connection with the Anglican church in DR Congo for nearly 40 years. My connection began when Peter Tasker (former General Secretary of CMS NSW & ACT) came to our home in Canberra for a 'first enquirers' interview. He told us of the plan to send a team from CMS to work in Zaire (now DR Congo).

35 years later, I have spent 12 years living in DR Congo, made numerous trips there, and stayed in touch with church leaders, friends and colleagues.

CMS has prayed for churches in DR Congo over those many years and continued to send missionaries. I now have a role caring pastorally for CMS missionaries living there, as well as maintaining a CMS partnership with DR Congo church leaders.

When CMS sent people to make that first exploratory trip to Zaire, no-one had any idea what would happen—whether people would answer the call to serve, or what ministry and connection over decades would look like.

## What 'long-term commitment' means

The long-term nature of our commitment to mission is expressed in different ways including:

- The time missionaries have spent individually in a location
- The time missionaries have collectively worked in a location
- The length of time that a particular partnership has been in place
- The length of time that we have been praying for the ministry and our partners on location
- The time CMS has been supporting education and training of future leaders (for example through scholarships or ministry project grants from our Mission Support Fund).

We send people who will persevere while accepting the urgency of the Great Commission. We are also aware that there are often factors that can force missionaries to leave unexpectedly. So, both CMS missionaries, and CMS as a whole, serve with the knowledge that an opportunity to preach, teach and share the gospel may, in some cases, be short-lived.

We celebrate with joy that our commitment to serve long-term can be seen around the world: East Asia (including Japan, Taiwan and Singapore), France, Spain, Tanzania, Chile, Namibia, South East Asia, North Australia and the Pacific region—the list continues, and is depicted on the map on pages 6-7.

We are united in the gospel with each of our CMS mission partners (over 100 partners—both organisations and individuals—around the world). We share aims and beliefs. We share lives and history. Such partnership works both ways: during the Australian bushfires in 2019/20 we received many assurances from our partners to say they were praying for us and grieving over our losses.

Our long-term partners have been recipients of our CMS fellowship, praying, caring, giving and going. For their part, they have prayed for CMS and our workers, cared for our workers on location, and received our workers as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Psalm 133:1 says, “How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity”. We can share God’s delight in the unity we have with Christians around the world, expressed in long-term partnerships.

## Further reasons for sending missionaries long-term

CMS sends people to work towards our vision of a world that knows Jesus. The apostle Paul presents a model for ministry in 1 Thessalonians 2. “But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

In order to share our lives with people in another cultural context, language and cultural learning is essential.

Language learning is lifelong. However competent one may feel, there is always more to learn. After being my neighbour for four years, one woman in DR Congo explained to me that a particular word I used was one I brought from another part of the country and not one they used there. I wondered why she waited four years to tell me! It also made me realise that learning to communicate well takes ongoing effort. When one is semi-confident it is easy to get used to understanding 70%-80% and taking a guess at filling in the gaps.

Understanding culture is at least as complex as learning a language. There is not usually a book explaining a culture’s assumptions, and it takes time to know the right questions to ask. Why, if someone is struck by lightning, is it assumed they are a thief? Why is a bowl of rice and some eggs placed on a grave? Why is it impolite to talk about personal faith? Why is it rude to ask someone how many cows they own? What are the right clothes for church?

It was only after we had lived some years in Zaire (DR Congo) and had sufficient language that people were comfortable to ask us ‘What are you really here for? What are you taking out of this country? Is it gold or diamonds?’ It was inconceivable to them that someone would willingly come with the sole aim of sharing the gospel. People needed to understand who we were and what motivated us, in order to be able to hear the message.

Many missionaries report the delight expressed when they return to location after Home Assignment. It is a sign of commitment to go away and choose to return. Relationships grow and new opportunities open as CMS workers demonstrate their willingness to share their lives with the people they live among. Staying on location through times of trouble is another expression of this commitment.

Understanding language and culture enables us to understand the obstacles—materialism, syncretism, colonial history, oppression—that may affect a person’s ability to embrace the gospel and allow it to transform their life.

Modelling the Christian walk is an essential part of discipling. “For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.” (1 Thessalonians 2:11)

CMS wants missionaries to become competent in their host culture. This may mean knowing how a bus network operates, how to navigate the school system, how to remove parasitic fleas (or better, who to go to when this is needed!), or how to boil and filter drinking water. It also means, over the long-term, understanding how authority operates, showing respect, and being humble and willing to learn. The ability to persevere despite misunderstandings, illness and setbacks is hard, but necessary for building relationships.

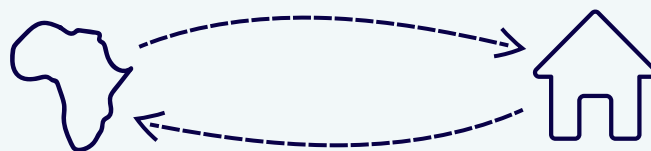
## Being committed long-term means taking the perspective of the Kingdom of God.

### God’s mission continues

It is an immense privilege to have a glimpse into God’s world mission over decades. God is at work despite our stumbling. Our amazing missionaries do make mistakes and face numerous struggles. But we see ministry taking off after small and costly beginnings and we see kingdom growth!

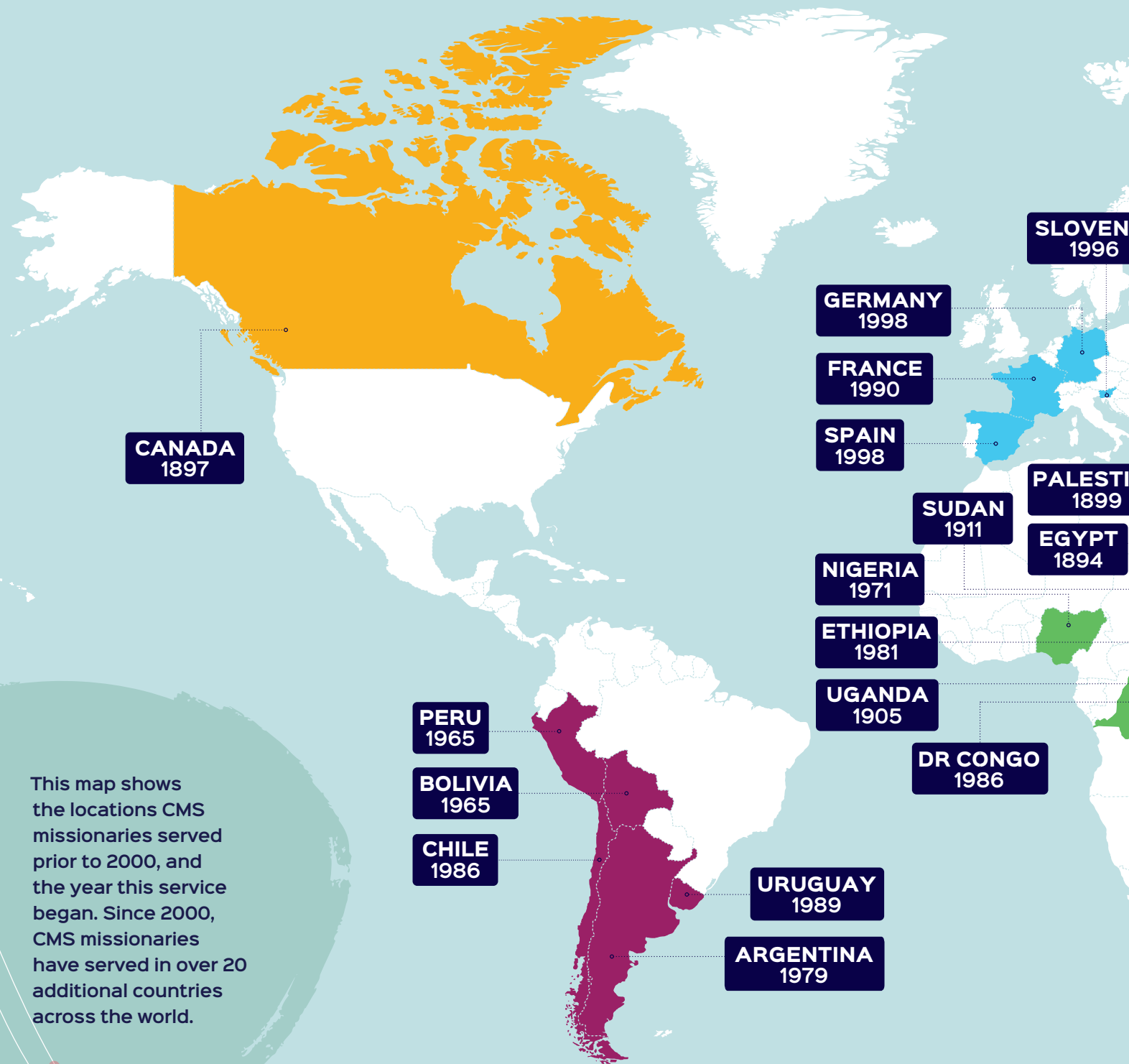
Being committed long-term means taking the perspective of the Kingdom of God. We are joint labourers in the kingdom as we wait for Jesus’ return.

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

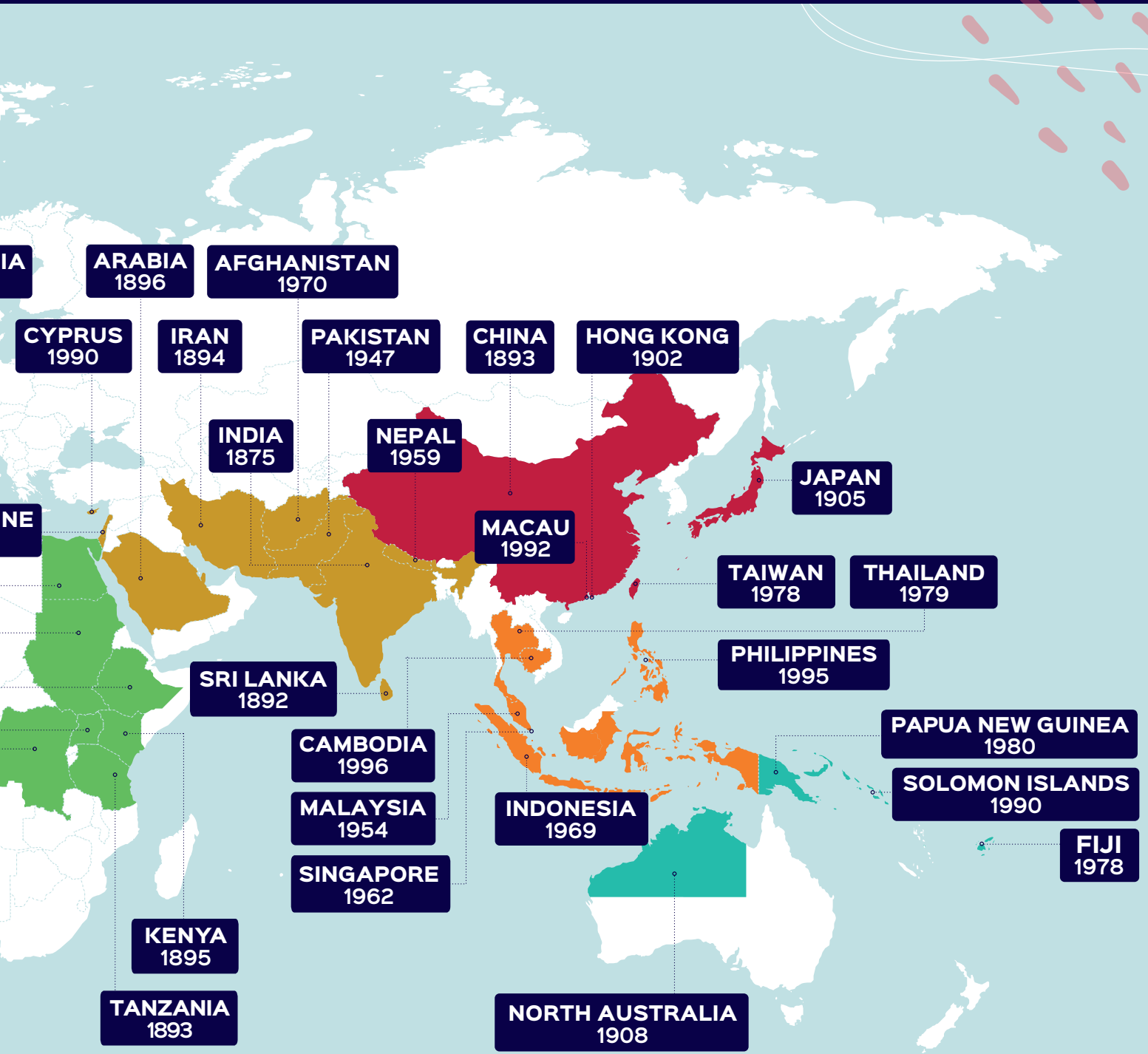


Ask God to raise up CMS missionaries who will be able to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ on location for many years.

# Where CMS missionaries



# ies served up to 2000



Images from left to right:  
Helen Hoskins teaching a class in Tanzania;  
Phil Edmonds making an impact for the  
gospel in Pakistan; Evangelism in Tanzania;  
Sophia Newton with Chinese children  
in Fukien around 1899; Palmer family in  
Tanzania; Tony Doran taking a training course  
for church elders in Indonesia.



# Building TRUST

CMS missionaries **N and R** recently returned for Final Home Assignment after over 10 years working in medical education and training, and emergency nursing in South East Asia. Prior to deciding to complete their service on location, R reflected on the benefits of serving long-term.

We had to wrestle with the question of short-term or long-term when we were first looking at overseas ministry. Short-term health positions in Christian and secular organisations were many; this was the norm. However, the real question was, why were we going?

For us, the reason to go was so that people would know Jesus—simple, yet so complex. The gospel message is radical and counter-cultural in every context; it asks you to admit that your current life and beliefs are leading you to death. It asks you to turn to God, to change the way you think and act and be transformed. It asks you to change.

## Change is hard

As health professionals, we know that changing thinking and behaviour is not quick or easy. Usually many interventions over a long period of time are required. But we also know that we accept critique and are more likely to share how we feel with those people with whom we have deeper, and often longer friendships; they understand us.

So it made sense to us that sharing this radical, counter-cultural gospel with people in a totally different culture and language would be something that should take time; that should be based on relationships of understanding, care and love, giving us genuine platforms to speak into people's lives with gentleness and respect.

## Honouring others with time

This has really been the case in our present location where honour and hospitality are highly valued. In our health ministry many invited short-term teams come to deliver courses to improve care and capacity. When the teams are here the hospitality is lavish, the final surveys always show how valued the teachers and input received has been. But as soon as the teams leave, things go back to normal.



Quizzing my colleagues on why things stay the same they reply, “Well, you need to understand that in this culture we do it differently.” In our health ministry it has been the constant reinforcement of practices at an individual level that has really seen healthcare change.

It has not always been smooth sailing and sometimes it has seemed like a marathon. Yet being there to support in real-time over a long time has seen this acute care go from local to national, and become sustainable.

## Time creates trust

The parallel has been the same in sharing about Jesus. Over time our Buddhist colleagues have gone from politely listening to our sharing about Jesus, to many years later, asking us to actively pray for them and with them. This is the result of sharing our lives with them and theirs with us over many years. For them it is not so much the ‘talk’ but the long walk we have been on with them.

In this culture, people have a deep awareness of the supernatural. Recently a ghost came to our university, causing fear among staff. Two colleagues—who had seen ghosts removed through prayer five years earlier—asked for prayer, and God again answered. As they saw again what our sovereign Lord could do, this time they felt comfortable in receiving a Bible to read more about this amazing God who cared for them.

**...our Buddhist colleagues have gone from politely listening to our sharing about Jesus, to many years later, actually asking us to actively pray for them and with them.**

---

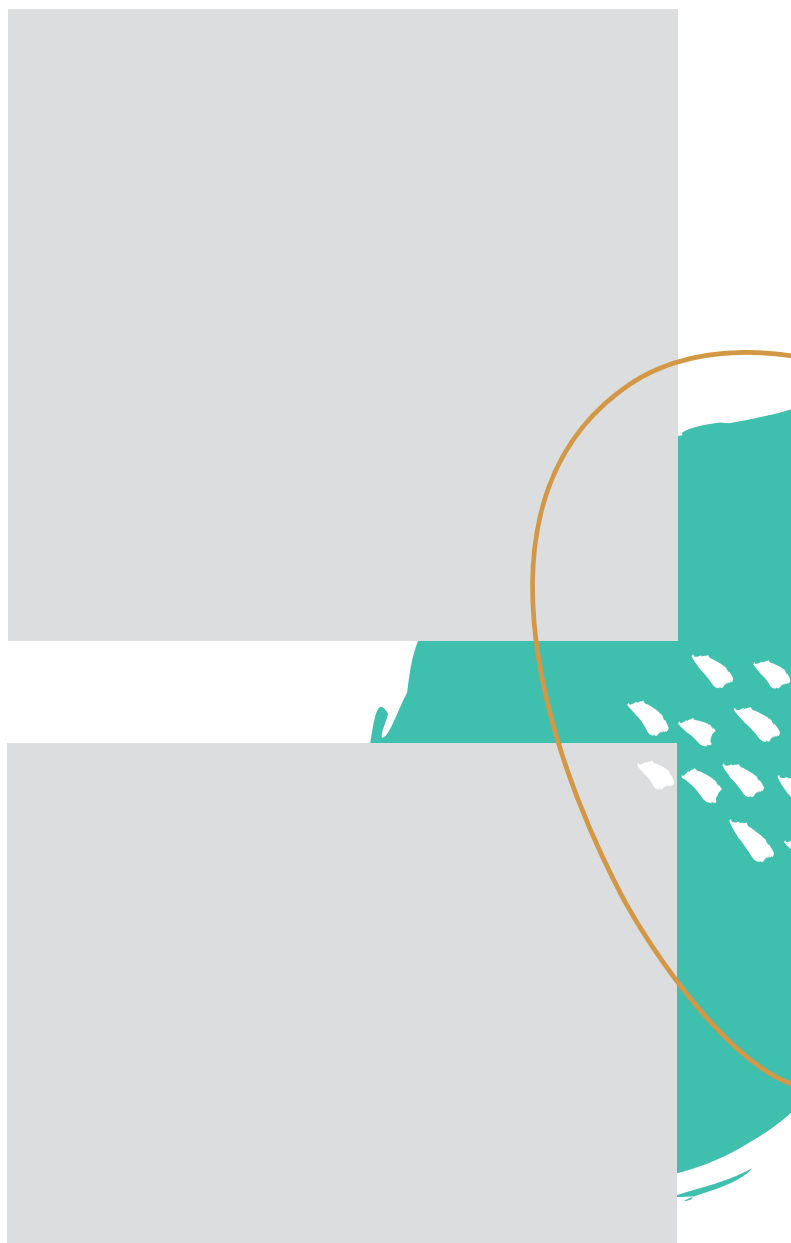
## The power of prayer

Another of our colleagues has experienced the effects of similar prayer previously, but she remains a strong Buddhist. However, with the current pandemic causing great stress within health, she felt that she could come to us for help. She wasn't sleeping. She was worried she would infect her parents, and she was worried that our health system was overwhelmed, and she felt as if she was sinking.

In this honour culture, to admit you are not coping is huge and very intimate. Since, and in this moment, we were able to speak to her about casting your anxieties on the one who gives peace (1 Peter 5:7). Remembering back to previous answered prayer, she even felt comfortable to pray to God for peace again, in words from the Bible. She is still a Buddhist, but we feel that God has his hand on her, as well as others like her.

Over time, our colleagues have observed us and experienced God answering prayers. They remember what God has done and who he is and now will ask for help.

Be it short or long-term, God can turn all sharing of his word into something fruitful—his word does not come back empty. Yet, we have seen that in long-term ministry, the depth and opportunities of sharing are certainly greater. It has allowed time to understand people and grow relationships that show you genuinely love and care for them.



---

Are you a medical or health professional? There are many locations where these skills can help bear powerful gospel witness. Contact your branch to find out about opportunities to serve.

# Love FOR THE long haul

**CMS worker J has served in Africa, Central Asia and South East Asia for over three decades. What three factors have sustained her in gospel ministry during this time?**

Why serve long-term in another culture, or in another place? Let me suggest three considerations: God's love, God's call, and our response.

## God's love for the world

The apostle John says "we love God because he first loved us" (1 John 4:10). That love goes way beyond us as individuals. God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son.

In Matthew 9:36 Jesus says his people like "sheep without a shepherd". In love, he tells his disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send workers into the field—for the harvest is plentiful and the labourers are few.

**Service is costly! Jesus reinstates Peter with the command "Feed my sheep"... at the same time telling Peter that in so doing, he will die an untimely death.**

## God's call to be servants in the world

Since God knows all, he knows the needs of all people. He knows where kingdom needs are greatest. If a call to serve is laid on our hearts, we should pray and work out how to be one of God's harvesters—possibly in another place.

I serve with CMS in rural south-east Asia. Previously, I worked in the relative comfort of the country's capital. But God touched my heart through the story of Mary's willingness to accept a pregnancy, which challenged me greatly about aiming for comfort. So—here I am!

## Responding to God

Forget self-interest, such as thinking about what might look good on a resume after cross-cultural experience. Service is costly! Jesus reinstates Peter with the command "Feed my sheep" (see John 21:15-19), at the same time telling Peter that in so doing, he will die an untimely death.

To this day believers continue to lay down their lives for

Jesus. In my time in Central Asia, co-workers from other mission agencies were deliberately killed. Local believers suffered. We too will suffer as we serve alongside them.

## How to be there for the long haul

How can we serve long-term? By depending on God alone, drawing strength from God alone, looking for strength from God alone, and recognising the spiritual dimension of our work.

### 1 Depend on God alone

As we face challenges, God will show us what to do—whether in discerning motives, being brutally honest about our own motives, or finding ways to solve practical problems.

### 2 Draw strength from God alone

God gives strength to cope with long hours and hard work, intractable problems, two-thirds world issues like inconstant water and electricity supplies, all-pervasive poverty, and ill-health. We can take his yoke upon ourselves, but he takes the lion's share of the load.

### 3 Look for success from God alone

God's Spirit confirms that we are on the right track, even when achievements seem small. He gives us courage to persevere despite an apparently gloomy outlook.

### 4 Recognise the spiritual dimension of the work

We often work in locations where Satan, the evil one, has had his way for a long time. You may find family or co-workers getting sick for no apparent reason around local religious festivals, or when kingdom work is about to take a step forward. But God is the all-powerful one who has defeated evil. We can have peace as we ask him to overrule.

## Is it worth it?

Yes! God is no person's debtor. It is amazing to be involved in his work—to be part of what he is doing in others' lives. That blessing includes seeing people grow over longer periods of time, delighting in his goodness.

go



Have you felt God's costly challenge to bring the gospel to a difficult location? Contact your local CMS branch to find out how you can serve.

# TIME WITH *friends*

CMS worker R in Eurasia works in a place where the best possibilities for the gospel come through time spent in long-term relationships.

“It’s good to spend time with friends. In Autumn and in Spring. In the morning and in the evening. In the cold, and the wind and the heat.”

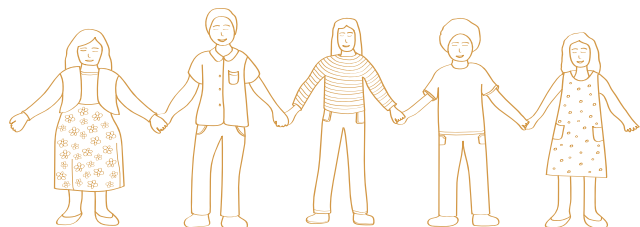
One of my friends wrote this on her social media page and sent me the link. Even though the comment is general in nature, she had written it just after we had spent a lovely afternoon together. It is good to spend time with friends.

In the Bible, we read that God gave us the seasons and times. He promised, “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” (Genesis 8:22) There is “a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1) Throughout the many seasons of life, literal and metaphorical, God is with us! “Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

## It’s nice to be nice, but...

I’ve grown up hearing people say that I’m nice, which is nice. However, it’s not exactly what I want to hear. Recently, going around the circle at a friend’s birthday party, we each mentioned associations we had with her and she did the same about us. It warmed my heart to see her smile as she said, not simply that I was nice, but that her association with me was that we were both of strong faith and enjoyed discussing our respective beliefs. I hadn’t known that she respected me for my faith or valued that aspect of our relationship. It was good to hear it.

In thinking about her comment and my relationship with her, I would say that there are two important contributing factors—being ‘nice’ and being authentic. Don’t get me wrong, I’m far from perfect. However, the “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” of those who belong to Christ Jesus (Galatians 5) is a beautiful, attractive thing. When we imitate Christ and walk by the Spirit, loving our friends as he loves us, our friends can get a taste of his loving kindness.



## Everyday conversations

The authenticity comes in not hiding my faith. It’s nice to be nice but I know some really nice people who do not know God or his steadfast love. “What did you do at the weekend?” “Have you read any good books lately?” Answers about church or a Christian book are easy to include as a natural part of life to these frequently asked questions. I let people know I’m praying for them about something going on in their life as another opportunity for them to see my faith as part of my everyday life, and that it is real to me. These little things can open opportunities for further conversation. Sometimes, I have shared something from a sermon in conversation with someone. The discussions that my friend mentioned at her party are in connection to books we have each been reading at various times.

## The authenticity comes in not hiding my faith. It’s nice to be nice, but I know some really nice people who do not know God or his steadfast love.

I don’t have these great conversations all the time. They are part of the conversations I have in day-to-day life, which include all sorts of things that are not about faith. However, there are opportunities to talk about my faith in all the different seasons of life and, I hope that over a period of time, they help my friends to see, understand and appreciate God’s steadfast love. It’s good to spend time with friends.

*give*



Your gift to CMS will help missionaries like R remain on location long-term and provide opportunities for gospel ministry. You can donate at [give.cms.org.au](https://give.cms.org.au)



# Multiplying ministry



**CMS missionaries Adrian and Anita Lovell are Bible teachers who are committed to giving a vision of God's great plan to the Spanish-speaking world. Here they share a small part of a long story.**

MOCLAM began as a course in Australia as part of a plan to introduce people to God's big picture, revealed in the Bible. That story was the Bible's vision of how God worked to bring this creation into new creation, through the work of Christ. The course was originally in English: it has now become available in Spanish and is being used throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

The first MOCLAM class began in 1983. Since then, former CMS missionaries Grahame and Patty Scarratt have invested nearly 30 years of their lives into translating, teaching, and speaking of this 'big Bible picture'—both in Latin America and on their return to Australia.

## 1. Grahame and Patty to Peter

CMS missionary Peter Sholl (now a CMS Regional Mission Director) became Director of MOCLAM in 2009. Through connections at his church in Monterrey, Mexico, Peter met Rolando, a pastor in Tampico, Mexico about 500km away.

## 3. Rolando to many

That original group of 10 or so students have now finished their Certificate in Theology—18 subjects! Rolando is now teaching the courses to others throughout his network of newly planted churches in north-eastern Mexico.

## 2. Peter to Rolando

Rolando wanted to study and had a group of leaders ready to join him. Over an 11-year period, Peter travelled to Tampico 20 times, teaching the first part of a subject and then leaving the group to keep going with the course on their own.

## 4. Bolivia

Adrian and Anita Lovell began serving with MOCLAM in Bolivia in 2011. Karla, a youth leader, was in one of their first groups. She continued studying and has now completed six subjects. For the past three years, Karla has been speaking with the pastors and elders of her church about the depth and quality of the courses. Last year Adrian spoke to the church elders, and earlier this year they too began studying the first MOCLAM subject, with the aim of teaching the courses themselves, to the leaders within the church. Through steady, long-term investment in people all over Bolivia, there are now groups of pastors and leaders studying MOCLAM courses in many locations and denominations.

Until the end of 2020, CMS Regional Mission Director Peter Sholl was the International Director of MOCLAM. See his perspective on ministry at [cms.org.au/more-on-MOCLAM](https://cms.org.au/more-on-MOCLAM)



Adrian and Anita know that some people have been praying for the ministry of MOCLAM for four decades. Will you join them in praying now and into the future?



# OVER MANY DECADES



## 5. Chile

Peter Sholl taught the first MOCLAM course in Chile in 2011. He presented the course to the GBU (the University Bible Group, part of IFES, the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students). Peter continued to visit Chile and in 2012 met Francisco, a student leader.

Francisco studied MOCLAM subjects, then trained at the Centre for Pastoral Studies in Santiago. He now works as a GBU staff-worker and a pastor in Viña del Mar, Chile. The relationship with the GBU in Chile developed: that legacy of trust led to CMS missionary Chris Overhall's appointment in 2018 as MOCLAM Regional Director for Chile. Chris says "there's a great level of trust in MOCLAM... because of the long-term relational investment".



## 7. Spain

MOCLAM has also grown in Spain under John Lovell,<sup>1</sup> who served as the Anglican pastor in Valencia, Spain from 2011 to 2019 and as the Regional Director for MOCLAM. That ministry continues, including the possibility of translation into Braille, which would enable Spanish-speaking Christians with visual impairments, to study God's word. CMS missionary Tanja French says, "This only happens through God's grace and long-term relationships and trust. We are thankful that CMS and their supporters invest in long-term missionaries in Spain!"

## 6. Peru

In 2016, Peter, Adrian and Anita visited Peru to participate in a pastors' conference. It quickly became obvious that many Peruvian Christians wanted the opportunity to study with MOCLAM. In 2018, and building on the relationships developed at that first conference, CMS missionaries Nick and Kysha Davies accepted the roles of regional directors for Peru. One group of pastors who Nick and Kysha have taught over the last two years have now started teaching others in their churches as well as teaching MOCLAM material at the annual pastors' conference.



## No miracles—just steady growth

The growth of MOCLAM has not been miraculous, but rather in the slow and steady investment of missionaries in building trust with local leaders over four decades. This last year has marked a 'changing of the guard' within the MOCLAM team as John Lovell finished up as the Regional Director in Spain and Peter Sholl as the International Director. Adrian Lovell has now taken on the role of International Director. The current MOCLAM team was formed by, and remains committed to, a long-term vision to equip local leaders to faithfully teach God's word. We are backed by others who share this commitment, praying and providing for us to serve the Spanish-speaking world for as long as we are able.

<sup>1</sup>See John's challenging article 'Reasons to go' in *Checkpoint* Summer 2020-2021.

WE WERE DELIGHTED  
TO share with you <sup>NOT</sup> ONLY  
THE gospel of God  
BUT OUR LIVES AS WELL.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:8



Adam & Helene Ramsay serving in Japan

*CMS is looking for Christians  
who will serve across cultures.*

Where will you serve?  
[cms.org.au/opportunities](https://cms.org.au/opportunities)

# Cultivating THE CULTURE



CMS missionaries **Wim and Maaïke Prins** have been serving in Cambodia since 2004, where Wim is involved in translation work for the Fount of Wisdom Publishing House. Here Wim reflects on the importance of long-term ministry in building trust in relationships.

Some years ago, in Siem Reap, Maaïke and I met a missionary couple who, upon arrival in Cambodia, started a life-coaching ministry among the Khmer. They wanted to counsel Cambodian Christians about marriage problems, financial debts, and so on.

## Ministry: Just do it?

While we admired their youthful zeal, what they attempted to do could not be done. Their interpreters would roll their eyes due to the one-size-fits-all-cultures approach to coaching, so they lost much of their message in translation. In some ministries there are no shortcuts.

## The value of language

When we signed up to serve cross-culturally for at least 10 years in 2003, CMS required that we learn Khmer, the Cambodian language. I didn't consider this severe punishment. To learn a fifth language at age 41, and due to the Khmer script and Eastern worldview, meant things went slowly.

We still remember practising our first sentences at the local fruit stalls. We would proudly speak a few words. Then we would be overwhelmed by a barrage of slang from the mouths of toothless sellers. But as we learnt more, we were able to have conversations and build trust. Cambodians opened their hearts because they could speak to us in their mother tongue.

Learning the language shows Cambodians that we're here to stay. Not only this but being immersed in their culture helps us to understand what makes them 'tick'. Talking the talk is one thing. Cultivating the culture is another. It's so much more than reading about the meaning of Khmer festivals and proverbs. It also involves sitting on the floor cross-legged for so many hours that you then can't walk, or eating creepy-crawlies as a snack. But it's so worth it!

## Relishing relationships

If not for learning the language and culture, how could we get beyond the friendly smiles, in order to build genuine

friendships with Cambodians? Our brothers and sisters in the Lord in Phnom Penh, Ratanakiri Province, and Siem Reap have shaped us into the people we are today. As I work alongside and build friendships with the staff at Fount of Wisdom Publishing House, I get to share their laughter and tears, their formal meetings and informal confessions.

**Talking the talk is one thing.  
Cultivating the culture is another.**

## Translating with care

As the only foreigner in a team of four, I'm thankful for my long-term involvement in Cambodian ministry. Translating books here is not just a matter of translating multisyllabic words, but of conveying Western thoughts and biblical concepts in an Eastern setting, in a country recovering from genocide, where few people are avid readers or abstract thinkers. It has been a great privilege, and challenge, to introduce a valuable reference work (such as the New Bible Dictionary) to Cambodians—enriching Christian leaders who will in turn enrich the Cambodian church!

So, 'Just do it'? Well, yes and no. With every new year I think: what I did last year, I would do slightly differently now. And as for those who come short-term, certainly there is a place for them. But when the short-termers leave, it is the long-term missionaries (and the local believers) who need to worry about whether new converts will become a part of God's church.



To go means being ready to be gone, and arrive somewhere else, for a long time. Are you ready? Contact your local CMS branch to explore the next steps to going long-term.

**This article has been removed for privacy reasons**



**This article has been removed for privacy reasons**

**This article has been removed for privacy reasons**

# A LONG YARN



**CMS missionary Frances Cook has served in Chile for more than 30 years. Here she speaks about the advantages of long-term mission, as well as some of the difficulties.**

Yesterday I had a long yarn by phone to Jacquie. I'd lived with her when I first arrived in Punta Arenas, Chile. We talked about family, recipes, God, coronavirus and the weather, as you do with old friends. As Jacquie didn't speak English, she played a vital role in my language learning and enculturation. Now a divorced grandmother, her life has not been easy.

Many things determine how long missionaries serve. For my 32 years in Chile, Jacquie would agree that my stubborn nature played a role. Also, I was convinced that my coming here was God's doing and so saw only one thing ahead: service in Chile.

## Serving long-term has problems and advantages

I can see many advantages to long-term mission, but there are problems as well.

Mission is costly. Not only the missionary, but also family and friends in Australia pay a heavy price. Nonetheless, following Jesus is indeed going to be costly—as he warned. Modern travel and technology mean that, in some ways, the cost of mission is discounted. Yet other costs remain.

Long-term mission must be maintained, and that comes at an ongoing personal and financial price for all who support it. CMS enables those God calls to cross-cultural mission to go with the support of partners who will pray, care and give. But it can be very difficult to maintain committed financial and personal support for the duration of long-term service.

So, what are the advantages?

After over 30 years serving here, just what makes Chilean culture 'tick' is still sometimes mysterious to me, but I certainly have a better feel for it now than I did half a lifetime ago. That is immeasurably helpful for both life and ministry.

I have found that serving long-term means more, and potentially deeper, relationships as well as the joy of seeing people continue in the faith for many years. In my current church, there are grandchildren of people who I saw come to faith in Punta Arenas. Likewise, I have taught students at CEP, the Anglican seminary, whom I knew as little children. I taught Cristobal, CEP's current principal (then a university student) as he worked towards his Certificate in Theology. He kindly says that this was the time when he came to understand the gospel.

One CEP student had been a young child when we did some doorknocking in a new area of Punta Arenas in the late 1980s. Her parents invited us in and were eventually converted, becoming steady Christians.

Since I both belong to the generation of the older pre-CEP clergy, and have been associated with the seminary from its beginning in 2003, I have been able to get to know most clergy and their wives along the length of the Anglican Church of Chile and some outside. That is both a great joy and a tremendous privilege. Many are doing a wonderful job. Some have left the ministry for different sad reasons. Others struggle on, seeking to do good ministry and make good personal decisions. Some CEP graduates have planted new churches, or helped to see an abused or declining church restored. Perhaps in a few years, God-willing, one or two CEP graduates will be diocesan bishops.

## I am weak too

The other side of knowing many people is that they know me, warts and all, and have seen me grow too. So, when ministering to others, I often have no choice but to recall my weaknesses too. My own pastor is a CEP graduate and has seen the need to gently correct me on occasion.

Long-term, like life, forms us. God uses that for his good, gentle and kind purposes for his glory and the church he loves so dearly.



give



As Frances mentions in her article, it is not always easy to maintain long-term financial support. Are you able to commit to giving regularly to help CMS missionaries serve long-term? Go to [give.cms.org.au](https://give.cms.org.au)



# Beautiful, broken vessels



**CMS worker K is reaching out with the gospel to Japanese expatriates in the the Middle East. Before that she served in Japan for more than 20 years. Here she explains how Christ has worked in and through her as she has served long-term and relocated.**

There is a beautiful art form in Japan called *Kintsugi*. *Kin* means ‘gold’ and *tsugi* comes from the word meaning ‘to connect’. *Kintsugi* is used when a precious piece of pottery, a bowl or plate is broken. Usually, it would be thrown away. But the owner recognises its value and so joins the pieces together, not disguising the cracks, but filling them with gold. The result is even more valuable, and its beauty comes from the gold-filled cracks alone.

This is a picture of the exquisite work of Christ in each one of us, given in God’s mercy to a nation where there are few cultural hooks into the gospel. What happens when such a vessel—a weak and cracked CMS missionary like me—moves into a cross-cultural setting long-term?

Over many years, aside from the ongoing new cracks and chips, filled up with more of Christ, the vessel herself changes. Over time, she takes on a new colour of language, the new shape of a different worldview, and a new use as she adjusts to a new way of doing life and relationships.

I discovered that language learning (while never ending), became easier over time, and I was increasingly able to communicate in the heart language of the Japanese people. Cultural awareness and understanding deepened, which paved the way for thinking of different, Japanese ways of introducing the gospel, and encouraging believers. Serving long-term provided opportunities to try new things, to fail or succeed—for the purpose of finding ways for Japanese people to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. All these changes, over time, are made with the desire that the precious gospel, revealed in the cracked and chipped vessel, will be more accessible to Japanese people.

## Moving to the Middle East

Moving to a place like the Middle East, after serving long-term in Japan, has been an experience involving many changes and adaptations. Sand seems to be taken on and in everything, adding a different texture!

However, the changes and adaptations wrought in me in Japan have not been left behind. They have moved with me to the desert and are vital for diaspora ministry.

Japanese people who have moved here have suddenly shifted from being the same as everyone around them to being

different. They have no choice but to explore new ideas in order to survive. At the same time, Japanese people seek the familiar. With God’s help and after decades of living in Japan, I seek to be a place of familiarity—with familiar language, cultural understanding and ways of doing relationships, yet at the same time introducing the ‘new idea’ of the gospel.

These adaptations don’t stop here in the Middle East. Usually, my Japanese friends will return to Japan, different to when they left. I hope and pray that they return to Japan trusting in Jesus, or with a desire to know more about him. My long-term work in Japan has provided a network and an understanding of the church situation that can help people find gospel connection and community when they return to their home country. I try to connect them to a gospel-centred church, so they can continue to seek and find Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

## But I yearn for more. I yearn for the day when the cracks and chips are gone.

### Yearning for heaven

As I spend time with Japanese people in the Middle East, we yearn for, and reminisce about the things we miss and love about Japan: the beauty of the cherry blossoms, the deliciousness of the sushi. We long for the day when we can experience these again, and eagerly listen to those who have travelled back to Japan recently.

But I yearn for more. I yearn for the day when the cracks and chips are gone and the whole vessel is gold. I yearn that we will share in Christ too, not just now but in eternity, around the throne of the Lamb, as we praise him with many others from every tribe and tongue. Come Lord Jesus!



Pray that people who move to a new location will yearn for a heavenly home, and that God would reveal his grace in the Lord Jesus Christ through the faithful ministry of CMS workers like K.

# ST ANDREW'S HALL UPDATE



*New apartment room*



*New library*

With deep thankfulness to God, we are pleased to report that the St Andrew's Hall (SAH) redevelopment is virtually complete—with the semester 1 course commencing onsite on 1 February 2021.

Please thank God for the members and supporters of the CMS family across Australia, who have supported this major project through significant and sustained prayer and giving. God has graciously and wonderfully answered those prayers to create a facility that can be a base for missionaries-in-training for many years to come.

We know that the gospel is powerful to change lives and transform communities. God's word is not chained. We are excited to see how God will use this new and renewed SAH facility to equip gospel ministers to better speak his word, and to make disciples of Christ around the world.



*give*



Significant CMS reserves have been used to help complete SAH; you can still give tax-deductible donations to invest in this ministry at [give.cms.org.au/sah](https://give.cms.org.au/sah)

# MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT



This *Checkpoint* has been all about the value of long-term mission. Other CMS missionaries share that commitment! Go online to [cms.org.au/checkpoint](https://cms.org.au/checkpoint) to see more stories like these about the value of ministering alongside people for as long as God allows.



**Mike & Katie Taylor**

“At Munguishi, as well as teaching the Bible, we seek to help our students think through how culture interacts with the gospel. Having been at Munguishi for 10 years, we are now starting to get a better feel for these cultural influences, and how to help our students understand them from a biblical perspective.”

Read more at:

[cms.org.au/equipped-by-grace](https://cms.org.au/equipped-by-grace)



**Michael & Jo Charles**

“Another benefit of long-term mission is building relationships. There is a danger of paternalism in mission work as we arrive in another culture and attempt to share the gospel. The benefit of long-term mission is that deep relationships are formed which allows for honest dialogue.”

Read more at:

[cms.org.au/long-term-gods-grace](https://cms.org.au/long-term-gods-grace)



## PRAYER DIARY UPDATES

### AMENDMENTS



**DAY 1**  
**SIMON & CLAIRE KOEFOED** (STW from CMS VIC). Simon is part of the Ministry Development Team of the Anglican Diocese of the Northern Territory based in Darwin.



**DAY 18**  
**ERIN & MATTHEW TOPLEY** from CMS NSW & ACT welcome baby Lilly, born 30 December 2020.



**DAY 22**  
**S & C** from CMS NSW & ACT are now on Final Home Assignment, finishing at the end of April.



**DAY 22**  
**L** from CMS NSW & ACT finished her service with CMS at the end of January.

### DAY 7 – CMS TRAINEES COURSE 1, 2021



**J & S**  
(CMS QNSW)  
Planning to serve in Central Asia



**JASON & HANNAH FAIRCLOUGH**  
with Elena  
(CMS WA)  
Planning to serve in Italy



**D & M**  
with N, M, E, and L  
(CMS NSW & ACT)  
Planning to serve in Jordan



**KARINA BRABHAM**  
(CMS NSW & ACT)  
Planning to serve in France



**MALCOLM & AINSLEY PURDEY**  
with Elsie, June, Calvin, and Hugo  
(CMS SANT)  
Planning to serve in Chile



# GIVING *thanks* TO GOD

## IAN WARD

We praise God for the life and ministry of Ian Ward, who died in Darwin in October 2020, aged 74. Ian and his wife Elke served in the Northern Territory from 1976-93. Ian served the church in Numbulwar and Groote Eylandt through building and maintenance work, as well as preaching and leading services. When they moved to Darwin in 1989, Ian was appointed as Aborigine Community Liaison Officer. Ian and Elke's long experience with Aboriginal people in Arnhem Land proved very helpful to their ministry in Darwin. After retiring as missionaries, they were involved in various ministries in their church in Darwin and at Marrara Christian College. We ask God to comfort and sustain Elke and their children, Kaeta, Coryn and Stephen.

...DO NOT GRIEVE LIKE  
THE REST OF MANKIND,  
WHO HAVE NO HOPE. FOR  
WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS  
DIED AND ROSE AGAIN, AND  
SO WE BELIEVE THAT GOD  
WILL BRING WITH JESUS  
THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN  
ASLEEP IN HIM.

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*



CMS is a fellowship of Christian people and churches committed to global mission. We work together to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our vision is for *a world that knows Jesus.*

## OUR MISSION



## OUR DISTINCTIVES



Read the full CMS vision: [cms.org.au/vision](https://cms.org.au/vision)

## GET INVOLVED!

Go to [cms.org.au/get-involved](https://cms.org.au/get-involved)



*pray*

Visit [cms.org.au/get-involved/pray](https://cms.org.au/get-involved/pray) to find out more



*care*

Visit [cms.org.au/get-involved/care](https://cms.org.au/get-involved/care) to find out more



*give*

Visit [give.cms.org.au](https://give.cms.org.au)



*go*

Visit [cms.org.au/go](https://cms.org.au/go) or contact your local branch (see back page) to talk to someone about becoming a missionary.

# WHY North Australia?

CMS has been committed to supporting the Indigenous church in North Australia since 1908. Today, there is a great need to disciple and equip Aboriginal Christian leaders so that they can teach others about the life-changing love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CMS continues to send missionaries to North Australia to work alongside Aboriginal leaders so that the church grows to maturity for generations to come.

**How will you partner in God's mission in North Australia this year?**



**CMS (Church Missionary Society)** works with churches to set apart, equip and support long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## CMS NSW & ACT

Level 5, 51 Druiitt St SYDNEY NSW 2000  
PO Box 21326 WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002  
(02) 9267 3711 nswact@cms.org.au  
[cms.org.au/nswact](http://cms.org.au/nswact)

## CMS QNSW

Level 1, 80 Petrie Terrace,  
PETRIE TERRACE QLD 4000  
PO Box 220 RED HILL QLD 4059  
(07) 3171 3020 qld@cms.org.au  
[cms.org.au/qldnsw](http://cms.org.au/qldnsw)

## CMS SANT

37 Angas Street ADELAIDE SA 5000  
(08) 8212 4838 sa.nt@cms.org.au  
[cms.org.au/sant](http://cms.org.au/sant)

## CMS TAS

PO Box 501, SANDY BAY TAS 7006  
0438 590 559 tas@cms.org.au  
[cms.org.au/tas](http://cms.org.au/tas)

## CMS VIC

Level 1, Building 1, 630 Mitcham Rd  
MITCHAM VIC 3132  
PO Box 2150 RANGEVIEW VIC 3132  
(03) 9894 4722 vic@cms.org.au  
[cms.org.au/vic](http://cms.org.au/vic)

## CMS WA

31 Acheson Cr WOODVALE WA 6026  
(08) 6209 9159 wa@cms.org.au  
[cms.org.au/wa](http://cms.org.au/wa)

## CMS Australia

Level 5, 51 Druiitt St SYDNEY NSW 2000  
PO Box 20095 WORLD SQUARE NSW 2002  
(02) 9284 6777 cmsa@cms.org.au  
[cms.org.au](http://cms.org.au)

## St Andrew's Hall

190 The Avenue PARKVILLE VIC 3052  
(03) 9388 1663 sah@cms.org.au

[cms.org.au](http://cms.org.au)