



### From the Editor



Jesus, unique Son of God, did not carry out his mission alone! As soon as Jesus began his earthly ministry, he immediately chose 12 followers who would accompany him on his mission and proclaim

that God's kingdom was at hand. The disciples' sin and their human limitations did not stop him from entrusting them with his Father's work, even as he knew and fully understood that God "will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered" (Mark 14:27). Those hand-picked by Jesus would fail and fail again! Yet these same failed sheep (minus Judas) returned to him after the resurrection and received again the instruction to "Go into all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus told the shame-faced Peter three times to "Feed my sheep", and poured out his Holy Spirit on his followers for all time so that they might continue the mission of proclaiming Jesus' lordship.

In his excellent lead article, CMS NSW ACT General Secretary Malcolm Richards highlights how Jesus was the very first 'trainer of trainers' and traces that precedent through to the present work of CMS. Elsewhere in this Checkpoint you will find diverse and vivid examples of how CMS missionaries have taken on the 2 Timothy 2:2 principle of teaching reliable people to teach others.

Sometimes, as **Norm Gorrie** highlights in speaking about sharing Christ, or as **Arthur Davis** explains regarding the evolution of his Tanzanian gospel training, our missionaries discover that they are themselves being taught new ways by their colleagues. When you read you will see that there are references to Checkpoint Online that you can check out for a better and deeper understanding of what they are talking about. Other articles speak of the necessity of gently but firmly sticking to the priority of the Bible in the face of disappointment, even resistance. Don't miss Caroline Evenden's inspiring summary of how the long-term work of CMS missionaries in France continues to raise up French people who will 'Relais' (read the article!) the message from one generation to the next. Let's pray as we read that God will continue to bless the mission of CMS and all who desire to see a world that knows Jesus.

Gordon Chena

### Contents

Why train?	4-7
Training not downloading	8-9
Preparing for Muslim Evangelism	11
In, through and for Christ	12-13
When success is fragile	14-15
Built on God's word	16-17
Head, heart and hands	18-19
Big picture people	21
Giving thanks to God   Book Review	22
Mission news	23

#### checkpoint.

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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

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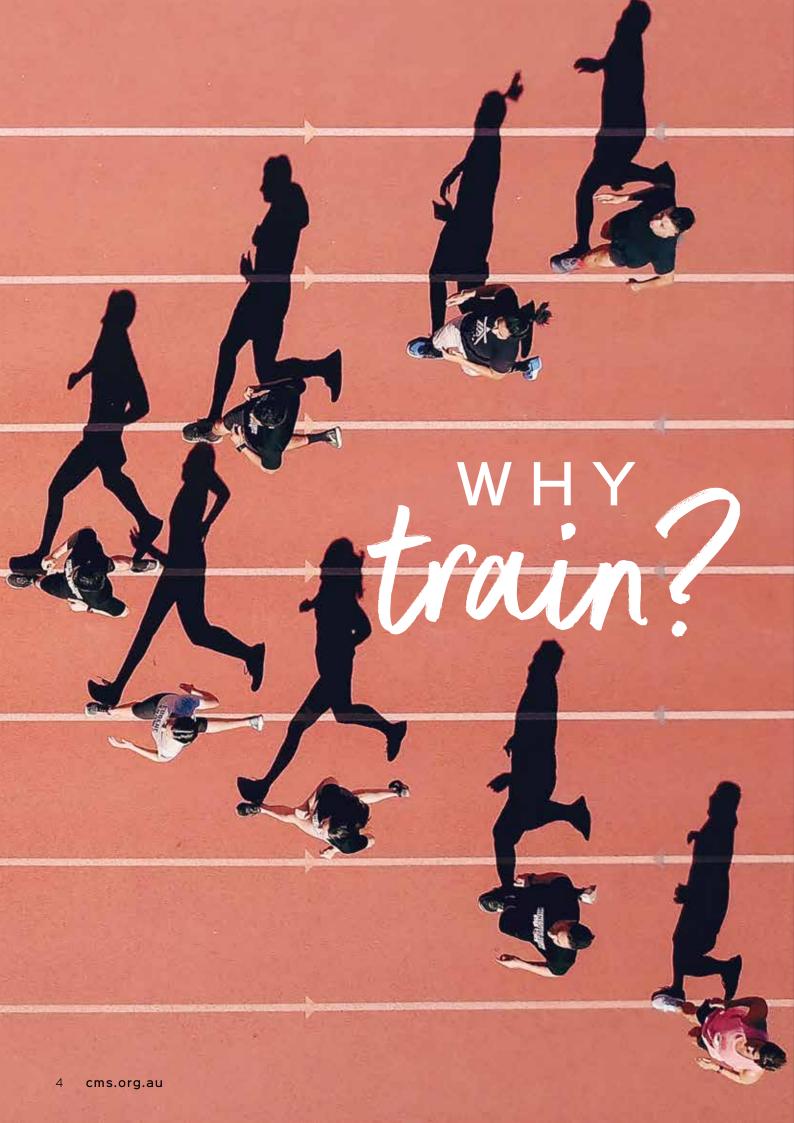
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CMS NSW ACT General Secretary **Malcolm Richards** looks at how the Bible teaches us to train people who teach the gospel, and helps us understand how this impacts the mission of CMS.

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." 2 Timothy 2:2

A central point in the CMS Vision, a world that knows Jesus, is our commitment to 'Equipping leaders for church and society'. CMS has been committed to sending missionaries to train leaders in our partner churches around the world for many years. This training happens in all sorts of ways from formal theological education in Bible schools and theological colleges, through to distance education, seminars and mentoring. Missionaries have worked in all sorts of physical conditions to make this happen—modern buildings, mud huts or sitting on the grass with a group under a tree.

We long to see strong healthy churches led by competent godly leaders. We also want to see training of leaders carried out by the local church for the local church. This leads CMS to send missionaries to 'train the trainers': to work towards making ourselves redundant, and do ourselves out of a job!

#### The Bible on 'training the trainers'

The apostle Paul teaches the Ephesian church about God's plan to produce healthy churches. In this plan, the saints are equipped for the work of ministry and the whole church is built up and matured so that it is 'no longer tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine...' (Ephesians 4: 11-14).

The foundation of this plan is the work of the Spirit of Christ as he sends gifts to the church in the form of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. It is important to note that the work is carried out by faithful people who use their God-given gifts for the building up of the church. Strong leaders—those capable of bringing the whole of their flock to maturity and capable of training others in the work of ministry—don't just appear out of thin air! They are the product of other godly men and women who have invested in the next generation of leaders, using their God-given gifts over many years.

The classic verse that speaks to this work is 2 Timothy 2:2, quoted at the top of this article. In that verse we see how this principle of handing on the gospel (both content and ministry practice) happens through multiple generations of Christian leaders: Paul teaches Timothy who teaches 'reliable men' who are then qualified to teach others—four generations of Christian leaders just in this one verse.

The apostle Paul, too, did not just appear out of thin air. He did not invent the concept of 'training the trainer'! In the letter to the Galatians, Paul explains that the gospel he preached was revealed to him directly by the risen Lord. Along with that, Paul benefited from the investment of other Christians in his life who discipled him until he was ready to take his place as a church leader and a trainer of others. In Acts 11:25, we read that Barnabas (Joseph of Cyprus, later nicknamed Barnabas meaning 'son of encouragement) travelled to Tarsus and brought Paul back to Antioch. There they worked together for a year before being sent by the elders to Jerusalem. It seems that during all that time, Paul was doing an apprenticeship under Barnabas before they set out together on their first missionary journey with Barnabas in the lead.

In the gospels, Jesus is the first 'trainer of trainers' in the church of which he becomes head through his resurrection. Jesus chose 12 of this large group of followers for his inner circle. Of these 12 he then chose Peter, James and John as his closest companions—his closest trainees.



Before he died and then returned to the Father's side he had a whole body of instruction that he needed to impart. The necessary instruction course intensified in the days leading up to his death as they travelled together towards Jerusalem and the waiting cross. After his resurrection and in the 40 days before his ascension he continued this instruction, teaching them about the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3) and opening their minds to understand the Scriptures and interpreting to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself (Luke 24: 27, 45).

# This leads CMS to send missionaries to 'train the trainers': to work towards making ourselves redundant, and do ourselves out of a job!

It's wonderful to see this chain of events unfold in the New Testament. Jesus taught the first disciples who taught others, including Barnabas (Acts 4: 36-37) who became part of the first church in Jerusalem. These Jerusalem Christians were scattered across the known world by the persecution of Christians in Jerusalem. Barnabas was also sent by the church in Jerusalem to Antioch and he tracked down Paul and invested in him.

And so it has continued since the days of the early church: faithful men and women, equipped by the Spirit, investing in the lives of others so that they in turn might become trainers of other trainers. We stand in this legacy and believe that we who have been discipled by others must ourselves take our places as trainers of the trainers so that the gospel can indeed go to the ends of the earth. That is Jesus' plan for both the proclamation and the protection of the Gospel until he comes again.

#### What this means for CMS

CMS is both gospel-focussed and Bible-based. We deliberately take these biblical principles about training the trainer and apply them to our ministries. But each situation has different challenges.

In the Middle East Tim has been working at a theological college for 10 years. When he first started there were few qualified local teachers and he felt (uncomfortably) like the expert. Now 10 years later the faculty has a majority of local staff with almost all having completed their initial training under him. In fact, this local faculty raised up under him now have higher qualifications than he does! Stan is a new member of faculty from CMS and will work alongside these local leaders.

In the middle of the jungle in DR Congo, Elizabeth and I were involved with a group of local pastors in setting up a new Bible school for the Anglican Diocese of Kindu. We were only in that location for six years and in that time





the Bible school was established with buildings, a new syllabus and a local faculty. It was hard work establishing a functioning Bible school in a country where little else functions effectively. Eight years later, following our departure, Berea Bible School is still functioning and has trained over half the current clergy and other church workers in the diocese. All the teachers are home grown and since we left CMS has been unable to find anyone else to go.

In Chile, CMS has sent many missionaries over the years to the Centre for Pastoral Studies (CEP) in Santiago. Currently we have Michael and Jo Charles, Gary and Julie Haddon and Francis Cook serving on the faculty. God has blessed this ministry and has produced many fine gospel workers for the church in Chile. Many graduates are effective pastors, while others have successfully planted churches. The effectiveness of CEP is a major factor in the church in Chile now becoming a separate Anglican Province with four dioceses. However, the other task of raising up local teachers for the college has been a slower process with many disappointments along the way. Praise God that we have two Chilean Christians on staff, Cristobal Cerón, now in place as the Principal of CEP, and Filipe Chamy, as a lecturer. We are praying for more Chileans to join him on faculty.

#### CMS is in for the long haul

Things don't always go as planned. People rightly ask, if CMS has been sending people to the same places around the world for years now, then why isn't the local church self-sufficient for its training needs?

It is a fair question, because in human terms our plans have not always been successful. We want to raise up local Christians who will train others. However, sometimes the wrong people have been chosen to send for further training, who later have either left the church or been found to be inappropriate for leadership. On other occasions people, once trained, have left the training sphere to become denominational leaders. Some have bowed to family pressure and have used their new qualifications to find better-paid secular employment. In other places the church is not mature enough to produce appropriate leaders or the church leadership is not mature enough to understand the importance of investment in training its own leaders.

However, having a firm belief in the biblical principles involved, CMS is in this for the long haul! We are committed to standing alongside our partner churches for as long as necessary until we have truly done ourselves out of a job and our partner church has confidence that they can go it alone.

Many of our missionaries continue to be sent as trainers of trainers with the aim of equipping leaders for church and society. Will you partner with them, so that Christ's plan for healthy churches to take his gospel to the ends of the earth can continue?

CMS VIC branch director Wei-Han Kuan echoes the need for training the trainers in a useful challenge from 2 Timothy 2:2 at

cms.org.au/equip-christian-leaders/



Do you have experience in Bible teaching and training? Contact your local branch for opportunities both short- and long-term in training trainers in mission locations.

See the back page for contact details.





CMS missionaries **Arthur & Tamie Davis** work mainly with Tanzanian staff and student leaders. For them, training is not imposed, but is a shared experience of bringing gospel truth to those who need to hear God's good news.

"We don't need more staff trainings," said a board member from Tanzania Fellowship of Evangelical Students (TAFES), the campus ministry we are seconded to.

He was right. In today's urban Tanzania, training is like a download. It's a one-time event, a seminar at which someone delivers information or presents a skill. Recipients are then expected to go and implement it. This has not been particularly effective, which was the board member's point. There's a gap between theory and practice.

The same exists at a person-to-person level. In 'mentorship,' an older person sits a younger person down and lectures them, with the expectation that the younger person will go off and apply it.

In these ways, young urban Tanzanians can be exposed to lots of content, but this does not mean they are always able to put content into practice. These dynamics have played out in TAFES as well.

In this context, our struggle is not so much theological as practical. TAFES staff and students hold the Bible in high esteem, believe in the importance of evangelism, and hold to Christ as their model for leadership. The 'things' (that is, the gospel that 2 Timothy 2:2 speaks of) are generally sound. The gap is at the level of ministry skills, the 'entrusting' that 2 Timothy 2:2 also speaks of, and it is so essential to passing the gospel on to the next generation. TAFES staff workers have been learning the 'what' of ministry, yet have struggled to develop the mindset or self-possession with which to see themselves as someone capable of passing something on.

What is needed is perhaps not so much explicitly taught as caught. Information delivery needs to be complemented by a sense of walking alongside someone.

#### Trainer as coach

There is someone who does 'walk alongside' in urban Tanzania: the soccer coach. They don't tell you how to play and then leave you to it. They come up with strategies, help you to work on particular skills or plays, discuss with you the next steps in your development, are concerned that you are well nourished and rested, look out for your motivation and mental health, and take into account how you operate within the team. In other words, the coach is a link between theory and practice, not only a source of knowledge but also a trusted confidante. This is what Paul's relationship with Timothy was. To adapt our board member's words, TAFES definitely needs more of that!

For us, this kind of 'walking alongside' has been inspired by the idea of 'hybridity'. Rather than seeking to influence TAFES with our pre-determined model or theology, we aim for a hybrid. We bring our (Australian) perspective to the staff team, and watch how this is received. Rather than trying to transmit a particular way of seeing, we want to enable our Australian and Tanzanian ways of seeing to cross-pollinate. We expect that what emerges will be neither fully Australian nor fully Tanzanian, but a new, third thing: a hybrid. Although it is not wholly Tanzanian, it can hopefully get traction here. This stems from our full expectation that not only is God already at work here, but that Christ is already







alive and active in the Tanzanian church, which is his. The Holy Spirit, who is bringing about new creation in our midst, will mix things up and make something new. Both we and our TAFES friends will be changed in the process.

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#### **Example: evangelism**

There had been a discussion among the TAFES staff about the need for an evangelism manual. Evangelism here is typically a matter of door knocking and big rallies, an occasional event. There was already a resource on the shelves, written by another missionary over a decade ago. It had stayed on the shelf, never making it onto campus. It involved three sessions of teaching from the front: finding your evangelism style, the content of the gospel, and building friendships. It was the kind of training the board member had said they didn't need more of.

Arthur thought he had a way: a Bible-based group experience. Yet, the doctrinal or exegetical Bible studies of Australian campus ministry don't get much traction in Tanzania. He needed to come up with something different, something more reflective of how he had been changed by the Tanzanian context. He wrote 'Ten Gifts for Campus Evangelism', a spiritual gifts inventory that takes one Bible figure as an example of each gift.

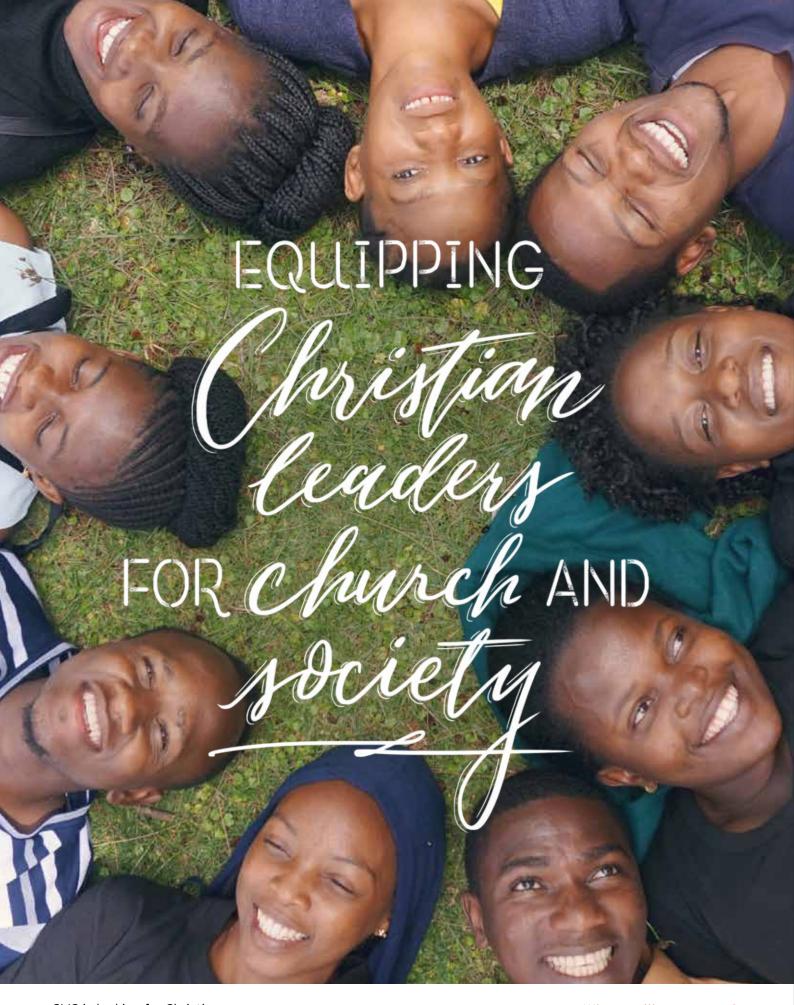
Still, there was something recognisably Australian about this resource: its focus on individual giftedness was different to the standard in Tanzania, which is doing what someone else, or the group, expects you to do. Would this be appropriate for the Tanzanian context? As Arthur trialed it with the staff team and asked for their input, it became clear that this more individual-oriented thinking is also much sought after, because the TAFES vision is not to generally equip Christian leaders so much as to equip Christian global citizens for urban life. At the same time, they fed back to him changes that were needed: the word Arthur used for one of the gifts had unintended sexual connotations; a 'personal reflection' would not make sense to people whereas a 'self-evaluation' would.

Key to its success was that this was not 'training' handed on from one individual to be taken up by another individual. It was a collaborative effort and designed for students on campus to work through together. When it came time to launch the resource, Arthur was not even there: he entrusted it to three staff workers he had been coaching, and they workshopped it with students at the national conference. It was no longer Arthur's: it belonged to all of TAFES, because they had all been involved in its creation.

You can see the text of 'Ten Gifts for Evangelism at Arthur's blog, here: cms.org.au/ten-gift-evangelism



Pray that God will grant wisdom to CMS missionaries seeking not to download 'trainings', but to work alongside those on location in careful and creative ways.



CMS is looking for Christians who will serve across cultures.

Where will you serve? cms.org.au/opportunities





CMS missionary **Norm Gorrie (serving with Janelle)** was invited by the Kenyan Diocese of Marsabit to be Director of Training and Mission. It is a privilege and responsibility that now sees him working both with enthusiastic Christians and, further to the north, amongst hostile Muslims. So how can they train gospel leaders?

As you travel north from Nairobi, you pass Mount Kenya and arrive at Isiolo, in many ways entering completely different territory. Islam dominates the worldview of the vast majority. Islam as practised here is openly hostile to the gospel. Christians are attacked on basic questions: Is the Bible reliable? Did Jesus rise from death?

Janelle and I work here, in the diocese of Marsabit. It is a corridor stretching from Isiolo in the south to Moyale in the north. Moyale is very Muslim, with all the challenges and insecurity of a border centre. Yet here we are blessed with wonderful brothers and sisters who are responsible to pastor churches, coordinate youth and women's ministry, work as evangelists and so on.

However, pastors are trained away from the north in theological colleges down country. Despite three or four years of training, they can feel a deep disconnect between what is taught, and the skills and knowledge they need for ministry. One man, having obtained his theological qualification, proudly burnt his years of lecture notes! He did not see they would be of any value for the ministry he was headed for.

It is one thing to run Sunday services and other regular church programmes; quite another to go to Muslims and make them disciples of Christ who in turn can go and make disciples. But in our context, that is exactly the job. As leader of Christ's people you will either be leading your congregation to be intimidated, or leading them to stand strong for Christ.

In saying this I am not blaming theological colleges, which are under pressure to push people through set teachings with huge budget constraints. They will not always have in mind a student who will go to a remote centre in north Kenya to plant a church. Those leading God's people need

a robust theology which comes from being deeply taught in the word of God.

But alongside this, leaders must be taught to understand and rebuff current attacks on Christianity, be it from liberalism or Islam or traditional African religion or your deliverance 'name it and claim it' preachers.

CMS believes in sending people to work under and in partnership with the local church. It is a privilege and responsibility to have been invited to minister here as Director of Mission. I thank God for the brothers and sisters here in the north who have taught, rebuked, corrected and encouraged me as they too build God's people up in the faith of the gospel.

Most of the time, they do that not in a safe class room but out in the field—be it as we minister to refugees fleeing violence, or as they model to me how to minister the risen Christ to those plagued by demonic forces. They have taught us to find contentment in Christ, despite not knowing where their next meal will come from or how they are going to educate their kids. So we believe and see that the most effective training for all is a solid theological grounding that finds daily expression in the challenge and opposition of working amongst Muslims and non-Christian neighbours.

This is the shorter version of an inspiring couple of articles by Norm & Janelle Gorrie that you can now find online at cms.org.au/Kenya-training-gorries





CMS is always looking for people who will act as specific advocates for CMS missionaries within their own local churches, passing on prayer points and informing congregations. If you think you could do this job, contact your local branch.





CMS missionaries **Joel & Tiff Atwood**, serving in Vanuatu, faced the challenge of providing training for a student group that was initially pushed to scrap Bible teaching. How did they navigate cultural difficulties to help leaders think differently?

The last few years has been full of new things. It feels like we're always exploring new territory and scrambling for new ways to train those God has entrusted to us. Here are two examples.

#### Tupou the leader

It was a new thing to look around the room two years ago and realise that maybe two of eight student leaders actually grasped the gospel. It became more novel for us when Tupou\*, a student recently strong-armed into leadership, actively pushed to scrap our weekly Bible meeting in favour of mentoring sessions for university subjects. It seemed that a loud voice, a strong personality, and vaguely consistent attendance was greater qualification for leadership than beliefs, character, or even willingness to lead!

At the end of that first year, the ministry felt at the point of extinction. So we gathered the leaders who remained, and pushed the reset button to begin rethinking things from scratch. With trepidation we suggested we commit to only two regular things each week: small groups, and weekly leadership time. We would spend three hours every Saturday preparing the passage for the next small group. Just as importantly, our time was a chance to explore how Jesus' gospel of salvation works itself out in every part of our life.

Our Saturday SALT gatherings (called 'SALT', to 'season' our leaders) took a while to find their feet. We tried to work out exactly how far back in explaining gospel understanding we needed to go. In the end we spent half our time preparing next week's passage (with coffee and lunch, because how can you be together without food?), and the other half looking at different parts of the gospel story (what Jesus did, how the whole Bible tells his story), and how that touches different parts of life.

It's not only that this was the first time anyone had walked most of these guys through the story of Jesus. It was the first time anyone had walked them through anything.

SALT is still pretty wild. Our wanderings in foundational theology last semester revealed a frankly bewildering set of cultural, denominational, and...well...peculiar differences in thinking and practice that we're still unpicking. But soaking in the good news of Jesus week after week after week has been the greatest training we could have hoped for. Here's Tupou again:

"I've realised that my whole life had always been about me and what I want... but it was never about God. The last two years have shown me that it is 'for in Him all things were created ... all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Col 1:16-17) I now try to live a life that is in Christ through Christ and for Christ and making him hold my life together. You see if he is the one holding the universe together I sooo want Him to be the holding my life together."

#### Joel F the ministry trainee

The second 'new thing' has broken new ground not only for our ministry but for Vanuatu. Joel F is a brilliant student from the Solomon Islands who graduated in Law last year. He was offered several scholarships to pursue his Masters in Vanuatu, NZ, or Australia. Instead, he's pressed pause on his legal career to be our first *Stamba* trainee. *Stamba* is the Bislama word for 'tree stump' and, by extension, 'foundation'. It's our Pacific take on ministry apprenticeship, a year to explore gospel ministry by doing it alongside someone who's used to making mistakes in it.



## Joel F. was offered several scholarships ... Instead, he's pressed pause on his legal career to be our first *Stamba* trainee.



Training in gospel ministry is a career path in itself in Vanuatu, usually for younger siblings who couldn't afford to make it to university, and are destined more for the village than the town. To divert from a high paying, influential, and status-heavy law career

to even glimpse at ministry is hard for people to get their heads around. But Joel F has broken new ground to show it can be done, and, in his words, 'must be done.' Like most ministry traineeships its strongly practical—Joel F regularly meets with 12 young men, leads our small groups, and increasingly leads our leaders in leading small groups. Of course, given our university, this gets interesting. Leadership spans three languages every week and often in every group. This makes planning and debriefing a novel experience of translation, back-translation, and crosschecking that we've both fully understood what happened and our reflections on it. We made the formal part of the training pretty heavy to fill in some of the theological gaps, and start developing a robust framework to take the gospel into legal academia in the future.

#### Women's ministry

Tiff has found a role here reading the Bible with young women in ministry. We asked Charlotte, director of Skripja Yunyon (Scripture Union) Vanuatu why she sought Tiff out.

#### Why did you ask Tiff to read the Bible with you?

**Charlotte:** I wanted to read the Bible with Tiff seeing it as a great opportunity to study the word of God with someone else and getting a deeper understanding of it.

#### What's something you've read with Tiff that has affected you?

C: One thing that has struck me the most reading Colossians 1:15-23—about Christ the firstborn over all creation, the head of the body, the church; and reconciliation through Christ: It highlights Christ's relationship with creation (we cannot take Jesus away from creation), the relationship between Christ and God (Jesus came to reconcile creation to the Father) and the relationship between Christ and us. Jesus is fully God and fully human. Wow!"



For more about the challenges faced in ministry amongst our near-neighbours, see this excellent article on perseverance by CMS missionary Keith Birchley in PNG. www.cms.org.au/perseverance-in-png



The Atwoods work in the Pacific region with tertiary students. There are openings for similar work in Fiji and other neighbouring countries for the right candidate. Could that be you? Contact your CMS branch for more details.





**Terry & Liz McCoy** are just finishing their formal service with CMS. Here Liz looks back on one aspect of their work with trauma amongst the Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory. At the same time CMS colleague **Kate Beer**, together with **Tavis**, admits that sometimes challenges will be easier to see than progress.

#### LIZ

When Terry and I arrived in Angurugu on Groote Eylandt in January 2012, we were struck by the trauma that people regularly experience in the community, and the need for the church to find a way to give pastoral care in this situation. Many were suffering with mental health problems without much support, and the wonderful clinic staff were often overstretched.

It was a privilege to be able to join the Aboriginal lay leader, Gayangwa Lalara, now ordained deacon, as she visited and prayed with people in her and their language. Those at the Aged Care Centre suffered from various diseases. Others were beginning a journey of following Christ as she visited them in their homes to take them through baptism classes. Gayangwa had once been professionally employed to work with those suffering from addictions. I learned much from her.

#### I witnessed the huge impact these students had...[they] were able to provide so much comfort and practical support in such a short time

When I returned to Darwin and started teaching Certificate IV courses in Pastoral Care at Nungalinya College to church leaders, it was good to be able to invite visiting speakers with expertise in various areas, including Indigenous staff from Anglicare, who gave a day's training on suicide prevention.

I witnessed the huge impact these students had when, after concentrated preparation time, they spent a day at Darwin hospital with the chaplains, visiting Aboriginal patients. Because of their language skills and relationships, they were able to provide so much comfort and practical support in such a short time.

On our return to live again in the remote community of Angurugu in September 2016, we trialled a version of some Christian courses produced by the American Bible Society called 'Healing the Wounds of Trauma, How the Church Can Help.' The course uses stories that present what the Bible and mental health principles teach about how people heal from trauma.

The material was always intended to be used locally by local leaders, so we were thrilled when one of the younger church leaders, Violet Huddleston from Bickerton Island, asked if she could train to run groups herself. She had completed the healing group with us and was convinced that this could really help to heal the heart wounds experienced by people in her community.

Violet and another church leader from a different community, Miriam Numamurdirdi, joined us for training at Nhulunbuy with Valarie Johnson, Wycliffe USA, who had trained us in Darwin. This year, with support from CMS missionary Kate Beer [see article facing], Violet and Miriam are running small healing groups in three different communities, for their people who live daily in the midst of trauma.



#### KATE

If I have learnt anything from the Territory, it is to hold lightly to whatever we expected.

Sometimes it works out better than I could have imagined! Just last week, a cyclone prevented me visiting one community as planned—but then the whole community was evacuated and I caught up with many of the church leaders at the airport while they waited to be loaded onto Air-Force cargo planes!

Sometimes though, our plans to provide training have been tragically derailed. And there are leaders I've invested in, but gospel fruit has not resulted as hoped.

I am not alone in the grief and questions stirred up by these situations. I recently spent two days sitting with two emerging church leaders, learning oral bible stories to share. All of a sudden one of these women asked "What about all the people who have been baptised, but then they go off gambling and using marijuana? Did they lie at their baptism, or what?" Training trainers involves hard conversations about painful realities.

To my eyes, sometimes our ministry seems so fragile... I am increasingly convicted that I was called to be faithful, not successful.

To my eyes, sometimes our ministry seems so fragile. Hundreds of hours of investing in a person can be so quickly derailed by ill-health, funerals, a series of family crises or a conflict that wipes that person out of ministry. But "should we accept good from God, and not trouble?" (Job 2:10). The Lord Jesus also faced the pain of disciples who fell away.

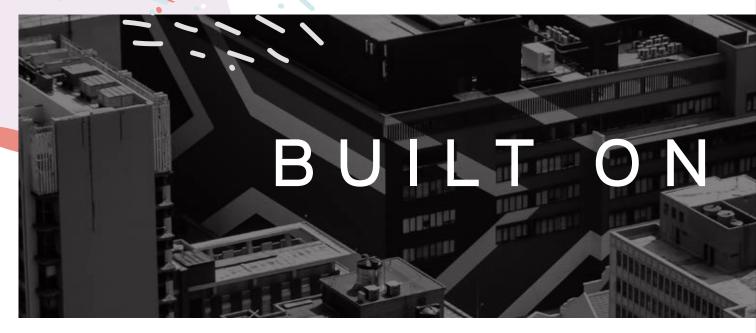
In missionary circles, we sometimes speak with such admiration about the faithful obedience and nobility of missionaries who served in apparently fruitless labour. Of course, new missionaries never aspire to join their ranks! Or if they do, perhaps they imagine people like Dr William Leslie—who spent 17 years in DR Congo in apparently fruitless ministry, but which was later revealed as having had an enormous impact.

Sometimes we hear of missionaries returning from other countries with encouraging stories of how they have been able to build and leave thriving ministries. It is so inspiring and we want to do ourselves out of a job, just like they did! But we are working in a field where there are many 'thorns'. We know we are in a very real and tangible spiritual battle. And, Jesus actually told us to expect that of all the gospel seed we scatter, three quarters of it will fall on soil that for whatever reason, cannot produce fruit.

When the disciples returned to Jesus from their mission trip in Luke 10, they want to focus on their visible success. But Jesus tells them instead to rejoice that their names are written in the book of life. So I am increasingly convicted that I was called to be faithful, not successful. My role is to do my best to present myself as to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, and who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15). Will you keep praying for missionaries like me? That we will continue to strive with all our God-given resources to train those who will train others? May God's word accomplish God's desire and achieve the purpose for which it was sent.



Although the McCoys have finished their service with CMS in North Australia, new CMS missionaries like Matt and Lisa Pearson have gone to serve in the same region. You can go to the CMS website and support this ministry now at **give.cms.org.au** 





In this interview, CMS missionary **Kylie Zietsch**, who trains and mentors students at Johannesburg Bible College (JBC) South Africa, speaks to students Nhlanhla Zwane and Khanyi Mhlanga about their growing respect for and joy in the word of God.

#### What is the biggest thing you have learnt at JBC?

**Khanyi:** For me, though it may sound like a cliché for JBC, I truly discovered who Christ is, what he has done and what he means to me. My highlight was learning that Christ is God in flesh. That just blew me away.

My time at JBC changed my understanding of the whole Bible. Before, my experience with Christ had been going through the emotions. If anyone asked me what the gospel was... I knew it was good news and that we needed to live moral lives but Christ being the centre of the gospel was not quite clear to me.

Now, I can preach Christ and conduct a Bible study teaching Christ to people, things I never would have been able to do by myself, at least not the proper way.

**Nhlanhla:** There are a lot of things I have learnt and am still learning at JBC. But the question is, "what is the biggest?" In response to this I would have to say it is to respect the word of God.

When I came to JBC, I realised in hindsight that I was a motivational speaker more than a teacher of the word. I thrived on entertaining people with my ability to speak, and never respected the text of the Bible. I would preach from any text and bring in my own convictions in my presentation. JBC has taught me how to respect the text and be faithful in presenting and teaching it.

#### How has it helped your ministry?

**K:** When I came to JBC, I had stepped back from serving because of the longing and emptiness I felt while seeking to know more of Christ. Thinking back now, my time serving

was not fruitful. I was just fulfilling my obligations as a member of a church, like working to survive in a secular job. It had nothing to do with my service being a vehicle for God's Kingdom.

My time as an apprentice at JBC is so fulfilling because I am being fed spiritually while I learn to teach the word. Now I am excited to learn more about Christ and to share him with others.

#### My time serving was not fruitful... [It was] like working to survive in a secular job.

N: I am leading a two-year-old church called Family Life Restoration Church. When we started, we built on our enthusiasm and we discovered very early on in the ministry that enthusiasm would only get us so far. We realized that we needed training and JBC was the answer. Our Sunday services have changed a lot, we have moved from thumbsucking messages every Saturday evening to preparing our sermons from the bible and spending at least a minimum of 20 hours preparing a sermon and practicing it before we present it.

Now, members of the congregation are confessing their new love for the word of God and others are seeing their attitudes and characters taking shape. We trust that if we continue in this route, we will have a congregation that is built on God's word rather than our own convictions.



#### What is the best thing about knowing Christ?

**K:** Just knowing that he is in me makes my life full and more purposeful. Now I can show love, give hope to others, and be a community with other citizens of heaven. I look forward to more in life, not just for myself but also in serving others.

**N:** Everything! Knowing Christ helps me to know that though I am a sinner, I am accepted and loved by God. If the whole world knew this, we would all be rushing to be saved.

### Now we spend a minimum of 20 hours preparing a sermon and practicing it before we present it.

#### What are you praying for the Church in South Africa?

**K:** Pray that the word may be preached faithfully, and that only Christ is preached. Pray that men and women of God may seek to be educated to preach the word in context and not distort the message just to siphon more tithes from congregants.

Pray that there would be unity among the many denominations, so that we can build each other up, be an example to the whole country, and educate each other on putting Christ at the centre of not only the gospel but of life itself.

**N:** I am praying for the new reformation, that God may bring about the great revival.

I have realized through studying with JBC that we have many church buildings and places of worship, but we have few CHURCHES. Churches have been slowly invaded by false teachings, the few that are dedicated to faithfully preaching the gospel are limited in number and under resourced. Institutions like JBC equip these church leaders and my prayer is for God to give these faithful churches boldness to spread the word.



More news from Africa: CMS missionaries work in DR Congo, involved in training of another sort. Read the exciting story of the DRC dentist they trained, who just received an honorary doctorate from the University of Sydney.

See cms.org.au/toulmins-trained-dentist



Thank God for raising up humble local students in South Africa who are prepared to submit their lives to God's word.





CMS has now had several decades worth of involvement in mission in French university ministry, with an ongoing focus through the *Relais* programme on training leaders who will train others. CMS missionary **Caroline Evenden** gives a sense of how gospel growth will continue through locals even after some of those long-term CMS workers have departed.

In the context of long-term mission in France, it has been wonderful to discover and be involved in actual personal examples of how the gospel is passed down from generation to generation.

In my time as part of the French university ministry *Groupes Bibliques Universitaire* (GBU), I've discovered numerous two-and three-generation examples of passing on the gospel in student ministry.

- Former CMS missionary Libby Leach trained Marion.
   Marion then trained Laetitia, who is now the national coordinator for many high school bible groups in the organisation GBL.
- Yohann trained Mickaël. Mickaël is currently training Mikaël in his second year of Relais in Clermond-Ferrand.
- Paul & Sandra King (also previously CMS missionaries) trained Isabelle in Strasbourg. Isabelle then trained Timothée last year in Nancy. This year Timothée is in his second year, working with Emmanuelle in the Mediterranean region. At the beginning of the new uni year in September, Timothée will replace Emmanuelle as regional coordinater.

Since its beginnings in 2001, God has continued to use GBU France's training programme *Relais* to raise up full-time ministers of the gospel. Begun while the first CMS missionaries were here, the *Relais* is now coordinated by Emmanuelle, with CMS missionary Daniel Morris helping with a lot of the administration of the programme. Fifty-four young French men and women have completed the first year of *Relais*, and ten of them did a second year. Before joining the GBU staff team, most of my colleagues were *Relais* trainees. A few other trainees went on to church based ministry in

France, and many are working in their professions, better equipped to follow Jesus and proclaim the good news.

#### Meet Joanna

This year I have the privilege of walking alongside Joanna in her first year of *Relais* in Toulouse. Joanna grew up in Tours and last year completed her Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts there. Throughout her five years as a uni student she was involved with the GBU, first as a bible study group leader and then as the regional student leader. She says "the GBU motivated me to read my Bible more and grow in my relationship with God. The various responsibilities entrusted to me helped me mature personally and spiritually. I decided to do *Relais* to give back a bit of what I learnt as a student, to be involved in the GBU longer and be trained in ministry."

Joanna and I had met each other briefly once or twice at national GBU meetings before she moved to Toulouse in August 2018. Our weekly Tuesday meetings including lunch, at my place or hers—and occasionally trying out a new café for the lunch part—have provided lots of opportunity to share life and ministry. In line with Paul's letters to Timothy, in the *Relais* programme we want trainees to grow in Christian character and conviction based on God's word. We also want to give them lots of opportunities as the year goes on, to grow in their ministry skills. In other words we pray to see growth in Christian conviction, character, competence; you might say we are looking for 'head, heart, and hands' working together.

Joanna is very disciplined in reading the Bible each day. One of the things we've been focussing on as we read together is taking the time to think about how the passage applies to our lives in concrete ways, so that it doesn't remain only at an





#### we pray to see growth in Christian conviction, character, and competence

intellectual level. It's exciting for her and me to see God's Spirit at work growing her in particular aspects of her character and convictions. These are things that she'd identified, in our first couple of meetings together, as things she wanted to grow in. We also spend time praying for the students, praying for each other, preparing for what's coming up in the GBU.

Amongst other goals for her *Relais* year, we decided on some ministry skills that would be good for Joanna to learn for the first time via a workshop at the regional weekend away. Teaching students to prepare and lead bible studies. GBU advertising stands on campus—not her favourite thing, but as she says "I'm now less afraid of this way of doing evangelism... and it's great seeing how God uses it in people's lives!". This semester she's learning more about delegation as she leads a team of students organising a couple of *Veritas* evenings (evangelistic dialogue meetings). She is loving seeing God at work in the lives of Marie and Lisa as she meets with them one-to-one.

Like all *Relais* trainees, Joanna dedicates a day a week to studying theology. There are no colleges close enough to attend classes, so she sets aside Thursdays to do the distance programme at her own pace through Vaux-sur-Seine, an evangelical theological college near Paris. She studied Jeremiah in first semester, and the Gospels this semester. In February she did a two week residential intensive at Vaux. She's loving being stretched theologically, and growing in knowledge and love of God and his word through it all.

#### What's next?

In these last few months of her first *Relais* year, the focus of the programme I'll tailor for Joanna has become pointier. Why? Because after prayer and in discussion with the GBU leadership, Joanna has made the decision to do the second year of the traineeship, with a view to being the next South-West regional coordinator from September 2020! Together we'll do the first few months of her second year of *Relais* before I return to Australia in late November. The rest of the year,

Mickaël will train Joanna from where he lives in Clermond-Ferrand, and we'll find someone in Toulouse for her to meet with to read God's word and pray. Please ask God to provide the right woman for this pastoral responsibility in Joanna's continuing journey towards full time ministry with the GBU.

I wonder who Joanna may go on to train in years to come? And Timothée in the Mediterranean region? And Emmanuelle in her new role as local staffworker in Strasbourg? Who will be the 4th generation *Relais*-trained GBU staffworkers who in their turn entrust what they've learned to a 5th generation? God is faithful in raising up workers for his harvest field, from one generation to the next, for a France that knows Jesus.





Europe is gospel-poor, which is a major reason why CMS sends missionaries there. But the cost of living is high, and so we need generous donors to support the ministry there. Will you be one of them?

Go to give.cms.org.au to help.

### BIG PICTURE PEOPLE



CMS missionaries **Adrian and Anita Lovell** taught Nataly and Noemy, Peruvian Christians, a Bible overview course. Nataly and Noemy taught what they had learned to others in their church in Bolivia, with exciting results.

Peruvians Nataly and Noemy knew their Bible stories well. They'd been reading and teaching those Bible stories for years. But in 2015 they began studying MOCLAM's first subject<sup>1</sup>, 'Creation to New Creation' and they were very nervous. The course would cover the whole Bible in four full days of classes!

But as they sat in the classes and read the material, they began to see the Bible stories they knew so well in a different light. They started to grasp what it means to see that Jesus is the key to interpreting each Bible story. In other words, they started to understand biblical theology. Although they knew their Bible stories well, they had come to realise they needed to know their Bibles better!

...they began to see the Bible stories they knew so well in a different light. They started to grasp what it means to see that Jesus is the key to interpreting each Bible story.

Nataly says, "The ministry of MOCLAM has had a huge impact on me by showing me that all of God's promises are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, from start to finish".

Last year, Nataly and Noemy were serving in a church in Cochabamba, Bolivia as part of the practical component of their missionary training. As they got to know the congregation, they saw a huge need for people to understand God's salvation plan as revealed in the whole Bible. So they approached Adrian and Anita about using 'Creation to New Creation' as the basis for some training at the church. After discussing possible approaches and borrowing visual aids and teaching notes, Nataly and Noemy began to teach a group of young people at their church.

They did a great job teaching others the same things that have clearly had a big impact on them. One of us (Adrian) went along to the final night to share more about MOCLAM, and three people have now expressed interest in studying the same course, including the pastor! It has been exciting to see those we've taught take what they've learnt and share it with a new group of believers.

Nataly and Noemy are graduating from the mission training program now. Over the past three years they have completed the first six MOCLAM subjects on offer. They now hope to continue studying with MOCLAM alongside their university studies over the coming years. Nataly will be studying medicine, hoping then to serve amongst Muslim women. Noemy is studying linguistics and literature so she can do Bible translation. Who will these faithful teachers now train to teach others?



CMS has a longstanding and active role in partnering with the Anglican Church in South America. CMS missionary Frances Cook writes about our long-term commitment to theological education through CEP in Chile. www.cms.org/theological-training-chile



Long-term mission requires a stable and predictable budget, which in turn relies on individuals becoming regular rather than sporadic givers. Could you become a regular giver?

### GIVING thanks TO GOD



#### MARGARET BUTLER

We praise the Lord for the life of Margaret Butler, who died on Monday 25 February, aged 85. Her husband, Barry, had died on 11 January. Together they had served the

Lord in the fellowship of CMS in North Australia since their marriage in 1956. Joshua Kuswadi, their pastor in Darwin, wrote that Margaret "died peacefully in the early hours of Monday morning. We can give thanks to God for his compassion that her death was as she hoped, in her sleep without pain. Please pray for her children, Kathy, Lynne and Peter, and the extended family and friends. Pray for God's comfort and peace. Give thanks for Margaret's life, for God's faithfulness to her, for her trust in Jesus as her Lord and Saviour, and for her love for Barry, family and friends." Praise to the Lord for Barry and Margaret Butler!

#### ALWYNE COSTER

We thank God for the life of Dr Alwyne Coster, who died in Sydney on 14 April, aged 90. Alwyne served the Lord as a medical doctor with CMSA in Pakistan from 1957-65. In Pakistan she developed preventive and therapeutic health care programs for women and children. Alwyne aimed to make her life and work an expression of her love for God and for people. Much of her work was with women of other cultures and with university and college students whom she came to respect and love. Her own philosophy of life was rooted in Christianity. Alwyne was a wonderfully caring friend and support to Frances Boland through her years with CMS in Japan. After her ministry in Pakistan, Alwyne served in medical education and in teaching students in Deaconess House and the Church Army Training College. We praise God for her life and that she has entered fully into the joy of her Lord, and we pray for all in her circles of friends and family.



#### **BOOK REVIEW**

MINISTERING CROSS-CULTURALLY BY SHERWOOD G. LINGENFELTER AND MARVIN K. MAYERS. 3RD EDITION. GRAND RAPIDS: BAKER ACADEMIC, 2016.

Review by Gordon Cheng, Writer/ Editor at CMS Australia

This brief, easy-to-read book is subtitled 'A model for effective personal relationships' and draws heavily on the mission experience of Lingenfelter (the primary author) and others.

The aim of this book, which is both liberally illustrated with personal anecdotes and academically well-grounded, is "to help readers gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the people with whom they live, and in the process to help them experience a deeper relationship with God and a more fruitful life of love and ministry." The ideas are thoroughly applicable to mission contexts or even to workplaces or local Australian communities where people from different cultures spend time interacting.

In a typical section, Lingenfelter spring-boards out of a story where a veteran missionary caused deep embarrassment by ringing the church bell at a Yap Evangelical Church. She'd done so in order to terminate a meeting that had gone overtime, and so was holding up (she believed) the next congregation. The subsequent discussion covers a variety of cultural understandings and suggests wise ways of thinking biblically about the way we view time.

This same approach is applied through the rest of the book. A problem is examined and summarised from differing cultural perspectives, and Lingenfelter indicates parts of the ministry and teaching of Jesus that may have bearing on how the question is viewed.

Does one serious sin exclude a person from ministry, or should the whole of a person's life and family background be given weight when giving an assessment? What about when a typhoon warning is current for the island where the missionary lives? Should people prepare and flee, or should they only respond if and when crisis hits? What about tasks like building or repairing a house? Should they be tied to achieving a specific goal in a specific time? Or is it more important to value the relationship and so waste valuable hours that could have been spent getting the job done, and done well. Or is it acceptable to have significant mistakes in a job, if only to communicate to the one making mistakes that their contribution is valuable and they matter as people?

One interesting aspect of this third edition is that Lingenfelter has changed his view of culture and now believes that it is no more morally neutral than the individuals within it.

This book is used in a number of different Bible and Missions courses around Australia, and is recommended by mission thinkers such as CMS International Director Peter Rodgers, and former CMS missionary Simon Gillham, head of mission at Moore College.

#### **NEWS**

It is with mixed joy and sadness that we share with you that Malcolm Richards will be resigning from his role

as General Secretary of CMS NSW & ACT on 30 June.

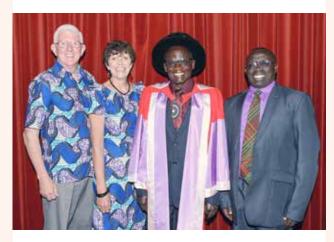
Malcolm has been the General Secretary of CMS NSW & ACT since May 2011. As General Secretary, he has led with distinction and contributed to the greater CMS Fellowship both as a Director of CMS Australia and the Branch.

The Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Rev Dr Glenn Davies, has invited Malcolm Richards to be an Assistant Bishop in Sydney Diocese with the role of International Relations. Malcolm has also been appointed as Director of the Centre for Global Mission at Moore Theological College.

Please join us in congratulating Malcolm on this honour and thanking him for his contribution to the life of CMS NSW & ACT and CMS Australia. Please pray for God's provision for a replacement for Malcolm, and for the branch staff as they continue to work towards *a world that knows Jesus*.

Wadebho William Alimani was awarded with an honorary degree of Doctor of Dental Science from Sydney

University for his work as a dentist in the Democratic Republic of Congo. William was trained by Graham and Wendy Toulmin (Day 6 in the CMS Prayer Diary), and is now the leading oral surgeon in the eastern side of the DRC.



Graham and Wendy Toulmin with Wadhebo William Alimani and Oscar Mandela.

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**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.

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