

# Pulse Magazine

June 2017



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*Pulse is the voice of CRC Missions International*

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Welcome to our second edition of Pulse Magazine for 2017.

Included in this issue of Pulse is a report of Wally and Leona Grant who have gone to Papua New Guinea as missionaries for an initial commitment of three years. It is great to see them step out into new things for God. Please pray for them as they settle into life at Bethel Centre.

Also included in this edition are updates on Vanuatu, Myanmar, England, Poland and the USA. It is exciting to hear about what God is doing in these nations.

As you read through these accounts and updates on a selection of our CRC fields, I hope you gain inspiration from all of the new and exciting initiatives our CRC folk around the world are undertaking.

I encourage everyone to become involved in our international mission fields in some way, whether this be through going on missions trips, by donating money to CRC Missions, or simply through praying for those who are working in and travelling to our international fields.

**Mikaela Groom**  
Editor of Pulse

*If you would like a printed copy of Pulse, they are available via the CRC missions office at \$1.20 each plus postage.*



## From the Australian Missions Director

**PS MIKE CRONIN**

The CRC International Vision of a presence in every nation by 2045 is progressively being fulfilled. As somebody commented to me recently, this vision initially seemed unrealistic but now seems highly possible to be accomplished as we continue to expand into new nations.

In Luke 10:2-3 Jesus says 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field. Go! I am sending you out'.

The nations are waiting for the harvesters. Our role is first to pray and then to GO. This stretches our

resources, but when Jesus sent out His disciples He sent them with few natural resources but with plenty of divine ability to drive out demons, heal the sick and preach the Kingdom of God (Luke 9:1-6).

This issue of Pulse highlights a number of nations where boundaries are being pushed as CRC ministers obey the call of Jesus to Go.

Beyond the nations highlighted in this issue of Pulse, Ps Bill Vasilakis, Australia's National Chairman of the CRC Churches International has recently ministered in Greece and Romania where there are now great opportunities to work with others for the expansion of the Kingdom of God. You can be part of this expansion by praying and going or by giving to enable others to go.

# Wally and Leona Grant in PNG

Wally and Leona Grant have lived, worked and fellowshiped around the Swan Hill (Victoria) region for the past 14 years. Their home church is Swan Hill Christian Centre.

Wally is originally from Bushy Park, Tasmania and he is one of eight children. Leona is from Lake Boga, Victoria and has four siblings.

Leona accepted Jesus into her life in July 2000 and Wally accepted Jesus into his life a couple of years later in August 2002.

They were married in October 2003

and have lived in Lake Boga until they moved to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG) in April this year.

Prior to Wally and Leona leaving Swan Hill, Wally had his own painting business and Leona worked with Son Centre Christian College as their Business Administrator (finance).

They both believed they would not be in Swan Hill forever and that God would call them out at some stage. It was towards the end of 2015 that they really sensed the call of God on their lives.

Leona saw a position advertised for a Finance Manager at Bethel Centre in Port Moresby, PNG. They spent time praying about this position, spoke to the relevant people and then did a scouting exercise in September 2016.

*'After meeting the people and spending time at Bethel we were convinced that this was God's call for us. We are passionate about our local church and the work in Swan Hill, however, we believed that God was starting a new chapter in our lives and was calling us overseas to continue the work that He had equipped us for'.*

Leona has now commenced work within the finance role and is

working alongside two other ladies. There is plenty of training to take place within this role: finance, general data entry, computer skills and general office practices.

Wally has started working with the maintenance team in Bethel Centre. He has already completed his first project which was to build a bridge over the drain that runs through the property. The drain is about six metres wide, so it was a substantial bridge. Wally will also be training others in painting, maintenance and building.

This is a long-term mission commitment and Wally and Leona have committed for an initial period of three years.



Wally and Leona Grant



Missions Festival held on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May



World Missions Faith Training School



Willy Malon, Ps John and Unuba Weimani



Ps Remy and Lorene Adams



Preschool in Port Vila

# Report on the CRC in Vanuatu

## PS GREG CHROME

It is a joy to work as a CRC Field Supporter in Vanuatu. I have worked closely with Ps Remy Adams, the CRC Churches' National Chairman in facilitating ministry and projects to aid the development of CRC churches and associated works.

In my role I work under the guidance of Ps Barry Silverback, whose passion, gifting, and experience is invaluable.

Here is an overview of some of the exciting things happening in the Vanuatu scene.

**Churches:** The CRC Vision in Vanuatu is to have a church in each of the six provinces by 2020.

There are churches in the following provinces: *Shefa* (Efate Island - Port Vila, Emau Island); *Malampa* (Malekula Island); *Sanma* (Port Orly outreach church, Santo Island), and one recent church plant in *Tafea* on the Vulcano Island of Tanna (also famous for its outstanding coffee!).

Pray for church plants in *Torba* (Torres and Banks Islands area in the north), and *Pename* (Pentecost Island area in the North East).

Every year there are testimonies of people coming to faith in Christ, baptisms, and healing through the outreach and ministry of these churches. The Port Vila church conducts ministry into the prison and hospital, runs small crusades and outreaches, and is involved in inter-church events such as a Crusade in Port Vila late 2016 which saw many come to Christ.

**Preschools:** There are two CRC preschools in Vanuatu. One is in Ps Remy's home church in Port Vila and the other is in Eratap about 30 minutes drive from Port Vila. It is home to a new building which replaced one destroyed by Cyclone Pam in 2015. Some Australians have assisted in training teachers and there is a training initiative underway with CRC Fiji helping.

**Training:** In Port Vila, the Door Stop Bible School is an in-house course and each year people are trained and disciplined through it.

On the Island of Santo there is a beautiful property owned by CRC Vanuatu which is home to the World Missions Faith Training School (Formerly John William Bible School). Missionaries from PNG, Ps John and Unuba Weimani, arrived in January for John to take up the School Principal role. They are assisted by Ps Willy Malon,

who has served as an assistant for several years. Students are trained for one year then placed where they will serve best, either in their home church or elsewhere.

**Relief Work:** Many people will remember the devastating Cyclone Pam of 2015. I visited only days after it hit and I have never seen such devastation as in some areas. Emau Island, for example, was totally stripped of trees and vegetation and many buildings with destroyed. Through the efforts of many organisations, including CRC Churches International, much rebuilding has been done in affected areas.

**Supporting Ministry:** It has been a joy to see some CRC Australians and people from CRC Churches in other nations including Fiji, Solomon Islands, PNG, and NZ travel to Vanuatu to assist Ps Remy and the people there. Thank you to all who have contributed so much.

There is much more that could be said, but please pray for Ps Remy and Lorene Adams, pastors and families, churches, preschools and training efforts. They need our love and support to help them reach their visionary goals and to see the mission of Jesus prospering in Vanuatu and beyond.

# Mission in Myanmar

**PS DAVID BLAND**

My journey to Myanmar in May this year was my third trip to the country and by far the wettest!

Our church, The Hills Christian Family Centre, located near the Adelaide suburb of Blackwood, has supported ministry in Myanmar (formerly Burma) for many years and so when I took over as Lead Pastor in August 2015 I headed off to find out more.

One of my main tasks during each of my trips has been to teach in the Evangelism and Discipleship Training School (EDTS). This has

been organised by the CRC since 2007 in the regions around the well-known city of Mandalay. This year was the thirteenth time the school has been held (there were two in 2012 and 2016) and it was a delight to see 42 students enrolled for the three-month live-in program supervised by a local team of four leaders.

Students come to these schools at various stages of their journey with Jesus. Some come from traditional or non-church backgrounds and many have heard very little of the

gospel message. It was a delight to see 19 students respond by being baptised in water while I was present, after being part of the school for about two months.

As is always the case in the developing world, obstacles to ministry can appear out of nowhere. After three days of fine weather and an evening meal enjoyed outside on a beautiful mild evening, we were engulfed by a wild storm with gale-force winds and torrential rain. This was then repeated the following night and continued into Sunday.

I was stranded in my hotel and power was cut to the area surrounding the EDTS. When I

finally made it to the Sunday service to preach, I discovered that no-one had eaten breakfast because of the power outage! The students looked very down and I could understand why – I love my breakfast!

After the service I enquired about the cost of a generator and was delighted to discover that it was exactly the amount in US dollars that I had yet to exchange for local currency. This money had come from our church's missions giving. The first two shops were sold out but the third had just the one we wanted - and we knew the Lord was in it because it was just the same colours as the t-shirts being used by the EDTS this year!



**Transport Myanmar-Style!**



**Baptising students at a local church**



**Torrential rain & storms in Myanmar**



**Generator means reliable power for EDTS**



John, Catherine and Poppy Warren

## Lighting Up the North of England

### PS JOHN WARREN

*John and Catherine Warren with their daughter Poppy moved to Halifax, England from Manningham Christian Centre, Melbourne with a very clear call of the Lord. This call was supported and encouraged by Ps Matthew Wyatt and the leadership of the church.*

*Ps Mike and Lois Cronin visited Halifax in May this year and enjoyed the vision and commitment of this thriving work of God.*

*Ps John shares here what is happening.*

It is now coming towards four years since we relocated to the UK.

We planted Northern Lights Church in Halifax, West Yorkshire in February 2014.

By God's grace many good things have happened, prayers have been answered and a new church family is being built.

Since the start of 2017 things have really stepped up.

This year we have had 10 baptisms and we are seeing 80 or so people on Sundays.

That's a touch too big for our current venue (which we love) so in the next month or two we will split our Sunday morning service which will take us through the next season of the church's development.

In addition to seeing God at work in our home town of Halifax we have stepped up our church planting efforts. We always wanted to be a church that plants churches.

As time has gone by God has expanded our vision and shown us that our mission – to light up the north of England for Christ – is right there in the name that he gave us – Northern Lights Church.

That has meant that we planted a campus church in Todmorden (population 20,000) in February.

We are gearing up to plant again in another nearby town Brighouse (population 30,000) in November this year.

We feel really honoured by some of the great people God has brought along to be a part of this work.

A few weeks ago we took a team of eight from our church to Moldova.

This is the fourth time that at least one of us has travelled to this nation.

On this trip we connected with some people who have built significant charity works which are along the lines of what we feel God has spoken to us about.

The need in Moldova, especially for care for children, is immense. Not so much because it is poor (by European standards) but because of the neglect and the corruption.

Fulfilling the will of God is an incredible ride. Some days you see God powerfully at work and you are exultant. Then the next day people you have loved leave the church for seemingly trivial reasons.

However, despite all of these things there is nothing we would rather be doing – the Psalmist says 'Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere'.

We would rather have one day here in Yorkshire than a thousand anywhere else!



**Catherine (right) with Charlotte, the first baby born in our church, and her proud mum Jean**



Renewing Festival in Wrocław, Poland



Pastor Bartek sharing the Gospel at Renewing Festival

## The Festival in Poland

### PS MIKE CRONIN

Poland is a country in which 87% of the population identify as Catholic, and only 0.4% identify as Protestant (Evangelical and Pentecostal).

My wife Lois and I have established strong relationships with a number of Pastors and churches with six visits to the country in the last eight years.

We have focused on the south of the country around Wrocław and Glogow.

This year in Wrocław, the fourth largest city in Poland with a

population of 640,000, we joined with approximately 50 Pentecostal, Evangelical and Catholic Charismatic churches and ministries in 'The Festival'.

This was a week of evangelistic activities in various parts of the city culminating in Freedom Square (a central city square) on the Saturday with about 2,500 people gathering at midday for powerful worship.

This period of worship was followed by all the Pastors (including Lois and I) gathering

together on the platform praying for the city.

In the beautiful, warm summer evening with daylight until after 9:00pm, about 5,000 people gathered that night for a Gospel concert.

The main group for the night was a very popular Polish Gospel group who delivered a powerful concert with a very clear God centred focus.

'The Festival' was the culmination of many months of building relationships between leaders and planning.

They have committed to present 'The Festival' each year for 5 years.

In Glogow three Pentecostal churches combined together again this year for four nights of midweek meetings and a combined church service for Pentecost Sunday.

There is great respect and cooperation between these churches, and Mike and Lois have found great response to the word of God amongst the people.

Out of 923 cities or towns in Poland there are 700 with no Pentecostal or Evangelical church.

The Polish Pentecostal movement now has a very purposeful vision to train church planters and reach these cities and towns.

This is a vision we fully support.

# Latest Trip to Walhalla, USA

**PS MIKE GROOM**

Earlier this year on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, my wife Kelly and I left for the USA. We had a number of things to attend to whilst we were there. This was Kelly's second visit to Walhalla, and for me it was like arriving home.

It was pleasing to see everyone again and to spend time with the Trustees, discussing many things. Kelly was able to assist in helping and advising Shannon, Vilmarie and Kaye with the financial reporting and monitoring of the ministry's finances as they come to the end of their financial year.

The church folk are in good spirits and they really do value our ongoing support of both the church and Faith Christian School. Even though we are on the other side of the globe from one another there is a unique bond between us.

Pastor Graeme and Moya Enright relocated back to Australia last year and we have been busy seeking out a new pastor for the work in Walhalla.

After a number of discussions with the Trustees it was my pleasure to be able to announce to the church

during the Sunday morning service on May 6<sup>th</sup>, that Pastor Warwick Hughes will be moving to Walhalla to be the new Pastor (see the adjacent column).

It was a delight for us to spend some quality time with Shaileigh Page, our Principal at Faith Christian School. Since Shaileigh has moved from our Sunrise Christian School in Whyalla, South Australia, she has done an outstanding job.

Shaileigh and her team are a wonderful, faithful team and, despite many challenges, their attitude and diligence to accomplishing what God has for the school is second to none.

The school has grown to the point that as trustees we have agreed for the school to use another building on the property as they prepare for a fresh intake of students when school commences again after the summer break.

Overall, this was a very successful trip which concluded with Kelly and I attending the two day DRIVE Conference at Andy Stanley's church in Atlanta.



## Ps Warwick and Omega Hughes

It is a pleasure to introduce Pastor Warwick and Omega Hughes who are in the process of gaining visas to the USA to take up the pastoral role at Faith Center Church.

Warwick, Omega, Jethro and Warwick Jnr live in Port Moresby, PNG in Bethel Centre. Warwick is a missionary from New Zealand and he has been in PNG since 1994. Both Warwick and Omega are integral to the ministry at Bethel Centre and both are valued leaders within the ministry there.

In February this year, the senior leadership at Bethel came to

our church in Adelaide where our Eldership, including Ps Barry Silverback, discussed the idea of Warwick being considered as the new Pastor at Faith Center Church in Walhalla.

We all felt in God that this was right and a great fit. Both Warwick and Omega have also confirmed the leading of the Lord in this next phase of their ministry.

We are now in the process of gaining the necessary visas for them and the raising of funds to be able to support them in the USA.

Everyone at Faith Center Church in Walhalla are very excited about the Hughes family relocating to South Carolina, USA.



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