



WORLDWIDE
CHURCH OF GOD

Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation

August 2009

Living and
sharing the
gospel



ACCM Pastoral Care Course



The ACCM is a major church instrument for training people in serving the church.

In Sydney, members of the pastoral team **Helen Callaghan**,

Robyn Pemberton and **Jim Thomas** are doing the ACCM Pastoral Care course.

Rod Dean is planning every two months on a Sunday to provide mentoring sessions based on discussions of material covered and practical applications in pastoral settings. **John Pemberton** and **Jeff Callaghan** will share the experience and **Mark Latham** will also join in discussion as part of his training for PNG.

The class has been designed to give instruction, experience and the opportunity to demonstrate competency, within the context of pastoral ministry.

Our distance-education students are mentored both by the ACCM lecturer and a "Local Coach."

In this case **Rod Dean** will serve as the "Local Coach." Rod will provide the student with real-life application advice and practice opportunities and share in his pastoral experience throughout the course.

Our goal is to grow more in to what **Elmer Colyer** said: *"The church ought to be such a profound community of love that when the world looks at the church, it sees manifest in our relationship with one another, something on the human level of the kind of love shared between the persons of the Trinity that we participate in because of the gospel."*

In the future we would like to encourage others to participate in different courses.



PNG Trip Report July 2009

Over the years we have been endeavouring to put together documentation that would create a record of the experience gained in the mission work in PNG. This would mean any new person in short-term mission going up could be brought up to speed with what has been learnt over the years and to know the work being done.

Kwan Borden on his first visit in July had several documents to digest and also opportunities to discuss realities with those who had been before.

The new documents are: **Protocols for Overseas Mission, PNG Strategic Plan, Cross Cultural Ministry for PNG and Information and Guidance for Travel to PNG.** All of these are continually updated and provide a major contribution to the future sustainability of the work up there. A big thanks to all who have contributed their experience over the years.



Kwan speaking to the Highland Church



Since it was Kwan's first trip to Papua New Guinea, a wonderful cultural welcoming ceremony in the highlands greeted him with traditional costumed dancing and song. The whole community embraced him and he was able to work with the youth in both the highlands as well as Port Moresby.

Church services were also held as well as a wonderful communion with each congregation. Community outreach and a meeting with Goroka Rotary opened the door for future co-operation. It is a small world because **Ken Slade's** cousin was also at the Rotary meeting in Goroka. Also in Goroka prayers were given for local people in the communities that were visited. A deep bond exists with the hotel staff and there is the potential for future prayer meetings to share the struggles of everyday life.

Getting to know the people was a highlight to Kwan as well as working on the church building at Mt Wilhelm. The trip also included purchasing a rainwater tank with Carepac funds and other building materials for the church building, a communal kitchen and building. A classroom building is planned, as well as a shower facility. A big thanks to all the local churches for their financial and spiritual support.

Kwan also enjoyed the difficult trip back from the remote highland village to Goroka. He will continue to work with the youth from PNG and looks forward to seeing them all again. Kwan deeply appreciated the experience of intense community, sacrificial giving and open hospitality he encountered in PNG. He said: *"It was very deepening. And very humbling."*

Mark Latham confirmed the objectives outlined in previous Newsletter were achieved. One of the most pleasing observations was the spiritual growth and the peacefulness of the church. While the infrastructure adds to the quality of life, the depth of understanding of the positive and inclusive theology of the church gives a distinct character to our people in their relationships with all they meet.

Papua New Guinea

Spanish Translation of ACCM Courses

John McLean was approached by **Hector Barrero**, Mission Developer for Latin America, with regard to making the ACCM courses available in his region in the Spanish language.



Hector Barrero

To this end, we have translated *Spiritual Formation* in Spanish, and *Christian Leadership* is currently being translated. The translator is one of our Latin American ministers, **David Agreda**. He does a fine translation job – and is a true, humble servant according to Hector and **Larry Hinkle**, a Spanish speaking US pastor. At present there is no money to pay him for this work.

One of the challenges with translating ACCM courses is sustainability. Paying David would really help make this project sustainable. We have the added bonus that both Hector and Larry are willing to “check” the translation for us.

Another challenge for sustainability is the matter of assessment. We will need someone who speaks Spanish to do this. The good news is that both Hector and Larry are willing – and keen – to do this. Larry is already one of the ACCM accredited teachers in the US. He is a former Spanish teacher, so knows a lot about teaching and assessment, and copyright, as well as Spanish. He speaks Spanish fluently.

Hector has asked if John will teach the courses (SF & CL) around the time of the International conference in the US. This way he can attend and be accredited as an ACCM teacher.

Already there are further opportunities developing with Spanish language courses. The US itself has a large Spanish-speaking population. Larry pastors in Florida, and has offered to teach a Spanish ACCM class connected to their Regional Conference.

Charles Fleming has made preliminary enquiries about using the Spanish language courses in the Caribbean.

So there is:

- (1) an immediate need for to pay the translator David;
- (2) the need to provide scholarships for the Latin American pastors to take the courses;
- (3) then we would be looking at ongoing costs for David to translate more classes and the accompanying workbooks.

After input from a number of people, it has been decided that in honour of our sister **Clare Brown**, from whose estate we received \$10,000, to put forth a proposal to pay for the translation of ACCM into Spanish and, as we receive specifics about scholarships and workbooks, provide a sustainable support for the ongoing training of Spanish speaking ministers throughout our church.

Tanzania & Bangladesh

Recently, it was reported that a church in Tanzania of almost 3,000 people with 31



pastors is in discussions with our Mission Developer in Africa, **Kalengule Kaoma**, about their relationship with the our denomination. Kalengule will be travelling to Tanzania in November for further talks. The Sydney congregation approached Kalengule through **Rod Matthews** to see if there were any needs for Swahili Bibles for the people in Tanzania.



A congregation in Tanzania

Kalengule was very appreciative of the offer, as there is a need in Tanzania and also in others of our churches in Africa. \$1,000 has been sent to him for this purpose. We received the following from Kalengule:

“Your collective concern for the Church in Africa is always a source of inspiration for me. Please pass my deepest thanks to the brethren who are contributing to the progress of the work in Africa. It is a good idea to have



Pastors and wives in Tanzania

the funds on hand. Our Tanzanian prospective members will be very appreciative of the Bibles. Other brethren will benefit from this donation as well.”



Another private donation of \$820 designated for the purchase of Bengali Bibles for the members in Bangladesh has also been sent to **John Biswas** for this purpose.

We are very comforted for the on going generosity of this region.

