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Checkpoint is published four times per year by the Church Missionary Society, a voluntary society within the Anglican Church of Australia.

Member of Australian Evangelical Alliance Inc.

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Editor: Ashleigh Hooker

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Cover photo: Corn harvest in Thailand

Photo: David Tucker

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Becoming a missionary

Recently *Checkpoint's* Graphic Designer, Bron and I noticed a picture of new CMS missionary Ans van der Zwaag in a 2002 issue of *Checkpoint*. When we showed Ans she told us that at the time she had been considering missionary service for some years. A friend of hers mentioned that her picture was in *Checkpoint* and when Ans saw herself on a page entitled 'How to

become a missionary' it nudged her to call her Branch General Secretary to make an appointment.

Bron and I were really encouraged. The issue had been about how to become a missionary and at the time we put it together we had prayed that God would use it to help people along in their journey and perhaps to help raise up missionaries. We hadn't imagined that this small photo would be important for someone and our prayers would be answered in this way.

We have been asked to compile another issue about becoming a missionary. Again it is our hope and prayer that the issue will be helpful – not just for those considering missionary service themselves, but also for those praying for God to raise up more missionaries and for those encouraging others to consider going.

In this issue Elspeth Carr writes about missionary training at St Andrew's Hall and David Crowe from Interserve talks about how a person thinking about serving cross-culturally should go about choosing an agency to work with.

Wendy Reed writes about language study and Judy Lund shares what it is like to return to cross-cultural service in her 60s. Currently-serving missionaries offer many practical tips for those considering going and Liz Burns compares her experience serving as a short-termer and then going back for the long-term.

Of course missionary service is not for everyone and there are good reasons for many people to stay in Australia. Sarah Bull tells the story of how she and her husband Peter were well down the track in preparing to go to Tanzania when circumstances intervened. Sarah writes about what happened when the door to missionary service closed and how she and Peter are now taking their place in God's world mission from Australia.

As you read this issue of *Checkpoint* please pray for God's wisdom for those people who are considering becoming missionaries and ask that the Lord will raise up more workers for his harvest.

Ashleigh Hooker

Federal Communications Officer



Simple toys: Helen and Raymond Howes took this picture while visiting missionaries in Tanzania last year. A number of the Tanzanian photos in this issue were taken by Helen and Raymond.