

CMS Australia — Vision 2012 Overview

1. CMS PURPOSE — *Why we exist*

As a fellowship of Christian people, CMS (the Church Missionary Society) exists to glorify God through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world.

2. CMS VISION — *Where we are going*

Our vision is to see God's Church growing in all the world as lives and communities are transformed by Christ.

3. CMS VALUES — *Who we are and what we care about*

- a) God's Word, the foundation of all we are and do — *the theological imperative*
- b) Our history which gives us identity and guidelines for service — *the guiding imperative*
- c) Ownership by the members of CMS — *the membership imperative*
- d) Working in fellowship with all our partners — *the collaboration imperative*
- e) Sending and supporting long-term missionaries — *the sending imperative*
- f) Faithful stewardship in the ministries to which God calls us — *the quality imperative*

4. CMS STRATEGIES — *The way we work*

- a) We educate and enable for world mission — *the sending partner strategy*
- b) We find, prepare and send people — *the missionary partner strategy*
- c) We develop partnerships with churches and Christian organisations around the world — *the receiving partner strategy*

5. CMS OBJECTIVES — *The things we are working towards*

- a) In order to make best use of our strengths and resources, we are placing people into mission partnerships, emphasising five strategic areas of ministry: Muslims, Students, Local church ministries, Leadership development and Holistic development.
- b) We pray and plan that by the year 2012, we will have increased our overall missionary numbers by 100, of whom 50 will be working in the Muslim world; and grow our membership base by 5000
- c) We are refining our governance structures to guarantee faithfulness to our Purpose, Vision and Values; and developing the management of CMS, striving for excellence in the delivery of Strategies and Objectives.

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3. CMS VALUES — *Who we are and what we care about*

a) God's Word, the foundation of all we are and do — *the theological imperative*

CMS is committed to the evangelical and reformed faith with the Scriptures as our final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. It is Christ, the focus of the Scriptures and God's Living Word, whom we proclaim.

b) Our history which gives us identity and guidelines for service — *the guiding imperative*

CMS was founded in 1799 as a voluntary self-governing Society of members within the reformed evangelical tradition of the Anglican Church, to send out Missionaries to proclaim the Gospel. Membership and the contribution of the members is through the Branches. The Federal Office of CMS helps facilitate the work of the Branches.

We value the original five Guiding Principles for service:

- 1) **Follow God's leading.**
- 2) **Begin in a small way.**
- 3) **Put money in second place, not first.**
- 4) **Under God, all will depend on the type of people sent forth.**
- 5) **Look for success only from the Spirit of God.**

c) Ownership by the members of CMS — *the membership imperative*

CMS members are committed to take part together in world mission and are the moral owners of the Society.

d) Working in fellowship with all our partners — *the collaboration imperative*

Collaboration is the basis of CMS operations, and so we value working together as members of Christ's body, where each contributes to the partnership according to what God supplies. This collaboration principle brings together:

- 1) **Sending/supporting partners** — individuals, churches and other groups who are committed to promoting world mission in partnership with CMS.
- 2) **Sent partners** — missionaries and volunteers sent by CMS.
- 3) **Receiving/deploying partners** — churches and Christian organisations that receive and deploy the missionaries.

e) Sending and supporting long-term missionaries — *the sending principle*

CMS values sending people, and the gifts and ministries they take into their working partnerships. We concentrate on long term service, as we recognise relationships are important for discipling and training. We also value short term placements where these assist our receiving/ deploying partners and long term missionaries.

f) Faithful stewardship in the ministries to which God calls us — *the quality principle*

World mission is far larger than any one organisation, so we take our place with others. We seek to set our strategies and objectives responsibly, to make best use of the strengths we have been given. In all that we do, we strive to honour and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. CMS STRATEGIES — *The way we work*

CMS brings together three parties: sending and supporting churches and individuals; receiving and deploying churches and organisations; and missionaries who are sent from the one to the other.

a) We educate and enable for world mission – *the sending partner strategy*

With a long history and broad expertise, CMS provides programs and events for churches and individuals that teach biblical world mission, and provides ways for churches and individuals to apply that teaching.

We provide a credible and practical path for churches and individuals to engage with God in his mission as they fulfil the role of senders – supporters through prayer, caring, giving and raising up people to go.

b) We find, prepare and send people — *the missionary partner strategy*

CMS fulfils its purpose principally by sending people. We look for people with:

- Godly character and a heart to serve,
- an appropriate level of theological learning,
- good people skills
- professional abilities and gifts that match the needs and opportunities of our partner churches and organisations,
- the desire and ability to pass on their skills and training to others.

We carefully select and train these people, and send them to work with the partner church or organisation as agents of gospel proclamation.

For some the primary ministry is evangelising, discipling and Bible teaching; for others it is using professional skills in ways that promote the gospel. Many ministry contexts offer freedom to speak and congregate as Christians, while in some contexts these freedoms are restricted. Missionary roles and circumstances may vary, but the mission is always the same: glorifying God as the gospel is proclaimed.

c) We develop partnerships with churches and Christian organisations around the world — *the receiving partner strategy*

Our partnerships are based on commonality of vision and purpose. We work together to advance the proclamation of the gospel by matching local needs and opportunities with the gifts and skills of the people we send. Each partnership is bilateral: each partner contributes what they have, and helps the other to work and grow in maturity in Christ.

CMS offers a limited number of grants and bursaries to assist in training of leaders, primarily in theological education.

5. CMS OBJECTIVES — *The things we are working towards*

a) In order to make best use of our strengths and resources, we are placing people into mission partnerships, emphasising five strategic areas of ministry:

- 1) **Mission amongst Muslim peoples** — we locate people to live and work to display the grace of Christ among Muslims and to take opportunities for evangelism and discipling.
- 2) **Mission amongst students** — we work with student movements and local churches to evangelise and disciple university and senior secondary students.
- 3) **Multiplying local church ministries** — we work in partnership with churches world-wide to extend their ministries of evangelism and growing the church, including taking up opportunities within the Anglican Communion.
- 4) **Christian leadership development** — especially in theological and pastoral training, we are working with international leaders as they equip their next generation for leadership in the Church and society.
- 5) **Holistic development** — we co-labour with Christian development programs that address strategic needs and match action with clear gospel presentation.

b) We pray and plan that by the year 2012, we will have increased our overall missionary numbers by 100 to 275, of whom 65 will be working in the Muslim world; and grow our membership base by 5000

To raise up more missionaries, we are making needs and opportunities widely known. At the same time we are targeting our education programs to promote the vision of CMS and to grow the sending and support base needed for an increase in missionary numbers.

c) We are refining our governance structures to guarantee faithfulness to our Purpose, Vision and Values; and developing the management of CMS, striving for excellence in the delivery of Strategies and Objectives.