

CMS Tasmania 2017 AGM CHAIR'S REPORT

State Director

Not that long ago as a branch, trusting God, we took the courageous decision not to merge with CMS Victoria, but rather to stand on our own and employ a full-time State Director. We prayed for God to work among us, to provide a State Director after his own heart. We prayed for unity and for God to raise up new missionaries from Tasmania. It is so wonderful that I can honestly say that God has indeed blessed us with everything we asked him for.

Scott's first year as State Director has involved him having to absorb significant new learning, whilst leading and managing the branch. That leadership and management has included:

1. Caring for and overseeing both our missionary units back on home assignment,
2. Moving an inquirer through our selection processes to federal acceptance as Tasmania's latest missionary-in-training,
3. Generating renewed interest in CMS and global mission within the church with unprecedented growth in both those signing on as members of our society and those inquiring about missionary service with CMS,
4. Leading us in developing a branch vision, and
5. Helping Branch Council move to a governance model of operation.

In Scott's recent review, we found that Scott had shown himself to be an enthusiastic and capable leader. I have great confidence in Scott's ability to lead us in our new Branch Vision and as such, we have extended Scott's contract to reflect this. God has answered our prayers and I urge the membership to regularly uphold Scott and CMS Tasmania in your prayers.

The Challenge of Growth

Branch Council recognise that with an unprecedented number of people inquiring and offering for missionary service with CMS, we might well have four or more missionary units deployed from Tasmania within the next five years. The annual quota paid to CMS-A for training, oversight and care of our missionaries on home assignment will therefore increase significantly and it will be necessary for the Tasmanian church to give more than ever to global mission.

Contribution to the Wider Fellowship

Since our last AGM, Anita Booker has been elected to Federal Candidates Committee (FCC) and we congratulate her! Each year, Anita and Scott will interview approximately forty candidates and missionaries in training, and we can expect this will flow on to bless us locally, enhancing the skills of our Branch Candidates Committee (BCC) as it interviews local candidates.

This year James Oakley was appointed to the CMS-A Board, where issues of fellowship-wide governance, vision, policy and procedures are decided. His leadership on our Branch Council has shown him to be gifted and qualified for such a role. We congratulate James on his appointment.

The significant contribution from our Branch Council

I want to thank each member of the CMS Tasmania Branch Council for their willingness to serve God and the extension of his kingdom by ensuring good governance of our Branch. I am particularly indebted to my Deputy Chair, Anita Booker, for her support, wisdom and advice. As a Branch, we recognise Craig Arnold for his contribution to the role of Branch Treasurer.

Now that CMS Tasmania has a State Director to lead and manage the Branch, Branch Council has needed to reevaluate its role. Council committed to shifting its role from managing the day to day operations of the Branch to focussing on being a board of governance and leaving the day to day running of the Branch to Scott. As we make this shift, I am indebted to James Oakley for the quality governance training he has brought to Branch Council, and his support for me as the Chair during this process.

Proposed Rules of Association Changes

For the reasons outlined to you by Scott (see his AGM correspondence), I commend to you the proposed changes to our Rules of Association that both Branch Council and the Board of CMS Australia have approved. Regarding changes to a quorum, as recently as this month we failed to reach a quorum for a Branch Council meeting and were required to cancel the meeting. These changes are necessary to ensure the Council operates with maximum effectiveness. Regarding changes to our rules for an AGM, first, members would be aware that with last year's regulatory changes, we were unable to present audited accounts to the AGM, and second, that under our current rules today is the last day in which an AGM could be held. Restricting ourselves in these ways has become detrimental to our objective of good governance.

Thankyou

Lastly, as we celebrate all that God has been doing in our Branch, I want to thank you, our Branch members. You have faithfully *prayed, cared and given* to global mission, and God has faithfully answered those prayers through the work of CMS Tasmania and its missionaries. Thank you, Jesus!

Grace and peace.

Rob Stanley
Chair
Church Missionary Society – Tasmania