OUR PLACE IN AFRICA
The number of Australian missionaries going to Africa has decreased significantly in recent decades. In Tanzania, a country where CMS Australia has been particularly involved, we now have missionaries serving in only five of the 27 Anglican dioceses.

While there are many reasons for this shift, two stand out. Firstly, mission in Africa has negative connotations. In the past, the way in which Western nations approached mission was seen as paternalistic. The second reason is that the African Church is flourishing. In 1900 there were less than 10 million Christians in Africa, compared to 367 million 100 years later.¹ This extraordinary growth may suggest that there is no longer need for Western missionaries.

However, while we could certainly learn a lot about evangelisation from the African Church, our presence in Africa is still needed. Right now, there is an urgent need for Australian Christians to help disciple and teach the Bible in Africa. The Church there is at threat – from liberalism, incorrect teachings and secularism. Your continued prayers for the Church in Africa and for CMS work there are vital.

Speaking at CMS summer conferences this January, Bishop Mwita Akiri from Tanzania called on CMS Australia to “re-flood Africa with evangelical missionaries”. His words could not be clearer: “The future of orthodox, biblical Christianity is at stake in Africa. Now is the time when Africa needs evangelical Christians from Australia more than ever, to teach the Bible and disciple people.”

We have received the invitation. It is up to Australian Christians to decide how we will respond.

₁. Timothy C Tennent, Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church is Influencing the Way We Think About and Discuss Theology, Zondervan, p.8
**Mission is for Kids Too!**

*Pray Around The World* is a super-fun activity book designed for kids aged 8–12 years old, but it can be used by anyone. This issue is a bit like a storybook. Kids will play a detective role, having fun cracking codes to solve a mystery, while learning about mission and missionaries. This resource is perfect for Sunday school or a rainy day at home.

**Grab a copy from your local branch!**

*(See back cover for details)*

*For other kids’ resources, visit: cms.org.au/kids*
Despite extraordinary growth, the Church in Africa is threatened by many issues. Therefore, CMS still has a role to play in Africa, writes Elizabeth Richards, CMS Mission Personnel Secretary.
As the world changes, so does our thinking about mission. Yet our objective remains unchanged: to fulfil the Great Commission summed up as, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). What this looks like in practice varies across locations and across time.

Africa is a vast and varied continent with a population exceeding one billion. The UN estimates that the population of Africa may almost reach 2.5 billion by 2050 (about 26% of the world’s total population). Many people are moving from rural subsistence lifestyles to large megacities for employment and education. The changes currently occurring in nations across the continent have implications for the Christian Church and, consequently, for mission needs and strategies.

Post-colonial Africa is complicated, politically and socially, and there are questions we need to ask about what a continued CMS presence would look like. For example, what does it mean to be in equal partnership? Sometimes our fear of being perceived as patronising or colonial can colour our decisions. Can we put ourselves under national leadership but then refuse to accept specific roles? Does our fear of being colonial prevent our workers from being used where they are most needed?

As a former CMS missionary in DR Congo and now as Mission Personnel Secretary for Africa, I have a keen interest in the answer to these questions. However, I am convinced that the need is still there. God is at work but he still calls on people from Australia to be part of that work. CMS is committed to sending people to eastern, central and southern Africa, to build on existing partnerships and to create new ones. In general, work in these regions corresponds with one of the three key elements of the CMS Vision (Towards 2020): “To equip Christian leaders for church and society”.

The African context has changed considerably. It is true that the Christian Church in many parts of Africa has seen enormous growth. It is also true that missionaries are not necessarily needed to fill the same roles as previously. For example, many Tanzanian pastors now have theological training to Masters level and are lecturing in Bible colleges. Similarly, in the nations where we have sent missionaries, the general level of education has improved and there are now tighter rules about work permits and visas.

Images: Opposite page, a crowded marketplace in Lagos, Africa. Above, a student at Carlile College preaches.
Meeting needs in the African Church

The large number of people who identify as Christian has created great needs in discipleship and Bible training, but there is still a lack of trained, mature Christian leaders. A number of other significant issues currently pose problems for the African Church. These include secularism, syncretism, nominalism, animism, false teaching and a growing number of splinter churches that often have poor theology. Sending Australian Christians is not the only solution to these difficulties, but they can work alongside African brothers and sisters to provide encouragement, and use their skills to train and equip others. Here are some of the needs:

• **Increasing urbanisation** changes both the style of church and outreach. Larger cities are more cosmopolitan, with the potential for a greater ethnic mix. People tend to be more highly educated and have different expectations of church. This creates opportunities to reach people who would not otherwise have heard the gospel, but it also requires church leaders who are better educated and have a heart for urban evangelism.

• **Secularism** poses a threat to the continued growth of the Christian Church. Many Africans now have access to television, social media and mobile phones. So Christians are exposed to secular belief systems, and often lack the spiritual maturity and understanding of God’s word required to hold firm to the gospel.

• Together with secularism, there is an increase in sects that distort God’s word but attract people to a prosperity gospel, or allow syncretism between Christian and traditional beliefs.

• In this time of change, there is a critical need to **train church leaders**, so they are equipped theologically and practically to lead the Church. It is only with sound training, and ongoing encouragement and support, that national church leaders will be able to speak with a relevant voice that teaches and equips local Christians for godly maturity and a desire for outreach. Theological colleges and Bible schools at all levels need to be supported and resourced.

• **Islam** has a long history in eastern and central Africa, dating back to the 7th century. Muslims still make up half of Africa’s one billion population. Although Muslim-majority countries are mainly in Northern and Western Africa, Islam is considered to be the world’s fastest growing religion, with the largest anticipated growth in sub-Saharan Africa. This means that Christian leaders also need to be trained to interact with, and reach out to, Muslim people.

• In many nations 40% or more of the population is under the age of 15, so **work with children and youth** is a high priority. CMS has not previously worked with national university student movements within Africa, but has recently begun a relationship with the Tanzanian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (TAFES – IFES in Tanzania).

Growing the next generation

Under the CMS Vision, we also recognise opportunities to train and mentor Christian leaders for work and leadership in society. There are many opportunities for university student ministry within eastern, central and southern Africa, as well as opportunities to locate mission personnel as university lecturers, in trade schools, schools, technical and training institutions and hospitals.

In Europe we have seen nations once rich with the gospel become gospel poor. It would be terrible to see the same happen in Africa, yet already there are many influences on young people causing them to question the Christian teaching they have received. The rapidly growing population, without a proportionate number of trained church leaders and churches, impacts on the ability of the Church to pass on the gospel to the next generation. Although much of this region is not considered gospel poor, this could easily change.

“One generation believes the gospel. The next generation assumes the gospel. The following generation denies the gospel.”

The need is enormous and the little CMS can offer seems like a drop in the ocean, but God is faithful and uses his workers in ways that we can’t even imagine. There are open doors for missionaries in eastern, southern and central Africa. Are you willing to consider using your skills and training to help the African Church flourish into the future?

---

1. According to Pew Research Centre: pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/
2. This quote is from Don Carson, who appropriated the concept from Dr Paul Hiebert.

Could God be calling you to serve alongside the African Church in building biblical foundations and well-equipped leaders? To find out more, visit cms.org.au/get-involved/go.
CMS Australia has been serving in Africa for over 120 years. During that time hundreds of faithful Australians have lived and worked alongside African Christians, helping to build local churches and support local communities.

Our missionaries have served in many different roles, including: Bible teaching, evangelism, medicine and allied health, teaching in schools and universities, youth work, administration, community development, and in many other areas.

We praise God for the decades spent working in partnership with the Church in Africa, and for the lessons learned along the way.

*Some missionaries were also sent by CMS to Egypt. However, as we consider Egypt to be part of the Middle East, this map does not show mission activity in Egypt.

The countries shaded in yellow show where CMS is currently working. However, we are always looking for new opportunities to support the African Church, and more workers to send.

**Could God be calling you to Africa?**

cms.org.au/get-involved/go
CMS Australia has a long history in Africa. We began sending missionaries from Australia overseas in 1892 (to India and Ceylon), and the following year the first Australian missionaries went to East Africa. CMS UK had been sending missionaries to East Africa since 1844, so by the 1890s a few small mission centres had been established in what is now Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

**Humble beginnings**

Inspired by a calling to share the gospel, the first Australian missionaries went to East Africa just as the colonial era started. In 1893 a couple went to the newly-declared German East Africa, and in 1894 another missionary was sent to the new British Protectorate of Kenya. Several of the early missionaries gave a lifetime of service. By World War I, a total of 18 missionaries had gone from Australia to East Africa. That war brought devastation to German East Africa. African Christians suffered in many ways. Missionaries were taken prisoner until their liberation in 1916.

Many CMS supporters may be familiar with the fact that in 1927, CMS Australia took responsibility for the tiny Anglican church in northern Tanganyika (as ‘German East Africa’ was then called – now Tanzania). Then the church had two African clergy, five missionary clergy and their wives, and eight single women missionaries. In the following five years, 40 missionaries went to Tanganyika. It became one of CMS Australia’s chief areas of activity for around the next 50 years.

An expanding vision

While Tanganyika predominated, the breadth of CMS Australia’s work in Africa also covered Kenya, Uganda and Sudan (extending to the Congo in the mid-1980s). As the Church grew and the number of institutions expanded, CMS found itself running a wide network. Much like a traditional African stool with three or four legs carved from one piece of wood, likewise CMS mission had four elements:

1. evangelism and church planting;
2. training pastors and evangelists;
3. education;
4. health care.

Perhaps the greatest flaw in the approach of missionaries during the colonial era was the tendency to be influenced by the assumption of Western superiority, and the belief that Europeans should be in control.

Africa’s Church takes root

From the 1930s onwards a great spiritual awakening took place, spreading from Rwanda across East Africa (generally known as the East African Revival). This was an African movement, led by Africans and reflecting African culture, while holding on to biblical truths. The Holy Spirit brought repentance, changed lives, and gave joy in the Lord. Some missionaries wholeheartedly entered into this revival, while others watched it with reserve. The revival, as an African-led movement, helped prepare the Church for the next era: independence.
Political independence came to Sudan in 1956, Tanganyika in 1961, Uganda in 1962, and Kenya in 1963. Independence came to the Church too, as CMS handed over control to local Anglican churches. In 1955 the first African bishops were consecrated – one from Tanzania, two from Kenya, one from Uganda and one from the Sudan. New dioceses were formed under African bishops. There was a new dynamic as missionaries now worked under the authority and pastoral care of African church leaders. Consequently, missionaries now faced the challenge of working out the role they played in this new era. Some felt that missionaries had done their work and there was no future for them. Yet, here we are more than 50 years later, still supporting missionaries in Africa and praying that God will send more people to serve in Africa. Why?

In the 1980s, CMS Australia’s policy changed. Instead of defining areas of work by country, emphasis was placed on the type of work the missionary would do. Under the current CMS Vision (Towards 2020), our focus is on strategically reaching gospel-poor peoples, equipping Christian leaders and engaging churches in cross-cultural mission. So, the boundaries of our mission work in Africa (and in other regions) have broadened. We have sent missionaries to Ethiopia, South Africa, Nigeria, Rwanda and Namibia, in addition to the more ‘traditional’ countries where CMS Australia has worked in Africa.

While the emphasis of our mission work has usually been to work in partnership with African churches that share a common vision with CMS, this partnership must be two-way. In the past, the danger has been to think we were the ‘givers’ and they were the ‘receivers’. However, missionaries personally learn much from their African colleagues, and the Church in the West can learn much from African Christianity.

In one lifetime, the population in eastern Africa has quadrupled. Such massive growth has created many needs in society. Globalisation in Africa has led to a hunger for education and development, and a proliferation of high schools and universities. There is an ongoing need for adequate health care. To God’s praise and glory, the Church has also seen great growth, so there is an urgent need to continue training church leaders. All this presents great opportunities for humble servants of the gospel. And of course, it also presents a continued need for the partnership of our CMS supporters as they pray, care, give and go.

*Colin Reed grew up in Africa. He has served with CMS as a missionary in Tanzania (along with his wife Wendy), on staff of the NSW & ACT Branch, and as Principal of St Andrew’s Hall. Over many years, Colin has studied and written on the history of the Church in East Africa.

A two-way partnership

Pray that as the African Church grows, CMS will help to raise up and support local church leaders. Pray also for more missionaries who are willing to serve alongside, and learn from, the African Church as humble servants of gospel.
After years of previous service with CMS in East Africa and Kenya, Norm and Janelle Gorrie and Judith Calf are returning to Africa - to reconnect with people they love, renew partnerships in the gospel, and continue the work of teaching and growing disciples.

Norm and Janelle’s story:

We served in North Kenya from 1989 to 1998. As Director of Training, Norm worked with local church leaders to train evangelists and coordinate outreach, especially in schools and unreached communities. Janelle formed relationships in the local community, while looking after our three children.

Judith’s story:

I served in Tanzania from 1999 to 2008, initially in the Diocese of Kagera, and then as CMS’s first missionary in the Diocese of Tanga. It was an incredible privilege to teach evangelists, pastors and their wives the foundations of God’s word, to be equipped for Christian ministry.

Why are you going back and what do you hope to achieve?

Norm & Janelle: We have never lost our God-given love for brothers and sisters in the Marsabit Diocese, and we long for others there to come to know Jesus. Bishop Daniel Qampicha has asked Norm to head the Department of Mission and Janelle to serve in pastoral care and literacy in the local language, Boran. We will humbly work with local clergy, evangelists, youth and lay leaders to counter the problems facing the Church, including tribalism, the growth of aggressive militant Islam and false gospel teaching. We hope to continue to build a disciple-making culture, to generate disciples and churches who correctly handle and model the word of truth.

Judith: The task is not done! The rapid growth in the Tanzanian Church needs well-equipped leaders, able to rightly handle God’s word and navigate the rapid change in church and society that challenges Christian mission in Tanzania. Going back is about being a good steward – of years already invested in language and culture. It is also about honouring relationships with Tanzanian colleagues and friends, building on partnerships in the gospel, and serving God’s people in response to the need to equip leaders as faithful gospel servants.

What lessons did you learn from previous work in Africa?

Norm & Janelle: We went seeking to be servants to our African friends. That meant putting ourselves aside, and walking with them in life and ministry. This path was not always obvious and it was sometimes difficult to trust in Jesus when life was difficult. We need prayer from our partners in Australia to persevere.

Judith: Missionary service taught me lessons in humility, complete dependence upon God, and the incredible privilege of being invited to share in gospel partnerships. A decade of serving in Africa enriched my understanding of mission, as ordinary people are enabled to serve by our extraordinary God. Reading, and then teaching, God’s word through the lens of my Tanzanian student’s lives and ministry also enriched me in ways I still carry in my own walk with Jesus today.

How will your approach to mission in Africa be different this time around?

Norm & Janelle: We want to take things slower – listening, learning and trusting God to do the work. We get a lot of encouragement from the spiritual hunger of the disenfranchised. When they know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, they are valuable stones in the building of God’s Church.

Judith: My prayer is that I will be much more dedicated to relationships before tasks! I will listen more, and work harder at sharing my life with my Tanzanian brothers and sisters. True gospel partnership, as a co-worker with my Tanzanian colleagues, will come from genuine humility, compassion and servant-heartedness. I hope to learn as much as I will teach.

Join with Norm, Janelle and Judith in God’s mission to support the Church in Africa. Show them your support by sending an encouraging email, and by remembering to keep them in your prayers.
INVESTMENT INTO AFRICA IS ESSENTIAL NOT ONLY FOR THE HEALTH OF THE AFRICAN CHURCH, BUT FOR THE GLOBAL CHURCH AS WELL.
Earlier this year, a prophet from Malawi visited Namibia with a prosperity message. He attracted a capacity crowd. Despite their poverty, many people reportedly paid $1,000 Namibian (AU$100) to attend. (One person even paid $100,000 to be seated next to him!) This example illustrates how influential the prosperity gospel has become in Namibia.

Prosperity teaching holds such appeal because the vast majority of Namibians live in significant poverty, with good health care being out of their economic reach. A plethora of other social issues are also common both inside and outside the Church: gender-based violence, alcohol abuse, a horrendously-high suicide rate, and a phenomenal road toll (due to a disregard for road rules).

In the face of these problems, it seems astounding that the majority of the population identify as Christian. The reality is that the majority of Namibians understand Christianity as part of their cultural identity, rather than a living faith based on salvation through Jesus Christ.

A RUGGED LANDSCAPE

In this context, there is a pressing need for solid Bible teaching to equip Christian leaders to teach the gospel faithfully. NETS, the only evangelical Bible college in Namibia, has played a vital role for 26 years in providing sound biblical teaching and ministry training for Namibia and the wider region. Based in the capital city of Windhoek, NETS was formed in 1991 when two small theological colleges merged.

CMS Australia began sending missionaries to support NETS 15 years ago, recognising the strategic role the college played in strengthening the Namibian Church. The first CMS missionary at NETS, Hugh Prentice, and subsequent CMS missionaries identified several limiting factors preventing local Christians from studying at the NETS, which they worked with the college to address.

A BEACON OF HOPE

Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary (NETS) has long been a beacon of hope in a country facing many social and spiritual challenges. CMS missionaries who have served at NETS describe the crucial role it plays in building the local Church. Compiled by David Greeff*, with input from Mike Roe, Simon Gillham and Hugh Prentice.

1. Accessibility

Many Namibians live in rural areas, and the cost of residential full-time study is out of their reach. To increase the accessibility of its program, NETS developed ‘distance’ courses, which staff members first began to run in local prisons. Enrolments in these courses grew rapidly, and so the NETS Department of Distance Education (DDE) was created. In 2006 I was appointed to support DDE, based with my family in the far north of Namibia. I helped launch an e-learning platform in 2014, enabling students to complete their theological certificate remotely. Today, the DDE continues to expand, and now employs seven remotely-based tutors, all of whom are Namibian.

2. The problem of language

“One of the main challenges of theological education in Namibia was that no student had English as a first language. Most struggled to read and write at an academic level,” says CMS missionary Simon Gillham (who served at NETS with his family from 2008 to 2015). To help solve this problem, Simon – who served as Acting Principal of NETS for three years – worked with NETS staff to alter the curriculum, allowing students more time to adjust to study and complete their qualification. Margie Gillham also assisted students by teaching English.

3. The cost of study

Many local Christians were being prevented from full-time biblical training because it was too expensive. “Significant subsidies were needed to maintain a model of tertiary education offered by NETS,” says Simon. So, under his leadership, NETS developed alternative income streams, including building income-generating accommodation, to support staff salaries.
4. A divide between local churches

The Namibian Church landscape is highly divided, and denominations are suspicious of one another. As an independent college, NETS was labelled by some as too traditional, or too Pentecostal, or too evangelical. The NETS team (under Simon’s leadership, together with other missionaries and Namibian staff) worked hard to engage with church leaders from different denominations and create strategic partnerships. This has resulted in an increase in student numbers over the last few years.

5. A lack of Namibian teaching staff

NETS had struggled to find Namibian staff who were sufficiently qualified to teach at degree level and who were able to teach long term. In response to this ongoing issue, NETS leadership opened up junior staff positions and began offering teaching positions to NETS graduates. Junior staff are carefully mentored and trained, while they undertake postgraduate study (through NETS).

New horizons

Today, there are more Namibian faculty and staff at NETS, many of whom studied at the college themselves. CMS missionary Mike Roe attributes the success of the college to the integration between local and international staff. Mike began teaching theology and ministry subjects at NETS last year (while his wife Karen teaches academic English). He says: “[Serving on] the international faculty represents one practical way in which foreign churches, who are blessed with resources and good opportunities for ministry and training, can come alongside Namibian churches.”

However, Mike stresses that NETS actively seeks to appoint as many Namibian faculty and staff as possible, and “the goal is to help raise up local leaders ... to equip Namibian saints for service”. Yet it is a long and costly process to train local faculty with postgraduate qualifications. In the meantime, it is vitally important that organisations such as CMS continue to send missionaries to the college. In this way, NETS will continue to be a place where gospel unity is forged; where God’s word is taught faithfully; and, through its graduates, be the means by which God’s kingdom is being built up in this troubled country.

“The goal is to raise up local leaders to equip Namibian saints for service.”

Read more articles about African Bible colleges where CMS missionaries are serving at:

cms.org.au/give

*David, with his family, served at NETS for over 10 years, from 2005 to 2106. David is currently working part-time for the Queensland with Northern NSW Branch, and will take up the position of General Secretary for CMS WA later this year.

You can play a part in enabling local Christians to study at NETS, and become fully equipped to teach the Bible in Namibia. To give a gift that will change lives, visit cms.org.au/give.
I grew up in a rural village, with no clean water, sanitation or electricity. I was an active member of the Zionist Church, the largest African Traditional Religion (ATR) in South Africa (SA). The church emphasises good works to find favour with God and strictly follows Old Testament dietary, moral and ceremonial laws. Each Sunday I habitually attended church and helped the needy, hoping that God would return the favour one day when I needed him.

However, when my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, I realised I had the wrong perception about God. In despair, I fasted, prayed and consulted traditional healers, but her condition deteriorated. She died in 2002, aged 36. I can’t put into words the frustration, anger and disappointment that God had paid no attention to my good works. “If he is so powerful and all-knowing, why isn’t he helping me?” I asked myself.

Two years later, I remarried – to my now current wife, Lungi. In 2004, my employer relocated us to Australia to work with Qantas Airways in Sydney. At this point, I had completely rejected the Church. On Sundays, I enjoyed drinking beer and playing soccer at the beach. I dropped Lungi and my son off at the nearby church and would pick them up later. But, still a devout Zionist, Lungi kept begging and pleading with me to go to church with her. I finally succumbed, and we visited a small church near our apartment block.

After a warm welcome and singing, we heard an expository sermon for the first time, based on the Ten Commandments. The preacher emphasised our need for Jesus, because it is impossible to keep and fully obey these laws in our own strength.

For over four decades attending church, I had never heard such a message. So, I began to examine these claims by reading the Bible daily and discussed it for hours with a church friend. Two years later, my wife and I were convicted of our sin and decided to put our trust in Christ for salvation and forgiveness.

We then felt burdened to share this good news with our own people back home in South Africa. After a three-year stint in the United States for work, I resigned and returned to South Africa to pursue theological training at George Whitefield College (GWC) in 2011. Since graduating from GWC with a Bachelor of Theology in December 2013, Lungi and I have been working amongst Zionists in South Africa on a full-time basis. We run a church plant and a Bible Club for kids aged 6–13, the majority of whom are from the Zionist Church. Lungi also teaches Sunday school, while I am involved in preaching and translating Christian resources into the Zulu language. Nothing gives me greater joy than the anticipation of what else God has planned for us in the future.

I have a portrait of our family in our living room, with words from a book written by David Cook – words that I have made my own: “When I reach the end of my days a moment or two from now, I want to look back on something more meaningful than the pursuit of houses, stocks and bonds. I will consider my earthly existence to have been wasted, unless I can recall a loving family, a consistent attempt to serve my Saviour and a meaningful investment into the lives of people. Nothing else makes much sense.”

Pray that God will use Sipho and Lungi to bring many South Africans to a true understanding of the gospel of grace found in Jesus Christ.
“If these TAFES people are so great, why are we sending you to Tanzania?”

A keen supporter of CMS asked me this question when we were back in Australia for Home Assignment. She was genuinely curious. During a presentation to supporters, we had been speaking about the high quality of staff we work with, the reputation of TAFES graduates as people of integrity, and the integration of Bible and life that prepares students to be witnesses to Christ in university and beyond in their professions.

We had also noted that TAFES (the Tanzanian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) is so well established that it is now training others in university student ministry. These include Christian leaders from Zambia who are involved in IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students). As well as training others, TAFES leaders are also receiving help from IFES groups in Nigeria, especially in theological education for staff. So, it was a reasonable question: why send Aussie missionaries? What needs could there possibly be?

Painting a clear picture

Over the past three years working in Tanzania, we have developed a clearer picture of what needs remain. We began serving at St John’s University of Tanzania, where for two years we were part of the chaplaincy team, and helped with chapel, running teaching seminars and mentoring students. Since 2015 Arthur has worked with TAFES in their head office. This role involves training and mentoring staff workers, teaching at staff retreats and student camps, developing resources and running discipleship training schools.

While many missionaries in Tanzania are involved in theological education, that has not been our main focus. (It turns out that TAFES’ historic commitment to Scripture engagement means that staff and associates generally hold very sound theology!) We have discovered that a greater struggle for TAFES has been communicating its distinctive Bible focus to others. Denominations often view TAFES with suspicion, and prefer students to go to denominational campus groups, although these often lack a focus on Scripture engagement, evangelism, or mentoring students. Under this pressure, TAFES groups have shrunk, and have become more like other local university ministries in order to gain more members. This has prompted leaders within TAFES to call for a return to the core distinctives of Scripture engagement, evangelism and leadership development. It is at this level that we are able to help TAFES to be more true to itself.

An Aussie approach

Perhaps surprisingly, it’s been our Australian-ness that has been so valuable. We Aussies tend to think of ourselves as laid-back. But compared to Tanzanians, we have a laser focus when it comes to strategy. It’s been encouraging to hear our Tanzanian colleagues give a hearty ‘yes’ when we identify issues or propose a way forward. Our educational background – with its emphasis on using creativity and fun to learn, rather than learning by rote – has also enabled us to offer considerable resources for training others, and helped to feed a culture of continual skill development at TAFES. In God’s wisdom, these cultural attributes have allowed us to help TAFES articulate its identity; to cement these distinctives among the students and staff involved; and to communicate this vision to outsiders and potential ministry partners.

We don’t see our mission here as primarily to introduce Tanzanian university students to Jesus. Local TAFES students and staff are well equipped to focus on that. But TAFES faces a number of challenges that we are uniquely positioned to help with. So, with your support, we are privileged to work alongside TAFES to play our part in God’s mission.

There are opportunities to serve in various ways in African university ministry. See the back page of this issue of Checkpoint for just some of the current needs.
In Tanzania about half the population is under the age of 15. Along with a rapidly-growing population, Christianity is also growing here. However, while the number of people identifying as Christian is increasing, there is an urgent need for faithful Bible teaching. Young Tanzanians are being influenced by increasing secularism in their society, as well as incorrect Bible teachings which are prevalent in the local church, such as the prosperity gospel and the blending of traditional beliefs with Christianity. In this environment, it is vital that young people receive faithful biblical teaching to secure the spread of the gospel in their generation and for those still to come.

CMS missionary Andy Bennett has been working with his wife Jenny in Tanzania for nine years, based in the Anglican Diocese of Kagera. Over the past two years Andy has been involved in an exciting ministry to teach the Bible in secondary schools. Here he explains how he came to establish a program that teaches Bible Knowledge to over 2000 students in Tanzania.

Tell us how you became involved in the Bible Knowledge program …

In August 2015, Bishop Aaron Kijinjali asked me to start a program to teach the subject of Bible Knowledge in his diocese of Kagera. Initially, I was asked to teach the subject in about three local schools, and hopefully train a local pastor to take over from me before I returned to Australia in late 2017. However, a month later, I was asked instead to establish the program across the whole Diocese of Kagera – an area roughly the size of Rwanda, with around 100 secondary schools! I had never taught in a school before and had never seen the Bible Knowledge syllabus. I had no teaching materials and the subject had to be up and running five months later, in January 2016. I clung to the fact that if God had got me into this, then he must have a plan.

The next few months were frantic: identifying diploma-trained pastors who could teach, seeking approval from government authorities, preparing lessons and a teaching guide, running a training course, arranging Bibles and student notes for 2,000 students, and delivering them to 17 schools that were hundreds of kilometres away! But we started teaching in February 2016.

How long has this subject been offered, and what does the course involve?

Bible Knowledge has been an optional subject in Tanzanian secondary schools for years, with the syllabus running from Form 1 (the start of secondary school) to Form 4. However, this subject was only taught in about 1% of schools because most teachers and pastors didn’t know how to go about it. It’s very sad that hundreds of thousands of students missed out on structured study of the Bible because of a lack of training and teaching aids.

I can’t see a better way of reaching the youth of Tanzania than through a four-year structured course on the Bible, studied for 80 minutes per week, 40 weeks per year, with exams that students need to pass, which can be delivered by teachers and is paid for by the government! All this course needs to flourish is the right promotion to Christian teachers, and the provision of textbooks (at a cost of about $500 per school) to make it easier for teachers.

Last year I wrote and published such a textbook (with help from Helen Hoskins – a former CMS missionary and now Short Term Worker in Tanzania – SparkLit and Anglican Aid, among others). As a result, we anticipate that the number of
students completing this subject will double this year – to nearly 4,000 – because we will have around 20 school teachers joining the program. God is awesome! And if we continue to replicate this model in other dioceses, the potential impact for God’s kingdom is huge. I have already been involved in training some pastors in the neighbouring Diocese of Lweru, who will start teaching Bible Knowledge in five schools this year. If there were just a few more people to coordinate this, we could spread the course across Tanzania in hundreds, possibly thousands, of schools.

**What is the role of CMS Australia (and other mission organisations) in children’s and youth ministry in Tanzania?**

We don’t have enough gospel workers to do all the teaching, so we need to focus on facilitating local people to teach – through training, assisting with fundraising, and working alongside them to improve management. Any capable gospel worker could adapt to this work, and there are many opportunities to help teach Tanzanian children and youth about the Bible. There must be some people reading this who could commit to enabling thousands of teenagers to study the Bible …

*In 2016, 41% of Africa’s 1.2 billion population were under the age of 15 - worldpopulationreview.com/continents/africa-population/

**Pray**

Andy asks for your prayers that God will raise up the right people to serve in this vital ministry, and that the Tanzanian Government will sustain this opportunity for many years.

---

Read more stories about how CMS is working with the African Church in children’s and youth ministry at Checkpoint Online:

checkpoint.cms.org.au

- **Glen Turner** shares how teaching Christian Studies is making a lasting impact on the lives of students at Mara Anglican Primary School in Tanzania.
- **Lynn Kay** and **Maggie Crewes** report on the work of Retrak in supporting street children and families in Ethiopia, and across Africa.

---

Images: Opposite page, children at Mara Anglican Primary School. This page, clockwise from left, a classroom in Nyakahura; Andy with Tanzanian pastors; a young African holds the Bible; children from Mwanza.
The fragile nation of DR Congo* has many needs – and many opportunities to show the love of Christ in practical ways. CMS missionaries Graham and Wendy Toulmin and David and Prue Boyd share how they are working to care for a struggling people.

Graham and Wendy share, “There are needs everywhere. Amongst the adult population, especially the elderly, people do not come for treatment until the problem is chronic. Six to ten years ago, children had few dental problems. That has changed with the advent of cheap sugary snacks, and tooth decay has risen alarmingly.”

Working in partnership with the Anglican Church of DR Congo, Graham and Wendy’s goal is to place trained Congolese dentists in each diocese. These dentists will then develop their own vision for how dental services can be delivered to communities and villages in their region at a reasonable cost to patients, while providing enough income to sustain the work.

By investing in training and handing over to Congolese dentists, Graham and Wendy are seeking to slowly make an impact in the lives of people who have suffered greatly without proper dental care. They share, “We work in a Christian diocese which is heavily stocked with pastors and evangelists, all of whom understand their culture and know languages far better than we ever will. They do the work of overt preaching and witnessing. Our clinic supports this work by daily demonstrating the gospel in practical ways: helping the poor, the widows, the disadvantaged, the blind – making life more bearable and extending life for the local population. It is the gospel in action.”

*DR Congo is currently ranked eighth in the Fragile States Index 2016 by the Fund for Peace, a non-profit research organisation – fsi.fundforpeace.org.

In 1988, Graham Toulmin opened his first dental clinic in DR Congo. One or two Congolese nurses would work with Graham to treat and provide fillings, extractions, dentures and broken jaws. While not formally trained, these nurses continued to provide dental services through two Congo wars, even when the Toulmins were forced to leave the country in 1991.

Graham and his wife Wendy returned to DR Congo in 2015, and since then they have been involved in training dentists in a more formal capacity.

Further south in Bukavu, David and Prue Boyd are also working within the Anglican Church to strengthen resources in this struggling nation. They first served as missionaries here from 1985 to 1996, and returned again in 2013.

David is involved in theological education and training to support and nurture church leadership in DR Congo. Prue helps hearing-impaired people at their town’s general hospital and at a centre for the handicapped, Heri Kwetu. She advises doctors, parents and teachers about how to interact with the deaf, and how to include them in family, school and community life. She is also training workers at each centre to help with this work.

This ministry can be a challenge. Prue is one of only two audiologists in the whole of DR Congo, serving a population of 75 million. David and Prue also reflect, “We both often feel that we are not making many inroads in our respective ministries. Corruption and dishonesty, authoritarianism, inadequate education, incompetence and lack of resources make us feel that we are swimming against powerful currents.”

However, despite the challenges, David and Prue are encouraged by progress being made as Congolese people learn how to work with the hearing impaired. They are also excited about the potential of this work to display Christ: “Ministering to others in this way points to Jesus’ love and care for all people … particularly in the context of a Christian institution that has been set up to engage in this ministry. Where possible and appropriate, it can lead to conversations about a patient’s need for a new relationship with God that will go beyond this earthly life and this earthly body. We hope that our various ministries serve to increase, even in some tiny way, the influence of the gospel in the nation of DR Congo.”

Ministry in places like DR Congo can be frustrating and exhausting. Write to the Boyds or Toulmins to encourage them, or contact your church’s link missionary to urge them to persevere despite the challenges. For contact details, visit cms.org.au/missionary.
GOD HAS OPENED DOORS FOR CMS WORKERS TO RETURN TO DR CONGO.
At CMS Summer Conferences around Australia this January, thousands of people gathered to enjoy a time of worship, Bible teaching and fellowship. Attendees were encouraged as missionaries shared how God is working through CMS to build his Church across the world.

**CHALLENGED**
“Summer School renewed my focus on what’s really important. It challenged me to live for the gospel in Australia, and to use my time and finances in light of God’s bigger picture.”

*Cielle van Vuueren,* QNNSW Summer School

**CONNECTED**
“It was a great weekend spending time with brothers and sisters in Christ. The teaching and music were wonderful and it was fantastic to meet the missionaries and hear what they are doing.”

*Leslie Stockley,* WA Summer School

**MOTIVATED**
“The future of orthodox, biblical Christianity in Africa is at stake. Now is the time when Africa needs evangelical theological educators from Australia ... We are inviting people to come and help us.”

*Bishop Mwita Akiri of Tanzania,* International guest speaker

**ANCHORED**
“What a great week in God’s creation but mostly in God’s word. Pray, proclaim and let God build. Such a great way to start the year with God in the centre and my weaknesses at the very outer.”

*Julianne McMaster,* NSW & ACT Summer School

---

**INSPIRED**
“Listening to Tim and Emma speak about their work in South East Asia was so inspiring and encouraging.”

*Chris,* TAS SummerView

---

For updates and links to talks, go to: [cms.org.au/summerconferences](http://cms.org.au/summerconferences)
MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

Checkpoint asked: “In what ways has the faith of African Christians shaped your own faith?”

“The Christian faith of the Tanzanian women has been the most humbling, encouraging and wonderful gift to me in my own Christian faith. Their strong trust in Jesus and awareness of his presence and love keeps them shining, buoyant and rejoicing, even when they have heavy burdens and grief in their lives. As I share in prayer and fellowship with them, I experience the presence of Jesus and his love enfolding me and carrying me through hard times. It has been a gift to me to share in fellowship and prayer with these sisters in Christ that God has given me.”

Helen Hoskins (STW) Serving as a chaplain and Bible Knowledge teacher in Tanzania

“... My faith has been shaped by students at Munguishi Bible College who have amazing perseverance. They often persevere in studying under difficult personal circumstances, such as being far away from family and support. Sickness and the death of loved ones happens in Tanzania far more than I ever experienced in Australia. Still the students persevere in studying God’s word with joy and are energised to share the good news with others. My aim as a missionary is to teach and model perseverance to my Tanzanian students, yet I am often reminded of Christ-like perseverance in the Tanzanians around me.”

Geoff Boye (serving with Martha) Serving as a Bible and preaching teacher in Tanzania

MISSION NEWS:

CMS WA APPOINTS NEW GENERAL SECRETARY

It is with joy that CMS announces the appointment of David Greeff to the position of General Secretary of CMS WA, commencing in November 2017.

David and his wife Alisan, along with their two children Étienne and Caris, served as CMS missionaries in Namibia from 2005 to 2016. Since returning from location in May 2016, David has been working for CMS QNNSW as Northern NSW Liaison Officer and for Young Life Australia. He will continue in these roles until November this year, enabling Étienne to complete his HSC before the family moves to Perth. David will replace Ray Arthur, the present General Secretary of WA, who is retiring in late 2017.

David and Alisan would appreciate your prayers over the next 12 months, especially as the family prepares to leave Armidale and adjusts to a challenging and exciting new ministry in WA. Please pray also for the WA Branch as they adjust to a change in leadership, and for Ray as he enters retirement.

PRAY FOR S (CENTRAL ASIA)

Please pray for S from Central Asia, who was diagnosed with bowel cancer just before Christmas last year. She had an operation in January 2017 and is currently undergoing chemotherapy in Australia. Please pray for complete healing, and for peace as she and those around her negotiate this sad change in her circumstances. While S focuses on getting well, K is handling all her communications. If you would like to pass on a message to S receive updates, or have questions, please contact your branch (see back cover).
GIVING THANKS TO GOD

Bill Dumbrell
We give thanks to the Lord for the life and faithful ministry of Rev Dr William (Bill) Dumbrell, who died in Sydney on 1 October 2016. Bill was a well-known biblical scholar and the author of many major works of biblical theology that helped shape our understanding of how to read the Bible as a whole. Together with his wife Norma, Bill also served as a CMS NSW & ACT missionary, working as a lecturer at Trinity Theological College, Singapore, from 1995 to 1999. During his long ministry career, Bill also worked in churches in Parramatta and Erington; lectured at Moore College in Sydney and Regent College in Canada; and served as Vice Principal of Moore College from 1975 to 1984. Many prominent Christian scholars and leaders have paid tribute to Bill for his contributions to biblical thought, and for his prayerfulness and commitment to Jesus. Bill is survived by his wife Norma and his adult children, David, Ian, Grace, Naomi, and six grandchildren.

Margaret Tarran
We praise God for the life and witness of Margaret Tarran (née Dudley), who died on 15 October 2016, aged 77. Margaret served the Lord as a CMS missionary and school teacher in the Northern Territory from 1964 to 1973, first at Angurugu on Groote Eylandt and later at Numbulwar. She married Geoff Tarran and they settled in Bright, Victoria, where they were active members of the Church of Christ. We ask God to comfort Geoff and all who loved Margaret.

Joan Gelding
We praise God for the life and witness of Joan Gelding, who died in Dapto (NSW) on 5 December 2016, aged 95. Joan and her husband Norman (who died in 2001) served the Lord with CMS in Tanganyika (Tanzania) from 1948 to 1963. They worked in pastoral ministry in various places, and Norman was the Principal of St Philip’s Theological College in Kongwa for their last four years on the mission field. The couple suffered the death of two of their children, Catherine and James. Through this experience, Joan was able to minister to African women who had also lost children. As we give thanks for Joan, we pray for her children, Robert, Libby, Peter and Stephen, and ask him to bless everyone in the church and community who knew them.

Doug Packham
We praise God for the life and work of Doug Packham, who died on 7 October 2016, aged 71. Doug and his wife Jean served the Lord with CMS in the Northern Territory from 1972 until 1992. They spent seven years in Oenpelli and were also stationed in Darwin, Kununurra and Katherine. At Doug’s funeral on 14 October, the service sheet said that “Doug loved God, Jean, his children and grandchildren with a kind and gentle spirit”. We praise God for Doug’s life, and pray for Jean and their five children, Wendy, Michael, Bruce, Lyn and Neil.

Margaret Tarran
We praise God for the life and witness of Margaret Tarran (née Dudley), who died on 15 October 2016, aged 77. Margaret served the Lord as a CMS missionary and school teacher in the Northern Territory from 1964 to 1973, first at Angurugu on Groote Eylandt and later at Numbulwar. She married Geoff Tarran and they settled in Bright, Victoria, where they were active members of the Church of Christ. We ask God to comfort Geoff and all who loved Margaret.

BOOK REVIEW


If you ever hope to talk to Muslims about faith, then Bernie Power has written the book you need. There are many books about Islam or the person of Muhammad written to inform Christians, but this book is actually for Muslims. Finally, we have a book we can give away, written specifically with the questions of Muslims in mind.

Understanding Jesus and Muhammad explains the truth about these history-changing men for the person wanting to make an informed decision. It is honest and hard-hitting, without being aggressive or offensive.

Bernie Power worked among Muslims in Asia and the Middle East for decades. This book reflects his love of the Bible, deep knowledge of the Qur’an and Hadiths, and love for Muslims.

The chapters are arranged in pairs, examining important topics as they relate to each other. These topics include ‘The sinlessness of Jesus Christ’ and ‘Was Muhammad sinless?’; ‘The miracles of Jesus’ and ‘Muhammad and miracles’; and ‘Jesus, violence and peace’ and ‘Muhammad and violence’.

I have already read this book with a Muslim friend, and many wide-ranging discussions ensued. Don’t miss the opportunities you have to do the same. Buy it, read it and give it away to your Muslim friends.

Available for $15 (plus postage and handling) from the CMS QNNSW Bookstore: cms.org.au/bookstore


Now there is a book written for Muslims to explain the gospel. This is an essential tool for Christians to read and share, writes Karen Morris – an evangelist working in Melbourne, former CMS missionary, and author of Leading Better Bible Studies.
PRAYER DIARY UPDATES

DAY 19 - CMS TRAINEES COURSE 1, 2017

M (NSW & ACT)
Location to be decided.

E (NSW & ACT)
Planning to serve in East Asia.

J and I (NSW & ACT)
Elijah (13) and David (9)
Planning to serve in SE Asia.

S and K (NSW & ACT)
Josie (1)
Planning to serve in E Asia.

Kevin and Karen Flanagan (NSW & ACT)
Planning to serve in East Asia.

Chris and Stef Overhall (NSW & ACT)
Eliot (4) and Theodore (2)
Planning to serve in Latin America.

Matthew and Lisa Pearson (NSW & ACT)
Anna (4), Thomas (3), Reuben (1)
Planning to serve in the Northern Territory.

S (VIC)
Planning to serve in SE Asia.

Erin Moorcroft (NSW & ACT)
Planning to serve in Ireland.

DAY 4 - SPAIN

Mike and Tania Snowdon give thanks to God for the safe arrival of Tomas John, their third son, who was born in Spain on 5 December 2016.

DAY 3 - AUSTRIA

The postal address for Rob and Arabelle Horne printed in the Prayer Diary 2017 was incorrect. The correct address is: Hangweg 5, 4210 Gallneukirchen, Austria.

GET INVOLVED!
cms.org.au/get-involved OR complete below:

pray
☐ I will pray for the extension of God’s kingdom and would like to receive prayer updates about CMS missionaries and their locations.

Visit cms.org.au/get-involved/subscribe to sign up OR indicate below:

MISSIONARY NAME/S

-care
☐ I will show practical care for CMS missionaries and the communities in which they serve.

Visit cms.org.au/get-involved/care to find out more OR fill in your contact details to receive information about caring for CMS missionaries.

give
☐ I will give money to CMS so the work of proclaiming Jesus can continue.

Visit give.cms.org.au OR fill in the form below:

I will give a: ☐ monthly gift ☐ one-off gift
Amount: $25 $50 $100 $200 ☐ other $

I will pay by: ☐ direct debit ☐ cheque/money order (please mail the forms)
Card no. ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Expiry: ☐
Card no. ☐ Direct debit (please mail the forms)
CVV: ☐

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

☐ Please send me information about making a bequest to CMS.

GIVE THIS FORM TO YOUR CMS BRANCH (SEE OVERLEAF)
Are you ready for Africa?

RIGHT NOW THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK AT ST JOHN’S UNIVERSITY IN TANZANIA

“Tanzania abounds in beauty: land, people, fauna and flora. It is a great asset to our world. However, there are great needs. Serving at St John’s University of Tanzania (SJUT) is an amazing opportunity to use your gifts and expertise to equip Christian leaders for the Tanzanian Church and society.”

Malcolm and Elmari Buchanan (pictured, top right, with Oliver, Rita, Ian and Clara)
Served at SJUT: 2010 to January 2017

THEOLOGICAL LECTURERS

“There is a great need for lecturers in our theological faculty. Covering so many courses with so few teaching staff is our greatest challenge.”

John and Jill Morshead
Served at SJUT: 2007 to 2017

EXPERIENCED ACADEMICS

“We need experienced academics who can not only teach but also provide input into department, faculty & university management and research.”

Graham and Alison McKay (Short Term Workers)
Served at SJUT: 2011 to 2016

IT STAFF

“SJUT could really benefit from people with good experience in running IT services and developing solid IT infrastructure.”

CMS BRANCH OFFICES

QUEENSLAND WITH NORTHERN NSW
Level 4, 126 Barry Parade (PO Box 526), Fortitude Valley QLD 4006
(07) 3112 6530  qld@cms.org.au
Rev Jeremy Gehrmann

NSW & ACT
Level 5, 51 Druitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000
(PO Box 21326, World Square NSW 2002)
(02) 9267 3711  nswact@cms.org.au
Rev Canon Malcolm Richards

SOUTH AUSTRALIA/NORTHERN TERRITORY
4/195 Victoria Square, Adelaide SA 5000
(08) 8212 4838  sa@cms.org.au
Mr David Williams

VICTORIA
630 Mitcham Road, Mitcham VIC 3132
(PO Box 2150, Rangeview, VIC, 3132)
(03) 9894 4722  vic@cms.org.au
Rev Dr Wei-Han Kuan

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
31 Acheson Crescent, Woodvale WA 6026
(08) 9408 1296  wa@cms.org.au
Rev Canon Ray Arthur

TASMANIA
23 Clarence Street, Bellerive TAS 7018
tas@cms.org.au
Rev Scott Sargent

CMS AUSTRALIA OFFICE
Level 5, 51 Druitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000
(PO Box 20095, World Square NSW 2002)
(02) 9284 6777  cmsa@cms.org.au
Rev Canon Peter Rodgers

ST ANDREW’S HALL
190 The Avenue, Parkville VIC 3052
(03) 9388 1663  sah@cms.org.au

View the opportunities here, and in other parts of Africa, at:

cms.org.au/opportunity/africa

ISSN 1444-00199 | Print Post Approved pp 100007306