

# Partnership

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION  
[www.apwm.org.au](http://www.apwm.org.au)



2013 #2

## SOUTH SUDAN: HOW DO YOU RE-BUILD A CHURCH?

How do you go about rebuilding the Church when your country has been traumatized by decades of civil war and you have broken away from the northern part of the country? That's the challenge that faces the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

On July 9, 2011, South Sudan gained independence from Sudan as the outcome of a 2005 peace agreement that ended Africa's longest-running civil war.

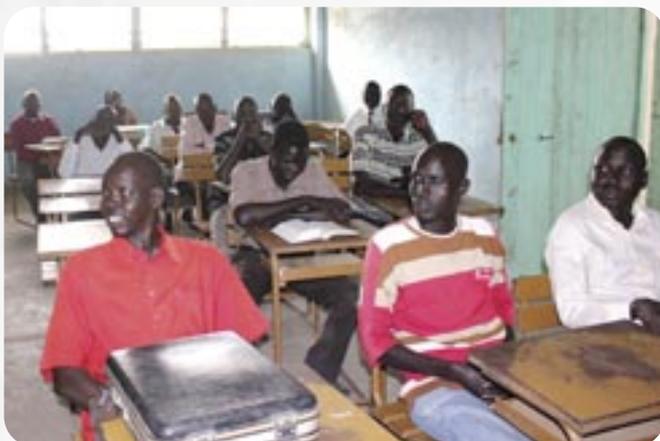
For the Presbyterian Church that has meant a huge rebuilding effort. The members of the Church have been scarred not only by war but by the deaths that were involved. In some cases church buildings bear the bullet marks of war.



*Juba, the capital city of South Sudan*

Their theological college, the Nile Theological College, has now had to relocate to Malakal in South Sudan. Church leaders are currently touring the country in an attempt to make an assessment of the current state of the Church.

Owing to the attitude of the North toward the South much of South Sudan wasn't given the sort of infrastructure that is present in the North. The New York Times recently produced a video entitled "How to Build a Country from Scratch." All this has made the Church's task in basic communication much harder. While mobile phones are everywhere, the internet is practically nonexistent in Malakal, South



*Nile Theological College*

Sudan's second largest city, where the Church has its headquarters. Outside the capital city sealed roads are a rarity. This means that during the 9 month long wet season travel is very difficult.

The South Sudanese are composed of three main tribes, the Dinka, the Nuer and the Shilluk each with their own language. Many congregations are based on tribal languages but amongst some of the younger congregations the tribes are mixed and worship in Arabic.

The link between the Australian Church and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan has been strengthened by the large numbers of Presbyterian Southern Sudanese who came to Australia as refugees. A number of these have now returned to South Sudan to provide leadership and assistance in rebuilding the country.

The APWM missionaries in South Sudan are Motor Yat and Rhys & Rhondda Hall. Rhys and Rhondda serve with ACROSS in the Sudan Literature Centre Project and in the production of community and Christian teaching programmes through the use of radio, film and digital players in a variety of languages.

Motor is engaged in a ministry within the Presbyterian Church by training elders and is based in Malakal (see page 3).

Recently an Australian team consisting of Michael & Kerry Jensen, Chuol Yat from the Clayton, Victorian congregation and Kevin Murray travelled to South Sudan to learn more about the Church and see where the Australian Church could be of assistance. What they found was very encouraging.



*Bullet marks inside a church*



*Rhys and Rhondda Hall*

*continued on page 3*

“ AFTER THIS I LOOKED AND THERE BEFORE ME WAS A GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND IN FRONT OF THE LAMB. (REVELATION 7:9) ”



# UPDATES

## CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE

Thank you to those who 'bought' items from our Christmas Catalogue which helped our brothers and sisters in Myanmar and East Timor. Approximately \$20,000 was raised as follows:

- 70 Toiletries (East Timor)
- 169 Mosquito Nets (Myanmar)
- 107 Blankets (Myanmar)
- 44 Umbrellas (Myanmar)
- 87 Bags of rice (East Timor)
- 74 Bags of rice (Myanmar)
- 29 Bible college book resources (Myanmar)
- 16 Stationery packs for a rural school (Myanmar)
- 39 Education for one child (Myanmar)
- 21 Vitamins & Medicines for a rural village (Myanmar)
- 19 Medicine for Bible College Students (Myanmar)
- 11 Guitar (East Timor)
- 41 Goat or Pig (East Timor)
- 11 School Equipment (East Timor)
- 6 Generator for a Rural Villages (Myanmar)
- 2 Computers for a Bible College (Myanmar)



These gifts have now been sent to our sister Churches in East Timor and Myanmar. Thang Bwee of the Evangelical Church of Myanmar writes "Christmas gifts are really great helps to our people." Daniel Marcal of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor writes "Thanks very much for Christmas Gift that God gave by hands of brothers and sisters in Australia."

## ANDREW AND MARILYN SCHACHE

Andrew and Marilyn Schache from South Toowoomba, Queensland are preparing to depart for Vanuatu to serve at the Talua Ministry Training Centre APWM National. They will be serving in maintenance and administration.



In the last issue of our newsletter, 36% of the partnership support needed for Andrew and Marilyn had been pledged. Please join with us in praising God that 75% of the needed pledges have been received. If you are interested in supporting this important ministry then please contact us so that we can send Andrew and Marilyn to serve in Vanuatu as soon as possible.

## KEEPING UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS



One way of keeping up with the latest APWM news is by 'Liking' us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianPresbyterianWorldMission>

## INDIGENOUS MINISTRY: WORKING TOGETHER

"Working together and maximizing every opportunity for indigenous ministry." That was the heart of the message APWM communicated to the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) Committee when it met in Sydney during January. The meeting was told "This is what we have been doing for years, let's now formalize it in a very clear way".



Within the Presbyterian Church, responsibility for Indigenous Ministry has been given to APWM. Naturally this is a challenge that is beyond the capacity of APWM.

For this reason, APWM has agreed that PIM's patrol padres and mission church pastors should feel free to engage indigenous people with the gospel whenever they have an opportunity to do so.

As part of this APWM has entered into a partnership with PIM where it will help PIM raise the necessary support for PIM ministry based at Mount Magnet in Western Australia.

There are increasing opportunities for indigenous ministry in areas such as Mount Magnet, Darwin and the new Alice Springs church plant led by Keith and Jenny Bell.

## MEAL FOR MISSION

Each year a number of churches run a 'Meal for Mission' event or Sunday. What is 'Meal for Mission'? It's an opportunity for a local congregation to deliberately focus on the work of cross-cultural mission both here and overseas through ministries such as:

**Rick and Kayleen Manton** serving the Indigenous people in Mount Druitt, Sydney;

The **Presbyterian Theological College** in Bangladesh;

**Martin Eagle**, serving with the **Evangelical Reformed Church** in Myanmar;

**John and Rosemary Evans** serving in Japan;

Malawi: **Presbyterian Church Central Africa**

**The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor;**

**Andy & Rosemary Williamson** and **Glen & Rachael Connor** and **Andrew & Marilyn Schache** serving at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu;

Zambia: **Presbyterian Church Central Africa**

**The Staff** in our National Office.

We ask churches to pray for these ministries and for each member, where possible, to contribute the cost of one meal to support ministry in these cross-cultural settings.

We are continually attempting to use our website as a source for information. If you would like to download information on these ministries and some PowerPoint presentations then please go to our website [www.apwm.org.au](http://www.apwm.org.au) and click the tab 'What We Do' and go to the page "Meal for Mission".

# MINISTRY IN SOUTH SUDAN: MOTOR YAT

*Motor (Isaac) Yat serves as an APWM Missionary in Sudan and works with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. I was recently in South Sudan and took the opportunity to ask Motor about his ministry. He will be back in Australia for Home Assignment in July 2013. Motor needs more people to support him in partnership. If you would like to assist in supporting Motor in his ministry then please contact our office.*

Kevin Murray



## How long have you been serving in South Sudan?

I'm just entering my fourth year. I arrived here in 2008.

## What is your main ministry?

First, I train church leaders. I train them in the area of eldership — the role of elders, the qualification of elders, the election of elders and the call of elders. The church benefits from this training. The other area is witnessing about Christ to other people.

## What are some of the challenges that face the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan?

One of the challenges is that there are many people coming to church and yet the people are not able to build a church for themselves. Many are coming to church but they end up praying in the heat. Another challenge is the theological training of ministers. The church is not able to support its candidates for the ministry.

## How has the war affected the church?

The church has been greatly affected by the war. It destroyed church buildings, schools and even the people. People are now coming back to church and building from zero. People lost some of their ministers. Recovering from war is hard and to spiritually rebuild the nation is not easy. People have been living in exile in different places and in different camps. Now they are coming to church and the church has been affected spiritually. We need to pray that the church can do its task of reaching out to such people. People are traumatised by war.

## How much theological training have ministers had?

When you go to the rural areas you find churches that are being looked after by people who are not trained. The people who have been trained have a certificate in theology and are usually serving as ministers. A few have been trained at the Nile Theological College here in Malakal. We need more training for ministers to be able to

deliver the Word of God in the churches that they are serving.

## How is the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan different from the Presbyterian Church of Australia?

First, in Australia, people look at their watches and expect church to last for one hour. Here people are very keen to listen to the Word of God and you can preach for an hour! Secondly, people in Australia support their local church and are good at tithing, even with 25 people. Here you may have a big number in the church but they are not able to support the minister. Third, in Australia, ministers are trained and qualified. Here we don't have many qualified ministers who can train others. Fourth, the people here are not good in tithing. Many people in the church in Australia are employed. Here, half of the church is not employed and are unable to support the minister.

## What things are encouraging you?

People are listening to the Word of God. You can share the Word of God, you can share your faith and testimony with someone in his home or in the street without any problem. It's an open door for the gospel! In Australia people don't have time. You may share your testimony or the Word of God with somebody but they don't have time. Here there is time. You can sow here because people are hungry and thirsty to hear the Word of God. You can pray with them and they with you. People are waiting to hear more about Jesus Christ. When I do training in churches for young people and elders I see many people whose hearts are willing to listen to the Word of God. It's very encouraging as you feel that you are helping to build the church.

# SOUTH SUDAN: HOW DO YOU RE-BUILD A CHURCH? (continued from page 1)

There were opportunities to run some workshops for ministers in areas such as (a) an overview of the Bible (b) Biblical marriage (c) the message of Habakkuk. Each of these areas addressed pressing needs within the Church.

One minister publicly commented "We've had many workshops before on leadership but never anything about the Bible." The ministers asked the team to return in the near future and provide more teaching. There is a genuine hunger in the Church for the word of God. Many ministers lack formal training in the Bible.

The team was greatly encouraged by the attitude of some of the ministers toward outside aid. One said "We need to put up a new



Malakal Seminar



Rev Michael & Mrs Kerry Jensen, Rev Chuol Yat



Presbyterian Church Offices

church building. For us to own it we must pay for it. If we don't pay for it then we won't take care of it."

As part of the visit the team was able to renew our Partnership agreement with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

These are critical days for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan.

# STRATEGIC SUPPORT FOR 350 MISSIONARY FAMILIES

*Paul and Jenny Rayner from Central Church Ipswich, have been accepted as APWM Partner Agency Missionaries to serve with Pioneers in Thailand. They are currently trying to raise Partnership Support to enable them to commence service overseas. I recently asked them about their ministry.*

Kevin Murray

## **Paul, you'll be teaching at Grace International School in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Why is this school so important for the work of cross-cultural mission in Thailand?**

The school supports around 350 missionary families. This means that 350 couples are able to continue with their work of spreading the gospel not only in Thailand but in South East Asia. They could be in church planting, using Business As Mission, doing translation work, or aiding people with micro loans so that they can try to get out of poverty. Thailand is in the centre of this region and within 2½ hours flight from Chiang Mai you have 1/3 of the world's population. In this area there are 15 closed countries. The presence of the school enables families to base themselves in Chiang Mai so that parents can enter those closed countries while their children continue with their education.

## **You both have a safe and comfortable life in Ipswich. Why do you want to leave that behind to go to Thailand? What has led you to this point?**

Paul: I became a follower of Jesus because of other peoples' input into my life. Being a teacher allows me to have a positive input into others' lives. We both do not feel called to be on the front line but feel called to help assist the spread of God's Word. By teaching the children of missionaries, we can do that. This calling allows for families to remain on the field because children are able to receive the same standard of education as they would receive in their home country.

## **As you've been preparing to serve, what have been some of the joys?**

We've been to the school and seen the positive influences teachers have on the students. That is a real joy. Another joy is that our two daughters want to go even though they know it will be hard to leave family (grandparents & cousins) behind.

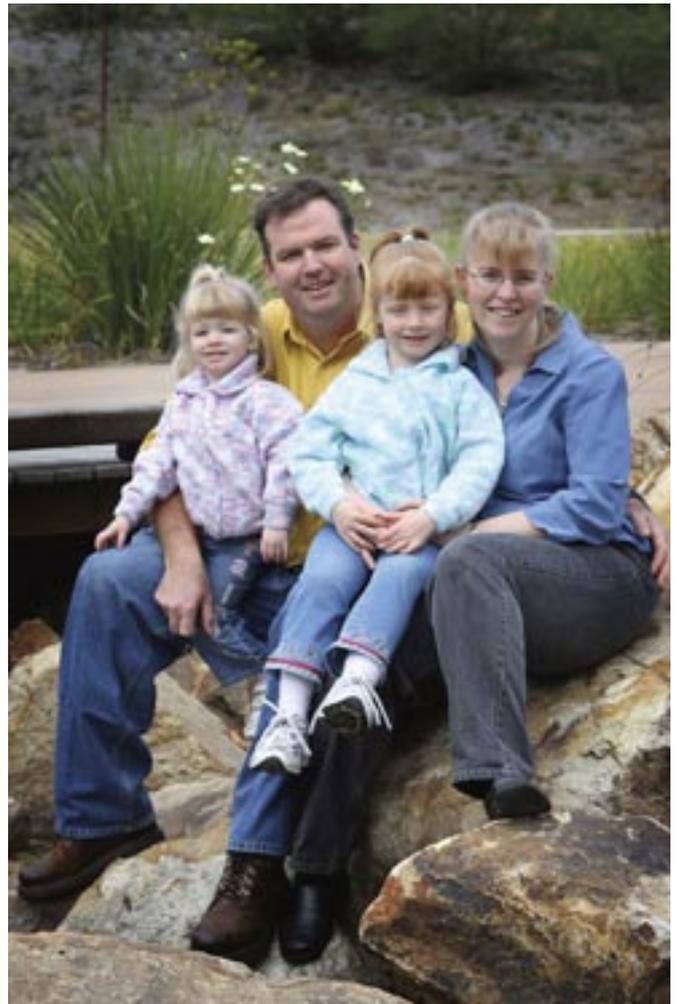
## **What challenges are you facing?**

As we've talked to family and friends about what God has put on our hearts, we haven't always received positive responses. That has been hard.

As we've contacted some churches, we've found that they don't support any missionaries at all. Sometimes they are too busy to allow us to come and share with them and that means that we can't connect with the individuals within the congregation. At the moment our support level is at 16%.

## **When do you hope to leave?**

July 2013. This will allow us both to get some intense language study in before the new school year starts in August. It will also allow us to set up things like drivers' licences, finding a house to rent and setting it up etc. This date is flexible and will depend on God meeting our need for financial support.



The Rayner Family

## **How can people find out more about what you hope to do?**

They can contact us at [therayners@internode.on.net](mailto:therayners@internode.on.net) and we can then contact them to talk about what we are doing. For those without email, phone us on 07 3129 1622 or write to us at 12 Kentia Circuit, Flinders View Qld 4305. We are happy to email or post out information as needed and we try to send an Update newsletter about once a month.



## AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

### NATIONAL OFFICE

8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point NSW Australia T: 02 9792 1373  
Tracey Evans E: [national@apwm.org.au](mailto:national@apwm.org.au)  
Bruce Campbell E: [finance@apwm.org.au](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au)

### NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Kevin Murray T: 02 9792 1373 M: 0421 366 720  
E: [kevinmurray@apwm.org.au](mailto:kevinmurray@apwm.org.au)

### FEDERAL CONVENER

Alex Shaw T: 0403 778 151 E: [alex\\_4\\_shaw@internode.on.net](mailto:alex_4_shaw@internode.on.net)

[www.apwm.org.au](http://www.apwm.org.au)

### STATE CONVENERS

Queensland	Nathan Stewart	E: <a href="mailto:nathan@stewartfamily.id.au">nathan@stewartfamily.id.au</a>
NSW	Robert McKean	E: <a href="mailto:rpmckean@exemail.com.au">rpmckean@exemail.com.au</a>
Victoria	Phil Simmonds	E: <a href="mailto:convener@apwmvic.org.au">convener@apwmvic.org.au</a>
Tasmania	Norman Shellard	E: <a href="mailto:shellard@tpg.com.au">shellard@tpg.com.au</a>
South Australia	Gary Ware	E: <a href="mailto:gjware@internode.on.net">gjware@internode.on.net</a>
Western Australia	Stuart Bonnington	E: <a href="mailto:melbonn@bigpond.com">melbonn@bigpond.com</a>