



AUGUST 2020

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is distributed semi-regularly via email, with Church News. It contains recent updates from Australian Christian Churches (ACC) field workers, and other ministries, that we as a church prayerfully and financially support. All content is provided to Life UC, with limited proofing/edits.

If you have any comments or questions about content, please send an email to [lifemissions@lifeuc.com.au](mailto:lifemissions@lifeuc.com.au).

Regards  
Sara Hodgson, Life Missions Coordinator

## OUR FOCUS

Our church theme for this year is 'Make Room' and the key verse is from Matthew 6:33: "Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. Then all these less important things will be given to you abundantly."

For Life Missions, we are focusing on Making Room for Missions in our daily lives. We can do this by regularly and intentionally:

- **PRAYING** for the field workers we support
- **GIVING** to missions and special projects
- **GOING** locally and internationally, and
- **BELIEVING** for the salvation of others.

## THIS MONTH'S LIFE MISSIONS UPDATE

In this month's Life Missions update, we will be hearing from Katrina Gliddon. Katrina founded Mother's Heart in Cambodia 10 years ago, as the first crisis pregnancy service in the country. It is still the only organisation in Cambodia offering this service, and Katrina and her Khmer staff work tirelessly to assist vulnerable women and their families. Throughout the Covid-19 crisis, the staff have continued to offer counselling services as well as providing for their client's basic needs through the delivery of care packages.

We will be praying for Katrina, her family and the Mother's Heart team for safety and provision during the Covid-19 crisis, for strong relationships to be maintained in the local team, and for wisdom and grace for Katrina as she supports her family, the team and the ministry.

## PAN ASIA CONFERENCE

Many of you would be familiar with the annual ACCI Pan Asia Conference, usually held in Thailand each August, where field workers and partners/churches from Australia gather to report, connect and encourage each other. As a highlight of the year for many in any aspect of missions, it was certainly sad to see this event cancelled due to the pandemic situation. All, however, was not lost, as Pan Asia went virtual for 2020! You can catch up on all the events, including updates from field workers and devotionals from ACC pastors at the ACCI Mission & Relief Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/accimissionsandrelief/>.

## VIETNAM – PAUL & DEB HILTON



Xin Chào and G'day....or hello to those who are neither Vietnamese or Australian.

Well this is about the longest we have spent in Australia in over 20 years of serving in Asia. It has been four months and counting. We would love to be saying that we are counting down the days until we return to Vietnam, but at this stage, Australia is yet to give us permission to leave, and Vietnam is not reopening its borders any time soon.

During this time however, we continue to minister from afar in Australia. We have chosen to be very intentional about our days and still have lots to share with you of what is happening through the ministry.

### VIETNAM

When the Coronavirus hit Vietnam, the country very quickly went into lockdown. The fact that Vietnam responded so well in the early days of the pandemic, meant that the number of infections was minimal and according to all reports, Vietnam has not recorded any deaths to date. A really blessing for Vietnam.

Just like everywhere else, everything shut down and everyone had to stay indoors, with the only exception being, to go out for essentials. During the pandemic, it has been very difficult for many Vietnamese who are in poorer communities. In normal circumstances, the reality for these people is, what they earn only permits them to buy basic food for their families, so to consider buying essentials to protect themselves against the COVID-19 pandemic, is out of their financial reach.

The good news is, the AOGWR team were able to respond quickly to this need by providing sanitation packs to some of the Vietnamese people in communities that we work in.

### COURAGEOUS AND FLOURISH IN OVER 30 NATIONS - A COVID-19 RESPONSE

Our life skills programs, Courageous for males and Flourish for females are continuing to expand globally even during this pandemic season.

Recently, one of our Flourish teams in Central Asia answered the call from their government to assist women who had been physiologically affected due to having been displaced from their homes because of a recent flood in their area. Our team saw this as a great opportunity to run Flourish with some of these women. They were able to run the first session of Flourish before their city went into lockdown. The women who attended the session said that they were incredibly impacted by the message they heard on identity and value. Our team told them that although their circumstances may have changed, their value had not. Some of the mothers brought their children with them so while some of the team ran the Flourish session with the women, the rest of the team ministered to their children. On top of this, our Flourish team gave out emergency packs to these women for their families.

*DUE TO SECURITY, WE CANNOT SHOW PHOTOS OF THIS AREA, BUT WHAT AN AMAZING TESTIMONY.*



Deb recently trained a group of Australian women in the Flourish Program who regularly travel to minister in other nations in Africa and Asia. They plan to run Flourish with women in these nations as soon as borders reopen. One of the ladies in this group plans to run Flourish with the homeless in the Brisbane area.

## **GATHERING FIELD WORKERS WHO ARE BACK IN AUSTRALIA**

Many of us who serve in overseas missions are back in Australia at the moment because we are unable to return to our field of service due to COVID-19. A great number of these field workers are in Queensland. We thought it would be a great idea to gather everyone together to encourage each other and pray for one another. We had a great morning together.

*NOT ALL WHO CAME ARE IN THE PHOTO FOR SECURITY REASONS.*



*Thank you for your partnership and investment into nations. Our prayer for you is that you continue to grow and thrive, even in this current season.*

*In every season, we can continue to see great fruit.*

*Blessings,  
Paul & Deb*

## **NORTH ASIA – ROSS & DONNA**

In 1859 Charles Dickens began his book, A Tale of Two Cities with these words: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

It could have been written to describe the current situation in our world. A season of paradoxes and enigmas. In fact, there will always be good and evil co-existing, so we have a choice. Will we focus on the good or the evil? We're choosing the former because even in the midst of the uncertainty and chaos there is so much to be thankful for and excited about!

### **FUTURE HOPE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Our team are continuing to reach out to the families and children in the community where we have been working for many years. They are distributing food and daily necessities to the most needy.

### **JUMPING THE BORDER**

We are still based in Brisbane, until we can get back to North Asia. However, we were able to speak at the Lifehouse Church Missions Dinner in Coffs Harbour. We had a great time hanging out with the Lifehouse team who are so passionate for missions and reaching the world for Jesus. We have also been conducting a lot of virtual ministry via internet including communion.

### **CYBER-MENTORING**

As well as preparing training materials for the national church, Ross has also been mentoring young leaders through different internet platforms.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Health and safety for our local team.
- Our plans to return to North Asia when the borders open.
- The families of the community where we are working – for health and open hearts.
- Ross as he writes leadership material for the local church.
- The local church as they navigate through this difficult time and are salt and light to the nation.
- The mentoring of young leaders.

Thanks again for your faithful prayers and support of our ministry to North Asia.

Blessings,  
Ross & Donna

## MOZAMBIQUE – ROBBIE HOUSEN

Hope Ministry Training has been active throughout the Covid-19 crisis, sowing hope in the midst of despair and fear through the provision of Relief Packs that can sustain one family for one month.



## VIETNAM – KELVIN & REBEKAH WINDSOR

Swimming is a basic life-saving skill that is an absolute necessity. Annually, drowning is also the one of leading causes of death in children in Vietnam especially as kids try and cool off in the heat.

Through some pretty amazing opportunities, our AOGWR team began installing swimming pools and facilitating swimming lessons for primary and secondary age children to combat this crisis. Children gain confidence in the water and learn about the importance of being safety aware when around let alone in the water which they then can share with family and friends.

Since we began this project, we have seen literally thousands upon thousands of children learn to swim and be able to save their life in the event of a disaster. Thanks to our generous partners and volunteers, we will continue ensuring more children in Vietnam can enjoy their right to safety and survival.



## MISSIONS GIVING SUPPORT

Paul & Katrina Gliddon – Cambodia  
Ross & Donna – North Asia  
Paul & Deb Hilton – Vietnam  
Robbie Houseen – Mozambique

Josh & Belinda Groves – Lesotho  
Robert & Rhonda – South Asia  
Kelvin & Rebekah Windsor – Vietnam  
Pan Asia Conference – Thailand

If you like to give to missions by Direct Deposit, please identify your support as 'Missions' to the Life UC bank account (Bank: NAB – BSB: 082906 – Account: 49449 4548).

Cam on! Ke a leboha! Khop khun ka! Au kun!

**Life Missions Director – Ps Sean Stanton**