



# MISSIONS INTERLINK ANNUAL REPORT 2018

This is my final report to the Missions Interlink community. I stepped down from my role as the MI National Director in August with:

- Much gratitude to God for his faithfulness;
- A sense of immense privilege for the opportunity to serve the Australian mission community through MI;
- Delight and thankfulness for the appointment of Nataliya Osipova;
- Optimism about the future of MI;
- Some sadness to be leaving colleagues and ministries; and
- Great expectation about how God will work in and through me in this next phase.

A huge thank you to the MI staff, volunteers, National Leadership Team, and Member and Associate organisations for the support, encouragement, guidance, and fellowship you gave me over the last eleven and a half years. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the dedicated administration, book-keeping, and other assistance by Avy Vitasa. I could not have done the role over the last few years without her help.

The 2017/2018 year was a busy one for MI with numerous events across Australia, and the implementation of a national structure with consolidation of financial accounts for the first time.

## **State and Territory Networks**

The numerous MI activities at the local level are dependent on the hard work and generosity of volunteer committees and networks. These include conferences, camps, breakfasts, seminars, fellowship meetings, retreats, prayer, information sharing, online groups and other events. Special appreciation goes to the part-time staff who lead or assist these networks: Peter Warren (WA), Rachel Borneman (NT), Elspeth Sheahan (Qld), Roopa McIntyre (NSW), and Amy Anderson and David Hall (NSW) who finished at the end of 2017.

## **Conferences**

**Mission Matters** was a new weekend mission conference held at Mt Tamborine (Qld) in 2017 and was again in September 2018 with the theme *Beautiful Feet Bring Good News*.

**ReachOut**, now held in September at Katoomba (NSW) continues to draw together over six hundred people to hear from God's word, learn how God is working around the world, and explore mission service opportunities. The conference is preceded by a Mission Leaders' Retreat and Pastors' Mission Day.

**Activate Missions Conference** is a one-day mission conference held in Melbourne in May. Naomi Reed was the keynote speaker this year.

MI state networks also assisted and participated in other conferences such as Keswick (WA), Catherine Convention (NT), Belgrave Heights (Vic) and Surrender (Vic).

The **2018 MI National Conference** in Melbourne 24 – 26 July with Steve Maina (NZCMS) as the keynote speaker was a wonderful time for about 100 mission leaders and staff from across Australia to connect, learn, and worship together.

The second **South Pacific Region Member Care Conference**, hosted by Missions Interlink, was held in Melbourne in September 2017, and planning is under way for the next conference, so be held in Dunedin,

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NZ, next year. Karen Newnham represented the Region at the Global Member Care Conference in Quito, Ecuador, in September 2018.

### *Aldinga Beach Retreat House*

The occupancy of the MI Retreat House at Aldinga Beach in SA has increased again this year as it becomes better known and those who have stayed there recommend it to others. A number of mission organisation staff, as well as missionaries, have appreciated the opportunity for respite that the ministry provides, and others are encouraged to visit. There is much appreciation for the generosity of Ben and Robyn McLean who oversee the ministry and provide debrief to guests when requested.

### *Mission Seek*

Mission Seek, the MI web-based facility for connecting “mission seekers” with opportunities, was moved to a “job-board” platform last December that facilitated greater flexibility and accessibility of the service. A generous donor also invested in the promotion of Mission Seek through the production of a short video and over the last year there have consistently been over 1,000 opportunities posted on the site. My thanks go to Jan Boucher who conscientiously administered Missions Seek until April this year.

### *MI Training*

Training for various aspects of cross-cultural mission continues to be a key contribution MI makes to the Australian missions community.

**Transition Training (TT)** has a good reputation with positive feedback, from participating organisations and the field, about the quality of preparation it provides. This is largely due to the investment Kate Pocklington has made to the program since she took up its leadership in 2013. Many mission partners have benefitted from the Kate’s generosity in sharing her gifts, skills and time. Kate recently passed on the leadership of TT to Graeme Dunkley, but she will continue to be involved as a facilitator for the time being.

**Maximum Impact Language Learning (MILL)** is held at CMS training college, St Andrew’s Hall in October and April each year and caters for CMS trainees as well as independent students and candidates from other agencies. MILL is presented by excellent teachers Cathy Bow, Louise Simon and Rebecca Elliot and is very highly regarded by those who participate.

**MI Short-term Training (MIST)** is co-ordinated nationally by Christine Bird and has been run in most states on a regular basis during the year. A MIST program was held in NT for the first time in March. Unfortunately the dates coincided with cyclone Marcus hitting Darwin which disrupted the program.

**MI Advanced Security Training** programs were held in Sydney and Melbourne in October 2017 and in Adelaide in September 2018 with overseas trainers from Sanctuary. Regular MI security training is planned commence in 2019.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the MI Chair, Richard Dickins, and the rest of the AEA Board for their faithful governance and oversight of MI and the personal encouragement and wisdom they provided me. Above all, my praise goes to our heavenly Father for his provision, guidance, strength and blessing as I served the MI community. I am grateful for all that has been achieved and pray for Nataliya as she leads the ongoing development of MI and its ministries.

Pam Thyer

5 November 2018