

## **MMM HISTORY FOR ORIENTATION**

### **1. THE BEGINNING TO 1977**

Arnold Long was stranded by the side of the road and needed help! Founder of the Australian Missionary Society, Arnold lived and worked in Alice Springs but was now on route to the annual Aboriginal Evangelical Convention. Responding to his message for assistance came John Caton from Umeewarra Mission together with his Melbourne visitor Gordon Blowers. On the long drive back to the mission at Port Augusta, Arnold told his rescuers of the urgent need for building work on the Kramer Memorial Chapel in Alice Springs—the lease on the building was in danger of being revoked by the owner.

Safely at Port Augusta, Arnold's story was shared with past staff member of the Umeewarra mission David Dawson who was taking time off from his business work to join work parties formed to assist missions. The rest is... history!

The building work carried out on the Alice Springs Chapel building is an example of some of the experiences that prompted Melbourne-based people to undertake a survey of the building and maintenance needs of the missions and missionaries in remote places of Australia. In June 1975, David Dawson wrote in the first MMM newsletter, "M.M.M. is a venture undertaken in faith in God with no guarantee of support from this world, but rather we have the promise of God—'My God shall supply all your needs from His riches in glory'. Our vision is to provide a practical service to missions, etc., which operate by faith, an evangelical outreach for God. We have a dedicated team of tradesmen and willing helpers available to assist either full-time or by means of work parties, thus relieving the missionaries, and allowing them to continue with the work which they first set out to do..."

Now known as MMM, Mobile Mission Maintenance officially commenced as a 'faith mission' in August 1975. The original MMM Council was made up by Murray Kay, John Walder, David Dawson and Gordon Blowers. The first teams involved in full-time work were itinerant workers literally 'mobile'— living in caravans and relying on God for all they needed and many stories exist telling of how He provided for their needs—even those needs told to no one but God Himself.

From the very beginnings of MMM, stories abound of the numbers of volunteers who came forward to make the work party system a reality. Historically, work done in association with MMM has usually been known for trades such as building, carpentry, plumbing, painting etc. Less recognised by people outside of MMM has been the invaluable work such as that done by women on mobile teams. A comprehensive list of such work can be found on p63 of Miles of Ministry & Miracles compiled by Geoff Hansen.

While short term volunteers were now being accepted on work-parties formed for specific projects, the MMM Council had recognised the challenges for the Mission's families travelling full-time. The issue of education for school-age children of MMM families greatly influenced the Council's decision-making to purchase land for a base. (NB. The word 'Base' has been replaced by 'Centre' and from this point will be referred to as such in this paper including, for continuity, its use in direct quotes).

## **2. MMM HEADQUARTERS**

In 1978 following much prayer and consideration of all the issues, the Council trusting that God was leading them to establish a Headquarters Centre, purchased the property at Whittlesea north of Melbourne. MMM's administration was established at the Centre and accommodation was provided for visiting volunteers and for team members no longer able to travel full-time.

The miraculous circumstances of the Whittlesea purchase by MMM

Guidelines the Council felt were important in choosing a property suitable for MMM's purchase included:

- Close by to both primary and secondary schools and to shops and churches
- Large enough to accommodate staff housing, administration offices and workshops
- Sufficient open space to park caravans and trucks
- Ideally, the local school bus route would include a bus-stop at the property's gate
- The property should be secluded from the public eye to protect assets but be easily located by visitors to MMM
- For work project teams going off in different directions from the Centre, it would ideally be north of Melbourne making it easier to join the Hume Highway and other roads providing ways to bypass the city.

With a large donation in-hand (made by Gordon Blowers) for a property, the Council began a search of small acreage properties within 50 km to the north of Melbourne city. Whittlesea had the only suitable prospects—properties listed by local land estate agents were inspected but nothing seemed appropriate. None of the Council members had peace about any of the properties they had seen despite three weeks of intensive research. After deciding to give one more full day to the search, they drove all around the district themselves. Nearly at the end of the day, they decided to ask about a thirty hectare property at Upper Plenty. Making enquiries at the estate agency, they were dismayed to hear that the property had just been sold but were then told by the agent about a property he had already sold on three occasions. Each time including that same day, the sale had fallen through because of issues with finances.

Inspecting the property with the estate agent were David Dawson, Gordon Blowers and John Walder. They agreed that in this property, all their guidelines for an MMM Centre would be met even beyond their expectations—also available was a good water catchment with water storage dams.

Back with the agent, they discovered that the asking price for the property was \$10,000 more than they had. Again, they turned to God trusting that He was going before them and guiding them in all things — if He wanted MMM to have the property then His Spirit would inspire the vendor to accept a lower sum of money. Despite the agent's concerns, the vendor agreed to drop his price and the property was purchased with the deposit paid in June 1978.

Reflecting on the first ten years of MMM's history, it was acknowledged that the Centre proved very suitable for the immediate needs of MMM as well as providing ample space for future development. Not only that but the small farm on the property allowed for low cost produce for MMM families and generated sufficient income to be partly self-supporting e.g., payment of annual council rates.

Development of the Whittlesea Centre was not an easy process. During ongoing discussions with the local Government authorities, the Conservation Authority's right to limit development in what was a part of Melbourne's water-catchment was uncovered. It seemed that there could only be one house per property. Nevertheless, believing that God had clearly given them the property as an MMM Centre for more than one family, the Council proceeded to draw up plans with the expert help of various people. This process was covered by the prayers of many people.

By December in 1978, permits were granted and building plans approved. In 1979, the MMM Annual Meeting was held as usual at the Wycliffe Headquarters in Kangaroo Ground—it was decided an Open Day should be held on December 9th at the Whittlesea property. For the first time (having returned home after the year's work) mobile team members could be a part of the larger gathering. The event was such a day of glory given to God through worship—singing, testimonies and shared information that the decision was made to hold the Mission's Open Day in future at the end of each year rather in August.

Historically, work on the MMM Centre at Whittlesea always took a secondary place to the needs of God's servants to whom MMM ministers. Even so, by 1997 the Centre had nine dwelling units, a large office complex with a community room and kitchen, a vehicle workshop and large garage. It also had carports for each house, a caravan park and an amenities block for on-road teams as well as farm buildings. The needs of families was provided for with a playground, tennis court and plenty of room for horses, riding bikes etc.

The Centre was not only seen as a place for families and administration but also for the annual orientation training sessions for members new to MMM. Other families with school-age children also lived there for one or two years for training with a local team before moving to represent MMM in a more permanent regional centre.

The building of the houses demanded a real commitment by those joining the work at Whittlesea. There were virtually no funds to finance the houses, and the council was reluctant to borrow finance at commercial rates.

The majority of families who have moved to the Centre over those development years had sold their homes or properties before joining the mission. Would they be prepared to finance their own house by way of a loan to M.M.M.? Would they commit, not only themselves, but their savings also to the work of the Lord? In every case each home unit was financed by one of the families so that development could go ahead without delays.

Good quality buildings were erected, with a view to making them as maintenance-free as possible. There should not be unnecessary time taken up with maintenance at home, when so many of God's servants around the country are crying out for assistance.

It is with a real sense of praise to God that, before the first 10 years of M.M.M. was reached, every house loan has been repaid to the families concerned, every asset at the Centre is debt-free, and the property is a monument to God's faithfulness in meeting every need. (Miles of Ministry and Miracles p42)

Many invitations for fellowship were being received by MMM from the missions they had assisted and so, in 1979 another survey tour began involving South Australia, the Northern Territory and the eastern states. Hoping to be of greater blessing to those missions, Max Vivian (an evangelist and Bible teacher from New Zealand) was invited to join the tour along with David Dawson, Peter Marshall and Mark McKenzie. The teaching and encouragement of the missionaries who were constantly giving out to others extended over 3 weeks and involved about 35 meetings. While this venture was considered most successful in every way, it was felt that this was not really the main thrust of M.M.M.'s ministry and no further trips have been planned. (Miles of Ministry and Miracles p47)

As an alternative Inter-Mission Fellowship Days were held in 1984 and 1985 at the Whittlesea Centre, bringing together personnel from various missions and mission headquarters for a time of exchange of ideas and methods, prayer points, and encouragement of one another, learning how one mission can help another to more effectively fulfil their ministries. (Miles of Ministry and Miracles p47)

Prayer was always important in the life of MMM but in 1982 a greater emphasis on prayer began at the Whittlesea Centre by setting aside a half day once a quarter. The other half of the day was spent in discussion of issues arising related to community life, planning etc. The thoughts of serving one another come through strongly; the need for humility and the consideration of others is the key factors for unity in God's service. (Miles of Ministry and Miracles p85)

Leigh Minehan joined MMM in 1980 and as a member of a mobile team was based in North Queensland (Qld) with his wife Marie and daughter. Leigh was appointed Director of MMM in 1982 and lived on the Whittlesea Centre.

### **3. AUSTRALIA: REGIONAL CENTRES**

Australia: Regional centres (staffed by missionaries on a volunteer basis) were progressively established to support the expansion of the ministry of MMM throughout Australia. One factor leading to the establishment of regional MMM Centres was the difficulty in managing remote and interstate projects from Whittlesea. Being able to hold local publicity and deputation events meant that more volunteers could be attracted for projects and costs (such as fuel) could be reduced.

#### **3.1 VICTORIA**

From the time of the Whittlesea property purchase in 1978 an Administration Team co-ordinated the Victorian work program. In January 1990, the Victorian Team began administering its own State Centre Manager and State Planning Committee, operating from its office based at Whittlesea. This Centre was for a time both the International Headquarters and Australian Head Office and staff who worked with the Victorian Team were often involved in administration and community activities of MMM. In December 1997, staff moved out of a garage / office, into the newly constructed Administration building on site.

#### **3.2 QUEENSLAND**

Commenced in January 1983. The Queensland Centre, being the first regional MMM Centre, was experimental in that many systems needed to be established for its operation, control and accountability. Originally this Centre was run from a number of private homes until a permanent Centre property was established and opened at Mango Hill, on the north side of Brisbane, in February 1997. The story of the establishment of this Centre is recorded in "Miracles at Mango Hill" written by Geoff Hansen.

### **3.3 NEW SOUTH WALES**

Commenced in January 1984. The principles learned and experiences gained whilst establishing the Queensland Centre helped in the commencement of the NSW Centre. There had always been a strong interest in MMM in the Sydney area, through a group of men who had helped on earlier work teams. This new Centre began operations from Ryde—in February 2006 it moved to Bethshan Ministries, near Wyee on the Central Coast where land was leased and the new MMM Centre for NSW is now situated.

### **3.4 TASMANIA**

The Tasmanian regional Centre commenced in October 1984 in the Hobart area. As more staff members joined it operated as a permanent and mobile team. During 1987/88 the Australian Board realised that the mobile life was causing pressures on family life — the permanent team was withdrawn and a local team of Associates serviced Tasmania. For a while an MMM staff couple managed the State Centre from their home at Ulverstone. In February 2001 a staff couple moved to Tasmania and ran the Centre from Poatina, a township run by Fusion. In 2003 they moved to Launceston. Land was purchased in Perth in 2004 with the aim to build a permanent MMM Centre and the office was relocated to Ulverstone. The new centre was completed and opened in February 2008.

### **3.5 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN**

Commenced in January 1985 to relieve the expensive long distance travel from the Eastern States and have a permanent local presence. The Centre was located on a leased property. During 2001 negotiations began for a permanent MMM Centre and in 2002 a land agreement was signed with the Thornlie Christian School to lease the property adjacent. Later that year building work commenced—the Centre was completed and officially opened in 2004.

### **3.6 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN**

Originally MMM built a Centre in Adelaide's northern suburbs in 1988. God provided the necessary funds in a miraculous way to enable the Mission to pay off all loans in less than 2 years. The building of a second staff house followed in 1997. However, it was difficult to maintain a staff presence at the Centre so the Board made the decision to sell the two properties—this was completed in July 2008. The work in South Australia continues but the operation is managed from the MMM Australia Head Office. It is the intention to monitor the situation carefully with the possibility of establishing another centre in the future as the need arises.

### **3.7 NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Many work projects have been undertaken by visiting teams throughout the years as Christian Ministries in the top end sought ongoing work assistance. A staff couple were relocated to Darwin in mid 1997 to promote MMM, determine local support, gather Associate membership and commence Prayer Fellowships. From 2002 to January 2005 the MMM Centre operated from the SIL base in Berrimah. Eventually a new Centre was built at Farrar, a suburb of Darwin, and was opened in November 2007.

Rev Gordon Moyes, speaker at MMM's 20 year anniversary Conference (7-8th July 2000) delivered an address entitled, 'Mates who Build Churches'.

Some of his reflections might still be helpful:

Buildings alone and programs of helpfulness to people can never replace the preaching of the Word of God. First and foremost in the building of churches lies the task of proclaiming the Word. Mobile Mission Maintenance must always keep in central focus, that you are providing the facilities to enable better proclamation of the Word of God.

For some years, Mobile Mission Maintenance was the Australian best kept Christian secret. I am glad to see that in recent years there has been an extremely significant improvement in the Mission's communications skills. That will only lead to growth in the work. We thank God for those who build churches through a communications ministry.

MMM volunteers are now known across this nation, New Zealand, Africa, and in other countries. Your volunteering effort brings praise to God and opens the eyes of those about to the depth of Christian commitment of the volunteers.

Many missions fail because they do not build a support base of people who know how to administer the work well.

Thank God for them. MMM volunteers are blessed by those who show hospitality. Those of you who have worked on projects where you have encountered hospitality know that fellowship is the thing that keeps you going.

#### **4. INTERNATIONAL WORK**

The first MMM overseas work project was in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 1977. More details of this first international MMM project can be found in 'Miles of Ministry & Miracles', p37.

In 1979 David Dawson and Gordon Blowers undertook a survey tour of Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines after the MMM Council became aware of urgent needs in South East Asian countries. They were impressed by the many missions being conducted by dedicated servants of the Lord, and were challenged by their vision of growth and expansion of their ministries. As a direct result of this survey, M.M.M. became heavily involved in work in Hong Kong. (Miles of Ministry and Miracles p47)

New Zealand (NZ) was the focus for the second MMM international project in 1980. A work party travelled from Australia to assist David and Ruth Cummings who were developing Wycliffe Bible Translators in NZ. The house in which they were living needed to be expanded to include an office.

The third international MMM project was to Hong Kong (HK) in 1981. The logistics and difficulties associated with the planning and implementation of the project from the Australian MMM headquarters were complex and many but nevertheless, the Sha Kok Youth Centre was officially opened in May 1981. This was to be the first of more projects carried out by MMM work parties travelling from Australia. Noted by Geoff Hansen on p 76 of Miles of Miracles and Ministry was this comment, 'The Council sees Hong Kong as a vital centre, ideally located to reach out with a practical ministry into neighbouring countries.'

Internationally, several projects were undertaken in 1983. The Coral Coast Bible School in Fiji requested help for the construction of additional student accommodation. A work party comprising three men from Victoria and NSW were sent to undertake the work with the help of students of the college.

Later that year, there came another request to MMM from PNG—the South Seas Evangelical Mission had an urgent need for a medical clinic and a (mission base) library. Volunteers travelled from Australia to carry out this work.

In 1984 an MMM team departed from Australia for the Godavari Delta Mission in Ambajipeta, India. A collapsing children's ward at the hospital needed to be replaced. Whilst in India, Leigh Minehan and Greg Ash spent a week surveying the needs of other missions. They discovered that local tradesmen could carry out building work but there a great need was identified for a mechanic (who could engineer spare parts) and an electrician both of whom would need to be mobile travelling to the various missions.

The first MMM volunteer team to work in the Solomon Islands travelled from Australia in 1987 and assisted the local people with buildings at the Florence Young Christian School.

## **5. INTERNATIONAL CENTRES**

### **5.1 NEW ZEALAND**

In October 1994, MMM was officially launched in NZ. It had been 8 years since Gordon Blowers and Rob Willet (members of the Australian MMM Council) had worked to hold the first meeting in Rotorua with the purpose to stimulate interest and support in setting up an MMM centre. The first MMM Co-ordinator in NZ was Charles Sundgren (and his wife, Ruth). After living on and working from the Whittlesea Centre for 5 years, Australians Peter and Kay Brown accepted a 3-year appointment to become MMMNZ administrators along with the Sundgrens.

For five years Charles and Ruth worked in their role as NZ Representatives travelling throughout the country and promoting interest in MMM. MMMNZ's first office was located in the Sundgren's home but after much excitement and circumstances that can only be attributed to God's intervention and guidance, the move was made to the current base in Pirongia on the North Island. The extraordinary and exciting story of how the MMMNZ Centre was established on this property may be read in chapter 3 of *Because Of Your Love - The First Decade of MMM International*.

## **5.2 FIJI**

MMM New Zealand is responsible for projects and activities in the South Pacific region. For some years, Fiji has been a major project focus and many work teams have visited for particular projects. In 2004, MMM New Zealand's full-time staff couple, Warren and Jenny Seabourne, established an MMM Projects Centre in Fiji. The New Zealand Board is responsible for MMM Fiji and the operation of all projects is handled locally by the resident Projects Manager.

The MMM Fiji Centre is based at a Christian Camp at Sabeto, close to Nadi International Airport. In early 2008, MMM Fiji became an incorporated Christian Charity organisation under the name MMM International (Fiji). Being a registered body allows for a more efficient operation enabling things such as vehicle purchase, opening bank accounts and obtaining staff visas and work permits.

## **5.3 HONG KONG**

From 1985, MMM Australia had representative couples living in HK who over time moved the work forward. Their work included building relationships with local organisations and people, as well as organising work projects for visiting MMM teams from overseas. In between the larger projects the staff couple would assist local organisations small projects. MMM joint founders Murray & Marion Kay served during this time.

Graham (and Elizabeth) Young was MMMHK Director from 1995-2004. In order to establish a permanent MMM presence in HK, in 1992 Mobile Mission Maintenance Hong Kong was registered as a branch of MMM Australia and a local committee was established. With the door to Mainland China opening and the 1997 handover of Hong Kong back to Mainland China drawing close, it was decided that MMM Hong Kong should be established as a HK based and independent organisation. These events coincided with MMM Headquarters' (in Australia) decision to localise all its international centres.

Howard Robinson (together with his wife Ave and their family) took up the role of MMMHK Director from 2005 to 2012. After this time, leadership moved from expatriate staffing to a National (Hong Kong Chinese-speaking) Director.

The following excerpt from the book, Know Serving Know Sweat compiled by Ave Robinson and Agnes Leung was recorded from Hong Kong's history but it is relevant to MMM Internationally.

Working in Harmony... A cross cultural ministry has the potential for many unseen tension among its workers. Different work habits, style and practices in Hong Kong compared to Western countries, could affect a ministry like MMM. Because of the way MMM brings people together from different countries with different building methods, often for a short period of time, tensions may arise. So, how do we work in harmony?

On one occasion, Graham Young (MMM Hong Kong Director 1995-2004) shared with a new MMM Hong Kong member that the method used to complete the job was not the most important issue. What is more important is that the job suits the needs of the receivers and is done well. That concept is very important to every worker in a team, even in a small group of two. Imagine you meet thirty six new members of a work team, from various countries, and the task is to finish a job in a limited period of time and you are in a situation in which there are opposing ideas, opinions, feelings or wishes. If two plumbers each used their own methods on a project their pipes might not meet! We have to work together. MMM Hong Kong teams focus on getting the job done in the best way possible for each project. This concept is shared with volunteers who come from all over the world, so that we can achieve a better work environment and maintain good fellowship among the team.

#### **5.4 ZAMBIA**

Gospel Literature Outreach (GLO) was established in Australia in 1965 and used volunteers in a similar way as did MMM. GLO training centres were established in other countries including NZ and as the work there expanded, the need was recognised for more extensive training for local pastors in Zambia. Missionaries working in Ndola (Zambia) knew that (at that time) there were very few Zambian people with the necessary building skills to construct training facilities—MMM was asked to help.

The MMM Council recognised that working on the GLO project in Ndola was an ideal opportunity for surveying whether MMM could be of assistance to other missions in Zambia. Subsequently, the first (MMM) work party team departed in July 1984 from Sydney for Zambia. Later, in 1985 a second team left to continue the GLO project.

The first full-time staff moved to Zambia to set up the MMM centre in 1988. In subsequent years many workers served there for various periods. Some of them travelled to various parts of Zambia as well as doing projects in Malawi, Congo (Zaire) and Zimbabwe. Over the years MMM has had the opportunity to invest building knowledge and Christian encouragement into many young Zambian people who worked alongside the expatriate team.

In 1991 MMM was offered the property at Plot 1866 Monkey Fountain (4kms from Ndola) and was able to purchase it when an earlier sale fell through. This property is nine and a half acres—its development is an on-going process.

The Vocational Training Centre (VTC) established in 1999, is at the heart of MMM Zambia's ministry today. The VTC provides building industry training for unemployed and hard to employ young people. The training seeks to give a broad training experience that will prepare graduates to live a physically and spiritually balanced and purposeful life. The MMM Zambia VTC is highly regarded by the Zambia Education Department and has achieved its highest registration level.

The Local Empowerment Skills Projects (formerly known as WIN program) is another main function of MMM Zambia.

MMM Zambia has seen the need to foster greater interest in mission in Zambia and help the Christian community to move from being a receiving mission country to a sending country. This resulted in the development of a Mission Awareness Tour program. Visiting MATs have regularly travelled from Australia. In 2007 the first MAT left Zambia to work with the MMM Centre in Hong Kong. There were tours to Hong Kong and Thailand in 2008.

Mrs Florence Kaniki commenced as MMMZ's National Director in December 2013 following Leonard Mutono's long tenure in the position.

### **5.5 THAILAND**

In 2002 Max & Barb Smart joined MMM Australia. They came with a specific interest in serving in Thailand where Max had established good relationships with church and mission groups having visited several times with Church mission teams.

After much planning and preparation, Max and Barb arrived in Thailand in October 2003 to establish an MMM Centre around the area of Chiang Rai in North Thailand. They were later succeeded by Anthony and Siskas Hocking from Australia before National staff—Palita Mongkhon (Administrator) and Pedro (Project Coordinator) were appointed in 2014.

The MMM office has been housed in various locations but, looking to the future, MMM has leased a block of land near Chiang Rai from Shoulder to Shoulder Ministries. The block was excavated (in 2014) ready for construction and the building of appropriate facilities. Draft building plans were prepared in late 2014.

As with all MMM centres, Thailand (an MMM Associate member centre) has its own distinctive way of handling work projects. Projects are done for local Thai Christian ministries as well as ministries established by expatriate missionaries. There have been projects undertaken for major international ministries such as OMF International and YWAM. Currently MMM Thailand is responsible for projects in Thailand and in border regions of neighbouring countries.

In 2007 MMM Thailand officially became a registered Thai Foundation. During their ongoing journey towards becoming an autonomous centre, MMM Thailand is supported by MMM Australia including financial and work team assistance.

### **5.6 SOUTH AFRICA**

MMM has had contact with interested people in South Africa since the 1980's. When the OM ship Doulos was in East London in 2003, MMM people serving on the ship made contact with First City Baptist Church and a close link was established. Subsequent to that, two work teams from Australia visited and worked in partnership with First City Baptist on construction of a church in a settlement area and an AIDS treatment ministry.

In March 2008, MMM Australia formally established an MMM Centre in East London. MMM South Africa was supported by MMM Australia through the process of it becoming an independent MMM Centre. A Trust was established, they were registered as MMM South Africa Trust and then in 2014, MMM International (South Africa) became an official Associate member of the MMM International Alliance.

## **6. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THE MMM INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE**

During the first 25 years of the ministry of MMM the Australian Board initiated international development. When new overseas centres were established, they were managed, staffed and financed by MMM Australia.

In 1998, the board of MMM Australia commenced the process of establishing an International Council to take responsibility for all international aspects of MMM. In Melbourne in 2000, during the 25 year celebrations of the commencement of MMM, the inaugural meeting of the International Council took place. The council was made up of two representatives of each of the national entities, Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Zambia, as well as an executive from MMM Australia. This began the process of separating International responsibility from the Australian Board and establishing a truly representative Council.

Among the purposes of the International Council were:

- To provide vision, direction and co-ordination for the international ministries of MMM International
- To create a forum where standards are established

International Ministry Agreements were established between member centres and the Council and subsequently the International Board. These agreements give standards that apply to all member centres. Having an international agreement maintains common standards of ministry world-wide while at the same time allows a level of flexibility for MMM to operate in ways best suited to each location.

As with any organisation, promotional work is foundational to getting the information into the minds and hands of the general population. Everyone who works with MMM takes on responsibility to promote the various aspects of the mission. - Because Of Your Love; The First Decade of MMM International (NZ) p20 - this information has been edited by Graham Young

It was in about the late 90's that the term 'International Australia' became known — HK was the first one to use this term for their 1997 registration. A new MMM Whittlesea Centre sign was erected — it read, "MMM International (Australia) Ltd." Underneath this were the words, "International Headquarters".

- By the year 2000, it was recognised that the time had come for each overseas MMM centre to stand 'on its own two feet'. (See section above for more information)
- The new International Council (IC) comprising the National Director and National Chairperson from each overseas centre met annually from the year 2000. The purpose of the meeting was to enjoy fellowship, share stories about the work and for mutual encouragement and inspiration' they also provided an opportunity to discuss vision, direction and co-ordination of the international ministries of MMM.
- In the year 2000 MMM celebrated twenty-five years of service. The mission underwent a change of name (from Mobile Mission Maintenance) and a new logo. With increasing numbers of international projects being carried out, there was concern regarding increasing sensitivity to words in the old name and motto. The new name of 'MMM International' and accompanying motto of 'Building - Empowering people' came into use.
- October 2004 — Graham Young was appointed by the IC as the first International Director. He took up this role in April 2005 and was located at the Whittlesea Base. This centre became the office of MMM International.
- October 2008 — At the International Council meeting in Thailand, the IC approved the establishment of the International Board (formal approval was given by the IC on October 20th 2009). Inaugural Board members were: Lazarus Phiri (Zambia), Annette Hill (Thailand), Felix Muchimba (Zambia), John King (Canada), Terry Phillips (Singapore), Bruce Elliott (NZ) and Leigh Minehan (Australia).
- Saturday 7 February 2009 — the Whittlesea Centre was burnt down in the 'Black Saturday' fires.
- December 2009 — The first meeting of the MMM International Board (IB) was in Melbourne.
- The IB met once in 2010 but in 2011, they met twice in order to gain traction in moving the organisation forward. The IB has met twice annually since 2011.

## **7. REFERENCES (BOOKS REFERRED TO IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT)**

- Miles of Ministry and Miracles by Geoff Hansen tells the story of the first 10 years of the life of MMM International (Australia) as Mobile Mission Maintenance.
- Miracles at Mango Hill by Geoff Hansen tells the story of the beginning of the MMM Centre at Mango Hill in Queensland.
- To Find Things Different by Geoff Hansen relates the experiences of MMM Teams in the Solomon Islands.
- Because of Your Love; The First Decade of MMM International (NZ) compiled by Barbara Robinson; published 2004 page 20 (NB - All information referenced from Barbara's work has been edited and changed by Graham Young - HH)
- Know Serving, Know Sweat compiled by Agnes Leung and Averil Robinson celebrates ten years of MMM International (Hong Kong).

The original Brief History of MMM (for orientation purposes) was compiled and written by Heather Henson. People adding to or correcting information derived from the original sources referenced above include: Graham Young and Florence Kaniki.