OUR STORY

From practical service in Australia to an international ministry supporting the work of the Gospel.

MMM INTERNATIONAL

Building. Serving. Strengthening ministry.

A ministry born from a practical need

The story of MMM began with an ordinary problem: a breakdown on the side of the road. Arnold Long, founder of the Australian Missionary Society, was travelling to an Aboriginal Evangelical Convention when he became stranded. After receiving help, he shared an urgent need for building work at the Kramer Memorial Chapel in Alice Springs. That conversation became part of a growing awareness that missionaries in remote parts of Australia often needed practical building and maintenance support.

A group of Melbourne-based Christians began surveying these needs and considering how tradespeople and willing helpers could serve Christian missions in a practical way. In August 1975, Mobile Mission Maintenance - MMM - officially commenced as a faith mission.

> *"Our vision is to provide a practical service to missions ... thus relieving the missionaries, and allowing them to continue with the work which they first set out to do."*

Practical skills in service of the Gospel

From the beginning, MMM drew together tradespeople, practical workers and volunteers. Teams served through building, carpentry, plumbing, painting, maintenance and many other forms of practical work. Early full-time workers were truly mobile, travelling in caravans and serving wherever the need arose.

The purpose was never simply to construct buildings. Practical service helped Christian workers and organisations devote more of their time, energy and resources to their core ministry.

From Australia to the world

MMM's first overseas project took place in Papua New Guinea in 1977. Over the years that followed, teams served in New Zealand, Hong Kong, Fiji, India, the Solomon Islands, Zambia and other locations. As relationships and opportunities developed, permanent centres were established in several countries.

The organisation also expanded across Australia through regional centres, enabling teams to respond more effectively to local projects, develop volunteer networks and reduce the cost and complexity of serving distant ministries.

A shared ministry, locally expressed

As MMM became increasingly international, its structure changed. An International Council was formed in 2000 with representation from national entities. International Ministry Agreements helped maintain shared ministry standards while allowing each centre flexibility to operate in ways appropriate to its local setting.

Around the same period, the organisation moved from the name Mobile Mission Maintenance to MMM International, reflecting a ministry that had grown far beyond its original Australian context.

KEY MOMENTS

1975
MMM begins
Mobile Mission Maintenance officially commences in Australia as a faith mission.

1977
First overseas project
An MMM team serves in Papua New Guinea.

1994
New Zealand
MMM is officially launched in New Zealand.

2000
International Council
National representatives begin sharing responsibility for MMM's international direction.

2008
South Africa
MMM Australia formally establishes an MMM Centre in East London.

2014
MMM South Africa
MMM International (South Africa) becomes an official Associate member of the MMM International Alliance.

MMM in South Africa

MMM had contact with interested people in South Africa from the 1980s. A significant connection developed in 2003 when MMM people serving aboard the OM ship *Doulos* made contact with First City Baptist Church in East London.

That relationship led to two Australian work teams visiting South Africa and partnering with First City Baptist on practical projects, including construction of a church in a settlement area and work connected with an AIDS treatment ministry.

In March 2008, MMM Australia formally established an MMM Centre in East London. MMM Australia supported the developing South African ministry as it moved toward becoming an independent centre. A Trust was established and registered as MMM South Africa Trust, and in 2014 MMM International (South Africa) became an official Associate member of the MMM International Alliance.

The thread running through the story

MMM began by recognising a simple reality: practical needs can consume the time and resources of people engaged in Christian ministry. By bringing willing people and useful skills alongside those ministries, MMM helps strengthen the work they are already doing.

The story continues

Across different countries and generations, MMM has brought together people willing to use their practical and professional abilities in Christian service. Methods, locations and structures have changed, but the central idea remains: strengthening Christian ministries through practical support and serving together for the sake of the Gospel.

MMM INTERNATIONAL (SOUTH AFRICA)
Practical skills. Meaningful service. Gospel partnership.

Source note

This publication is a condensed, visitor-friendly adaptation of *MMM History for Orientation*, prepared by Neil Eichstadt (15 August 2016). The original document draws on MMM historical publications including *Miles of Ministry and Miracles*, *Miracles at Mango Hill*, *Because of Your Love* and *Know Serving, Know Sweat*.

This condensed edition focuses on the origins of MMM, its international development and the establishment of MMM South Africa. It is not intended to reproduce the full 19-page organisational history.