

Asia-Pacific Christadelphian Bible Mission

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2018



# Editorial

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the ACBM Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2018. From the outset of this report the Mission is humbly and deeply thankful for the good hand of our God upon His work in the countries of the Asia Pacific Region among whom we are privileged to serve. His abundant blessings and overwatching mercies continue to be wonderfully evident. We seek to ever be conscious that “except the LORD build the house they labour in vain that build it”.

The Mission is also most grateful to all who have assisted and contributed to its work in so many ways. Thank you one and all for support in your prayers, your ongoing regular largesse, your magnanimity at times of special need and for committing time and energy in this enriching area of the Master's service. There are just so many opportunities for the brotherhood to be co-labourers in the Mission's endeavour of advancing our God's saving Truth in the hearts of men and women to His glory in these last days. The Mission goes forward as our community name implies, as brethren in Christ.



As an organisation the Mission operates on a representative delegate model. Brothers and sisters in affiliated ecclesias are represented at Regional Committee level by their appointed delegates. Each of the seven regions (six Australian states and NZ) is in turn represented at the national level by a delegate. These seven delegates along with the seven member secretariat (directly elected by affiliated ecclesias) form the National Committee. In accord with agreed guidelines Regional Committees support the working teams who deal directly with our brothers and sisters and contacts in other lands. The National Committee is the Mission's umbrella body with specific briefs of Crisis Management, Refugees, financial oversight, policy and insurance (travel insurance is available for our fieldworkers).

There are now more than 4200 brothers and sisters across the Asia Pacific Region where the Mission has responsibilities! Given that the vast majority of these live in third world lands, support for the welfare needs of these dear brothers and sisters is a most vital part of the Mission's work. The good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus

Christ has gone out and many have responded. We now have the responsibility of sharing our God given blessings in assisting our brothers and sisters in what are often desperate circumstances. It will be evident from the financial statement in this report that more than 45% of Mission funds in this last year have been used in seeking to minister to members of God's family. A significant number of brothers and sisters need ongoing health treatment and/or medication. Some need a regular supply of supplementary food. Some are in need of help recovering from disasters. As Western treatments become more available in third world countries so we can anticipate calls for welfare assistance to increase.

Given that we as members of Australian and New Zealand ecclesias have a responsibility “especially unto the household of faith”, please let us continue to support the Mission in our daily prayers and with regular donations to enable the work begun to bear more fruit in the very shadow of our Lord's return.

*Garnet Alchin*

Chairman ACBM

# Strategy + Planning

The role of National Strategy and Planning is to facilitate the direction and function of the Mission at all levels of its operations.

Over the past year ACBM Strategy & Planning has continued to develop, implement and review the Mission's plans and planning methods in line with the agreed strategies. As an organization we recognize we need to build on our experiences in planning efficiently and effectively for the future.

In the coming year, God willing, we aim to take better account and management of emergent strategies in our planning processes. In other words, across all levels of the Mission we want to ensure we meet and plan the handling of issues that emerge unforeseen and which can potentially dominate or destabilise the plans and needs of the future.

We are working at simplifying processes and structures to ensure strategy and planning will be used more widely and be more relevant to fieldworkers, Area Teams and Regional Committees.

As always we pray for God's blessing and guiding hand to be with all of the ACBM areas of operation.



Philippines

## National Contacts

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CHRISTADELPHIANS

**3**

ECCLESIAS

**1**

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

**1**

ESTABLISHED

**2012**

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**None**

## Afghanistan

**vic**

Secretary: Bro Jon Wallace ([afghanistan@acbm.org.au](mailto:afghanistan@acbm.org.au))

In Afghanistan we currently have three members in the one ecclesia.

Brother Shakir and Sister Fatima were re-settled last year from Afghanistan to their new life in Sweden where they are actively working and preaching among other Afghan refugees. There is an ecclesia of 10 in a refugee camp with a further 10 active contacts.

The UK CBM is meeting their present needs.

## Refugee Appeal

The ACBM Refugee Fund has been exhausted and in order for the ACBM to continue to support our Refugee brethren, the ACBM is launching a Refugee Appeal and contributions can be made by:

- In Australia - eft to ACBM BSB 062-210 Account No. 0090 3098 [SWIFT/BIC CTBAU2S]
- In New Zealand eft to ACBM 03-0146 – 0136146 – 000
- Credit Card or Paypal at <https://acbm.org.au/donate/> Please mark for "Refugee Fund"
- Contact ACBM Treasurer Bro Greg Hagen at [treasurer@acbm.org.au](mailto:treasurer@acbm.org.au) +61 427 641 315



Scan to donate  
online via  
Paypal

## Bangladesh

VIC

**Secretary:** Bro Jonathon Thomas (+61 3 5201 0100;  
bangladesh@acbm.org.au)

Bangladesh has seen its usual share of troubles from floods, political unrest, student protests, to the impact of the Rohingya crisis over this last year.

In the midst of this, we have seen some baptisms from the rural areas, with real dedication shown to following up the teaching of the Bible.

The ACBM has responded to some critical welfare needs, with donating and channeling private donations for two heart operations. One was for the father of Bro. Anando and Sis. Shulie. He is doing very well now and back in his village. The situation that our brother and sister would have found themselves in otherwise, is that of crippling debt, paralysing their work in the truth when trying to pay it off. Thus the ACBM has stepped in to help where it can.

An interesting development this year has been the long-term stay of Bro. Steven Murie. He has been able to stay for up to a year on a student visa compared to the maximum 60 days usually available. It has meant a consistent face to help restart and steady the Dhaka CYC and other things that are difficult to achieve via short-term visits. Being a student was straightforward. Steven's studies were simply learning the national language, Bangla! It has been an enjoyable and very profitable way to study and stay.

Maybe you too would like to learn Bangla while being immersed in the culture, and helping our brothers, sisters, and contacts?

CHRISTADELPHIANS  
**57**ECCLESIAS  
**3**SUNDAY SCHOOLS  
**4**RECENT BAPTISMS  
**5**ESTABLISHED  
**1998**

Junior SS in Notun Bazar Dhaka



Mymensingh ecclesia

## ACBM Literature List

<https://acbm.org.au/resources/translated-literature/>

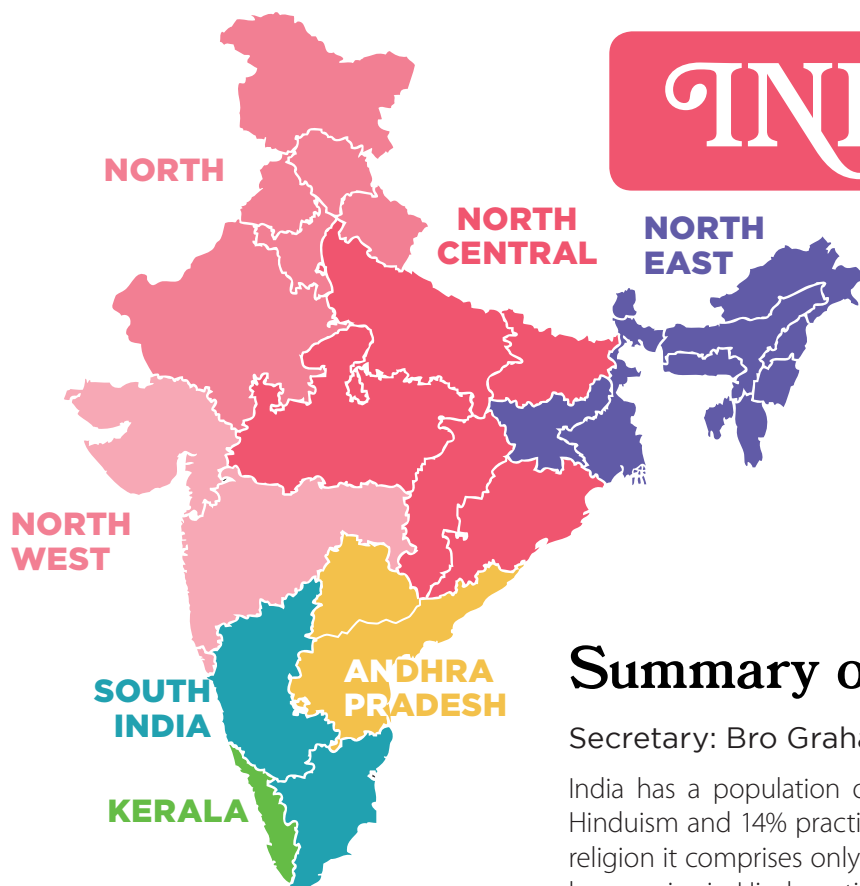
The ACBM has been working on creating a master database of all literature translated for the mission fields. This list contains all literature known to have existed, as well as access to digital copies that have already been located and archived. This list is accessible at the link above. By archiving the literature in this way we can prevent works being lost, as so many have been over the years.

Over the last 3 years, more than 600 works have been located and are now available as PDF files. There are still many more works to be found. Copies can be anywhere—at back of cupboards, on old CDs, stored in boxes somewhere—and locating these requires the assistance from anyone involved in the mission fields. Please contact [website@acbm.org.au](mailto:website@acbm.org.au) if you have found any of the following:

- ✓ Printed copies of literature that can be scanned
- ✓ PDF scans
- ✓ Word documents and master copies in other digital formats
- ✓ Half-finished translation projects
- ✓ Miscellaneous translation work (quiz sheets, handouts, study notes)







# INDIA

VIC

CHRISTADELPHIANS

1790

ECCLESIAS

74

ESTABLISHED

1979

WEBSITE

[christadelphians.in](http://christadelphians.in)

## Summary of Activity

Secretary: Bro Graham Reeve ([india@acbm.org.au](mailto:india@acbm.org.au))

India has a population of over 1.3 billion people with 80% practicing Hinduism and 14% practicing Islam. While Christianity is the third largest religion it comprises only 2% of the population. In recent years there has been a rise in Hindu nationalism which can make preaching Christianity difficult, particularly in the north of India.

There are over 80 ecclesias with nearly 2000 Christadelphians. Only two of these 80+ ecclesias regularly use English in their services.

Some ecclesias have third generation Christadelphians while other ecclesias are much newer. The older ecclesias tend to be concentrated in South India.

Most of the preaching is done by the local brothers and sisters. Because of the vast size of India, a number of ACBM teams have been set up to help the local ecclesias. In the South there are teams for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, plus Kerala. In the north east another team supports the ecclesias in West Bengal and the states to the east of Bangladesh. Another team works in the North, North Central and North West of the country.

These teams work together in planning activities. There are regular Bible weeks, sisters gatherings, elders' meetings and youth camps and brothers and sisters and young people are encouraged to attend at least one such activity each year for fellowship and Bible study. Speakers visit from



Study Weekend, Joy Nagar ecclesia, Bihar

### Indian Literature

Many translated works in the languages of India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan have been scanned and are now available to download on:

[christadelphians.in](http://christadelphians.in)

### Indian ACBM Contacts

General Indian Coordination

Andhra Pradesh & Telengana

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Kerala

North, North Central + North West India

North East

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western countries and local speakers also lead studies and activities. With the rise in Hindu nationalism, there may be a time when visiting from western countries will be restricted so a strategy has been planned to develop the local ecclesias to be self-sufficient.

A new initiative in the past year was to hold a How to Study the Bible Week with 30 brothers from all over India and Bangladesh attending to develop study and presentation skills. These brothers then took these skills back to their own ecclesia to develop their members. There are many ways where you can assist the pastoral, preaching and Sunday school work. Attend one of the Bible weeks, Youth camps or preaching truth camps. Visits can be as short as a week or two.

Or if you have the time available, a longer visit of a few months based in one of the many Mission flats which can act as a base for visiting and supporting local ecclesias. Welfare needs are growing due to the increase in the number of brothers and sisters. There are also many charitable activities run by Christadelphian entities where the ACBM works in conjunction with them.

There is a role for younger and older brothers and sisters as well as whole families. If you want more information on how to be involved contact [india@acbm.org.au](mailto:india@acbm.org.au) and bro Graham Reeve will direct you to the appropriate area team leader.

## South India & Kerala

### 2018 South Indian Tour

During the past year a small team was set up comprising some Australian experienced brothers and a sister plus a younger couple from Australia and a young brother from North India who is studying in Bangalore.

They worked together on a preaching tour that commenced with the South Indian Bible Week in Bangalore (attended by over 150 local brothers and sisters and children) and was followed by visits to ecclesias in the surrounding states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu concluding with a youth gathering and an ecclesial study weekend in Kerala.

Part of the team also visited the Edith Home for the Aged in Madurai and ran some preaching gatherings for local interested people. They then travelled to and participated in the North India Bible Week. By having a mixed aged team, it was easier to connect to older brothers and sisters and the young people in each location.



Bro Subrata interviewed on Tripura TV



Edith Home of Hope, Tamil Nadu



Egra ecclesia, Easter, West Bengal



2018 South India Bible Week, Bangalore

The experience gained by the younger members of the team will hopefully be used in future mission field trips. The brothers and sisters and young people in the various locations were very appreciative of the fellowship.



Learn to Study the Bible weekend, Moinabad, Hyderabad (April 2018)



All-India Youth Conference, Moinabad, Hyderabad (June 2018)



## North East India

The area includes West Bengal and eight Indian states to the north and east of Bangladesh.

Six ecclesias in West Bengal are the main focus of Christadelphian work in the area, but the fast-growing ecclesia in Agartala, the capital of Tripura is working hard to catch up.

A total of approximately 80 active members meet with Memorial Meetings in these ecclesias and some isolated villages. Sunday Schools are arranged in three areas and their combined preaching efforts mean that, with God's blessing, there are good prospects for further baptisms in the near future.

Our brothers and sisters and their interested friends particularly look forward to the annual West Bengal Bible School, a 5-day and 4-night camp supported by the ACBM through monetary and organisational support. The main series of talks are led by foreign fieldworkers and local brothers speak on other subjects. Fellowship is enhanced as plenty of time is available for Bible discussions and getting to know each other.

Some brothers and sisters have been able to take opportunities for wider fellowship and learning, with trips to Hyderabad and North India.

In January 2018 a new mission flat was found in Jadavpur – a southern suburb of Kolkata – to provide accommodation for short and long-term fieldworkers, and as a meeting place on Sundays – even when fieldworkers are not present. Regular Memorial Meetings and preaching efforts with contacts are now taking place.

More fieldworkers are needed to help with pastoral care, preaching and the encouragement of godly growth in our brothers and sisters. Visits can be made at the Bible School, Youth Camp or at any other time. Why not visit them this year? – you will be very warmly welcomed by our Bengali brothers and sisters.



Bible class at Sarenga ecclesia, West Bengal

## North India

The area is predominantly Hindi speaking and strongly Hindu, but continues to present a wonderful, but challenging area in preaching the gospel due to the developing nationalism in North India.

There are currently 12 brothers and sisters in Uttar Pradesh, but over 1500 contacts, with 800 regularly receiving the Hindi language Dipak magazine (means "Light" in Hindi). Just four brothers continue to struggle carrying this load with assistance from ACBM. The local brothers conduct regular two day Bible Truth Camps in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Uttarakhand.

The North India Bible School is held in May/June at Mussoorie in the Himalayas. Brothers and sisters and children from across India come together for a week of fellowship and studies. Mussoorie has fantastic scenery and mild weather in the low 20'S when everywhere else in India is baking in 45 degree summer heat. To get there you can fly an hour from the Delhi international terminal and half an hour by taxi from there! In 2018 we commenced a study of Revelation and this will continue in 2019 God Willing. The other key study in 2019 will be "Marriage in the Lord".

Air conditioned accommodation for field workers and visitors is now available in Ghaziabad (near Delhi) and Muzaffarnagar Uttar Pradesh. Why not come in 2019 God willing!



Children's play: "A wife for Isaac", North India (2018)



Bible school discussion groups, Kolkata, West Bengal



# ACBM Website

**acbm.org.au**

The ACBM website was updated in 2014 to provide a focal point for ACBM information and content. From 20 page views a month, we are now receiving an average of 1,800. The website provides access to all ACBM resources including the fieldworker guidebook, policies, guidelines and detailed and accurate information regarding the mission regions, the ecclesias and the activities of the local brethren and sisters. The website is also intended to provide a better historical overview of ecclesial growth within specific regions.



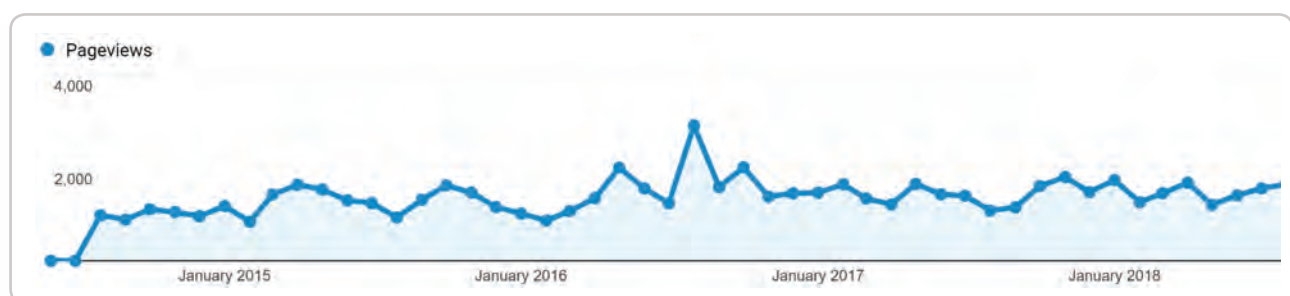
The website provides an easy online application process for brethren and sisters who wish to apply to be a fieldworker. This process now accounts for 95% of all fieldworker applications.

For security reasons the ACBM website has multiple levels of access. This means that some information is accessible only to confirmed Christadelphians, so if you wish to see this then you will need to register a user account. As of August 2018, more than 200 Christadelphians have done so.

The website consolidates existing ACBM information into one location, as well as providing for additional information should area committees and fieldworkers provide it. For example, some country profiles contain only a basic level of information as found in the annual report, whilst others contain a much more comprehensive overview of the local community (for example: established ecclesias that can be contacted independently, and new ecclesias that require a guide and translation, etc).

We depend upon area secretaries and fieldworkers to provide updates so please contact the [webadmin@acbm.org.au](mailto:webadmin@acbm.org.au) or submit updates via the forms available on the site.

In particular the website's calendar of events is intended to show all major camps and conferences within the mission fields, however we still only receive a small number of these. Even visitors can submit this information to us via the online forms and we can confirm with the area team before publishing.



## CHRISTADELPHIANS

**132**

## ECCLESIAS

**5**

## SUNDAY SCHOOLS

**2**

## BAPTISMS

**6**

## CONTACTS

**15**

## ESTABLISHED

**1986**

## Nepal

VIC

Secretary: Bro Jon Wallace (+61 418 357 982;  
nepal@acbm.org.au)

On top of the world in a country once known as a Hindu Kingdom, famous for its temples and idols, the gospel continues to reach out to those who are seeking the word of God.

This year there have been 6 baptisms in the Kathmandu ecclesias.

Nepal struggles with a population 4 million greater than Australia's in an area that would fit into the state of Victoria 1.6 times. The average cost of living in Nepal is A\$124 a month with most people earning much less than that. Because of the financial hardship faced by many families, Brothers and Sisters continue to travel outside Nepal seeking work in places like the Middle East where they face the hardship of isolation.

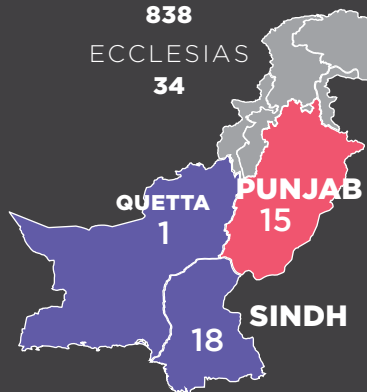
One of the highlights of the past year was the fifth annual Bible Week held in Kathmandu. There were 60 brothers and sisters and 6 interested friends who attended the studies with 35 children in the Sunday school and 15 teenagers joining in the Youth activities.

Regarding welfare we report sadly that our Brother Kana Lama passed away. Brother Kul continues to make a slow recovery after his motorcycle accident in 2016 while returning from a preaching trip. The Chabahile Ecclesia in Kathmandu along with the ACBM has launched an appeal to raise funds to build a much-needed hall for this ever growing ecclesia.

## CHRISTADELPHIANS

**838**

## ECCLESIAS

**34**

## SUNDAY SCHOOLS

**25 (682 Students)**

## BAPTISMS

**121**

## ACTIVE CONTACTS

**646**

## ESTABLISHED

**2002**

## Pakistan

VIC

Secretary: Bro Jon Wallace (+61 418 357 982;  
pakistan@acbm.org.au)

Pakistan is a country that, like many, struggles to find political stability. The recent elections highlighted this with the election of ex Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan to the position of Prime Minister. Since Pakistan became a nation not one Prime Minister has completed a full term.

However, despite this unstable political environment the understanding of the Truth continues to grow in an amazing way under the blessing of our God so that we report that in the past year 121 new brothers and sisters have taken on the saving name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Christadelphian faith is registered in Pakistan and the work of the truth there is divided into two areas: Sindh in the south and Punjab in the north. (Quetta in the west is grouped with Sindh for administration purposes). Both areas have a council set up to oversee the preaching work of the ecclesias. Each area has a Bible Week usually around July / August and a CYC camp around November. In Lahore we have a brother whose colleague is headmaster of a local school. The headmaster has allowed a room to be rented for Sunday School and at present there are fifty young people and parents attending the weekly classes.

Regular peaching seminars are conducted by the Pakistan Ecclesias as well as study weekends. Brethren from Australia continue to hold regular Bible classes over Skype.

## Sri Lanka

WA

**Secretary:** Bro John Gilmore (srilanka@acbm.org.au)

Sri Lanka has undergone quite a few changes since our last report. A new ecclesia has been formed closer to Colombo which saves some of its members a lot of travel time.

The older ecclesia, formerly known as Negombo, is now the Kurana Ecclesia and the new ecclesia is called the Watalla Ecclesia. Due to the relatively small numbers in each ecclesia, each member is required to make a more active commitment and it appears that each ecclesia is moving forward enthusiastically preaching the Truth to interested friends and helping their members grow in the Lord.

There is now a very real need for expanded visits to our brethren and sisters with scriptural nourishment and guidance as these two meetings now seek to expand and grow the Truth in the areas where they operate.

There is also a very active group of refugees from Pakistan and Iran who are supported by the CRG (Christadelphian Refugee Guild). While they hold their own meetings in their own language, they join in some activities with the two ecclesias.

The refugee situation is continually changing as families are resettled by the UNHCR in various countries and new refugees are attracted to the Truth by the vigorous preaching of those already in Sri Lanka. The situation of many of the refugees is very difficult as they flee from persecution in their homelands. The hope of the gospel and the fellowship that it brings is highly valued.

There are special activities each year in Sri Lanka including an annual Bible School in December, a sisters' weekend and various study weekends and preaching activities. There have been several baptisms in the last year and there are several people who are currently under instruction.

The Sri Lankan Brothers and Sisters welcome visitors. If you are intending to travel to or through Sri Lanka please let the local ecclesias know as they would love a visit. To assist in this process make initial contact via the WA ACBM Secretary at wa.secretary@acbm.org.au.

CHRISTADELPHIANS

28

ECCLESIAS

3

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

2

BAPTISMS

2

CONTACTS

5

ESTABLISHED

1985 / 1996



Sunday School Outing



2017 Sri Lankan Bible Camp



# Negombo Refugee Ecclesia

(aka the “Christadelphian Refugee Guild”)

Preaching among the Pakistani and Iranian refugees began in Sri Lanka after the arrival of the Baloch family from Pakistan in 2010. Since then there have been 29 baptisms among refugees including 11 baptisms in first half of 2018. Ten Christadelphian families have been resettled in USA/Canada/Finland during 2015 to 2018. Those members resettled are actively involved in ecclesial activities and preaching work in their new homelands.

Besides preaching to fellow refugees, our refugee brethren have been assisting in the local ecclesia in Sri Lanka. Given refugee needs and preaching opportunities, a refugee organization, the Christadelphian Refugee Guild (CRG) was formed in Sri Lanka in 2014. Since then the CRG has been representing the Christadelphian community among those fleeing persecution from their native countries.

Currently the CRG is the only refugee organization of refugees, for refugees run by refugees in Sri Lanka. Many of our refugee brethren suffered terribly escaping from their homelands and have found “refuge, solace and support” at the CRG Centre. It is a Centre where all brothers and sisters meet for Memorial Meetings, Bible Classes, youth activities, seminars and workshops to teach, preach and train members and contacts. It is also available for a wide range of other activities for local members, overseas visitors as well as for other non-governmental organizations. As a resource centre for refugees, the CRG Centre has been providing temporary shelter to the most deserving refugees in collaboration with humanitarian organizations. The young CRG volunteers assist in conducting seminars, running campaigns, looking after the CRG Centre and assisting with maintaining/repairing refugee rented housing.

A training project called “Learn, Reach and Preach” (LRP) has been helpful in training and encouraging each member to effectively witness the Truth wherever

they can. As refugees are resettled others must take the reins of leadership to fill the vacuum left by their departure.

For what has been done, and what will be achieved, all credit must go to our loving Father through our Lord and saviour for the unceasing prayers, ready guidance and continuous support of the brotherhood. The refugee brothers and sisters greatly appreciate the work of the ACBM for reaching out to them in many ways including the generous financial contributions made

CHRISTADELPHIANS

**28**

BAPTISMS

**11**

SS STUDENTS

**6**

CONTACTS

**16**

ESTABLISHED

**2014**

WEBSITE

**crguild.org**

ANNUAL EVENTS

**Refugee Bible School (March)**

**Refugee Retreat (July)**

Email bro Fahran Mall at **farhanmall@outlook.com** to receive the CRGPOST email news bulletin



## The Baloch family in Finland

The CRG activities in Sri Lanka were the result of bro Karl Baloch's labours following his arrival in 2010 as a refugee from Pakistan. He commenced preaching to fellow refugees leading to many baptisms. He and his wife made the difficult decision to allow their oldest son to go to Canada in 2015, whilst the rest of his family was finally resettled in Finland this year. During the 7 years he spent in Sri Lanka bro Karl was a vital participant in both the Sri Lankan and the Urdu-speaking refugee ecclesia whilst also supporting many Pakistani ecclesias through Skype and correspondence.

Now that they have arrived in Finland they have the opportunity to start a new life, although many difficulties remain. They have commenced Finnish language classes, and their son (now an active member of the Guelph ecclesia) can visit them from Canada. They continue to actively preach and have already, in a short time, found a number of interested contacts. They have also received many visits from brethren and sisters from around the world and are now free to travel themselves.



The Baloch family

# Fieldworker Training

[acbm.org.au/resources/training-materials/](http://acbm.org.au/resources/training-materials/)

It is important that all fieldworkers are well prepared before they visit a country and to assist with this several training presentations are available on the ACBM website. The ACBM would like to encourage ecclesias, CYCs or regions to make use of this material.

- **The Everlasting Gospel** - a comprehensive 7-part Powerpoint presentation deals with issues such as why and how to preach, common questions, cultural issues and some of the challenges fieldworkers may face.
- **ACBM Fieldworker Induction Presentation** - a presentation which can be worked through by individuals or small groups prior to leaving on a visit.

These presentations are in Powerpoint format and can be modified to suit different countries or planned activities.

Resources such as the workshop "Building Healthy Ecclesias", notes on the First Century Ecclesia and information on common beliefs that fieldworkers might encounter are also available to assist fieldworkers or ecclesias.



Bible Seminar, Pakistan

# Fieldworker Safety

[acbm.org.au/fieldworkers/security-alerts/](http://acbm.org.au/fieldworkers/security-alerts/)

Each year a large number of brothers and sisters undertake fieldwork in ACBM mission areas.

The safety of these fieldworkers is always in our thoughts and prayers. We are guided by the advice and warnings for travellers on the Smart Traveller website run by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Our fieldworkers are asked to note this advice, and to exercise due caution as they travel. They should also consider the advice of local brothers and sisters in the areas they visit.

The approval letter for fieldworkers, together with the emergency card accompanying it, contains information on what to do if an emergency occurs. The ACBM Travel Insurance Policy is there to provide assistance for fieldworkers in a practical way if required.

During the year, fieldworker information was updated, particularly for those travelling into high risk security areas. This includes requirements for special approval for travel into high risk areas.



Facebook Page

@ACBMAsiaPacificChristadelphianBibleMission

The ACBM has a Facebook page which provides information about ecclesias throughout the region. Brothers and Sisters are encouraged to contribute to the Facebook page and share their experiences or information about the activities of the brotherhood in the countries where they live. When adding to the page please carefully consider the material you post because there are some countries where there are security concerns or where freedom of religion is not allowed. All information published on the page is carefully monitored to ensure that information which is posted does not put any brothers or sisters at risk.

# This is Your Bible



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## BIBLE Q&A

Do you have questions about the Bible but don't know quite what to ask? Have a look at common questions and answers about key Bible subjects including God, Jesus Christ, the Gospel, angels and more!

QUESTION AND ANSWERS



thisisyourbible.com

Thisisyourbible.com continues as the preaching website of the Bible Mission organizations in North America, Britain, and Australia/New Zealand. 590 Brothers and Sisters around the world are registered as tutors on the site to assist with the constant stream of student enrolments.



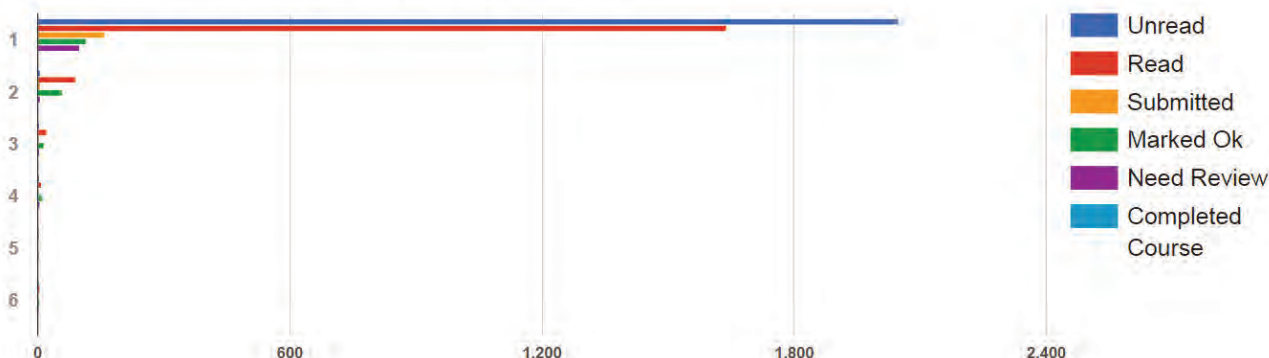
The site offers up to four different course options depending on geographic location and regularly attracts well over 1000 new students each year. Despite the large number of enrolments, the site reflects the online environment in the level of student commitment. As can be seen from the chart, the bulk of the students either never engage with the lessons or do one lesson and then call it a day. The online process works like a very coarse sieve that catches much but retains little. This requires of the tutors a good understanding of the environment, and patience. There are, however, a small number of students who do remain and come to the Truth. This is the outcome that drives thisisyourbible.com.

ESTABLISHED  
Before 2000  
TUTORS  
590  
ACTIVE CONTACTS  
8194

Technically, an interactive website throws up a continual stream of challenges. The current project is adapting the site for mobile devices. Around 60% of visitors to the site do so on smart phones or tablets. In response to this, the site is now adaptable and reconfigures appropriately for the screen size. An ongoing project is allowing that capability for the area of the site where students and tutors interact.

Probably a mobile phone is not the ideal medium for learning about the Bible, but we continue to try and have a meaningful presence in this dominant environment and hope that the unchanging and enduring message we offer resounds with some in this age of fleeting moments.

Student Engagement for Course Exploring The Bible







# South-East Asia

## Gambodia

QLD

Secretary: Bro Daniel Pryde (+61407 048 542,  
cambodia@acbm.org.au)

The four ecclesias along with the Bible Education Centre (BEC), Bethzer Dormitories and Sunday Schools provide Cambodia with large numbers of contacts. The local brethren and sisters contribute to the preaching activities by running Bible seminars, outreach weekends and the Sunday Schools as well as personal preaching but the need for fieldworkers is always huge. Fieldworkers teach daily bible lessons to the students at the Christadelphian Bethzer Dormitories as well as teaching other contacts at the BEC.

In July this year the first sisters camp was held on the coast in Kep, with 18 sisters from all four ecclesias attending. The first brothers camp was also held in July in Kampong Spue with 18 brothers attending. Both camps were very successful and enjoyed by everyone. We hope to be able to hold more camps in the future.

We pray that God will continue to bless the work in Cambodia in the coming year.

CHRISTADELPHIANS

99

ECCLESIAS

4

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

5

BAPTISMS

3

ESTABLISHED

1996



CHRISTADELPHIANS  
75  
ECCLESIAS  
2  
SUNDAY SCHOOLS  
1  
BAPTISMS  
4  
ESTABLISHED  
1969

## Indonesia

NSW

Secretary: Bro Ken Pooley (+61 2 9747 3694,  
indonesia@acbm.org.au)

In Indonesia, with the fourth largest population in the world, we find Christadelphian Ecclesias in the capital, Jakarta and in Solo (Surakarta) central Java. It is predominantly a Muslim country making preaching opportunities limited.

The Solo Ecclesia is the larger body, meeting in their own hall. They are very active with a full program of memorial meetings, Bible classes, Sunday School, youth group, sisters' class and prayer meetings.

Each June, the Mission supports a study week in Solo. The 2018 theme was Samson and Ruth. Four studies in the hall were followed by a live-in weekend in the mountains near Solo. This provided a great opportunity to encourage each other in the faith. A highlight was the attendance of ten brothers and one sister from Timor Leste.

Following this year's Study Week the Timor Leste group, with a number of Australian visitors along with some Indonesian brothers and sisters travelled two hours by bus to break bread with Bro Tom Saliman. Bro Tom lives in isolation near Mount Merapi, an active volcano.

In January 2018, the annual Solo Study Day considered the subject of the Kingdom of God. Following breakfast together, a full day of studies was enjoyed including fellowship over meals and discussion.

While Solo ecclesia is self-sufficient in many ways, it relies heavily on the Mission's welfare support. A senior brother who served faithfully as Recorder for many years now is in need of financial assistance with his medication. The current Recorder needs regular blood transfusions. The most recently baptised young brother needs regular medication. A brother with a young family recently required hospitalisation for an operation. So your generous support is very important for the physical and spiritual needs of our Indonesian brothers and sisters.



Enjoying satay pork during Study Week



Family group relaxing at Tawangmangu



Sister's class, June 2018



Family Weekend Group (Tawangmangu), July 2018

CHRISTADELPHIANS  
None  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
None

## Laos

NZ

Secretary: Bro Robert Alderson (laos@acbm.org.au)

There is currently no preaching work undertaken in Laos.

## Malaysia

NZ

**Secretary:** Bro Kahfook Tham (+64 4 479 0491, [malaysia@acbm.org.au](mailto:malaysia@acbm.org.au))

Since March 2016, when the Lord blessed us with the first baptisms in Malaysia (after many years of labour by numerous brethren), a total of 6 batches of baptisms have taken place in Kuala Lumpur (KL). As at the close of 2017, we have been blessed with 26 newly baptised brothers and sisters in KL, West Malaysia.

In November 2017 our preaching campaign in East Malaysia (in the city of Kuching) was blessed with one baptism. This is the first baptism in Kuching. With one existing sister in Miri, Sarawak, we have now two members living in isolation in East Malaysia.

With the above baptisms (27), together with expats and existing brethren in Malaysia, the total headcount currently stands at 32. Of these 32 brethren, we have one brother or sister in isolation in each of the following places – Penang, Langkawi Island, Miri, Kuching, and Stockholm (a Malaysian was baptised in March 2016, but is a permanent resident of Sweden).

Since April 2018, the Lord has blessed us with a current batch of interested friends who have attended over half of our seminar series of 14 courses. Malaysians are keenly aware and interested in End Time Events and the return of the Lord. The recent flurry of headline events in regards to Israel, Jerusalem, Iran, Russia and Syria have generated good responses to our seminars.



The KL Ecclesia also enjoys the support of study leaders from New Zealand, America, Australia, and soon, Canada; and these have helped with the growth in knowledge and faith of our newly baptised brothers and sisters. Lastly, the support of the ACBM New Zealand, through the generosity of donations from New Zealand brothers and sisters, has helped to sustain the on-going activities in Malaysia, for which we are very grateful.

CHRISTADELPHIANS  
**32**  
ECCLESIAS  
**1**  
BAPTISMS  
**9**  
ESTABLISHED  
**1960s / 2013**

## Myanmar

QLD

**Secretary:** Bro Terry Nutter (+61 408 961 682, [myanmar@acbm.org.au](mailto:myanmar@acbm.org.au))

The brothers and sisters of Myanmar, though still few in number, are gradually maturing into a more established ecclesia. They have now permanently rented a small self contained flat with good transport links, where they can hold the weekly Memorial Meeting.

Having this flat as a venue, one of our leading Yangon brothers, Bro James Soe, recently took the initiative of organising a study week under the title: "The Spiritual Lessons of the Tabernacle." He submitted a plan, including a modest budget, to the Australian committee. The Yangon members were enthusiastic in their support for this idea. The budget included the cost of basic food items so that the members could enjoy the sisters' culinary skills. Several members who live distant from the venue were accommodated in the flat for the duration of the studies. The Myanmar area committee welcomes this initiative by the Yangon members to hold their own Bible studies in their own language. It is a mark of a maturing ecclesia.

Continuing Australian fieldworkers visits have also encouraged the members in Myanmar.

CHRISTADELPHIANS  
**23**  
ECCLESIAS  
**1**  
SUNDAY SCHOOLS  
**1**  
BAPTISMS  
**4**  
CONTACTS  
**8**  
ESTABLISHED  
**2007**



Yangon Ecclesia with Paul Walker



CHRISTADELPHIANS  
**564**  
ECCLESIAS  
**20**  
SUNDAY SCHOOLS  
**43**  
BAPTISMS  
**36**  
ESTABLISHED  
**1958**

## Philippines

NSW

Secretary: Bro Peter Wassell (+61 2 9605 5919,  
philippines@acbm.org.au)

### 16th Biennial Philippine Youth Conference

The highlight of the year was the 15th Biennial Philippine Youth Conference, held from 25 to 29 December 2017. Young people's committees from Luzon, the main northern island of the Philippines, and Mindanao, the main southern island of the Philippines, worked together to organise the Youth Conference. The venue was Tarlac Agricultural University located in Luzon. About 220 young people came together from many different parts of the Philippines to enjoy this event. About 90 young people came from the southern (Mindanao) and central islands of the Philippines, some by boat but most by plane. The boat trip from Mindanao was a two-day journey which was delayed because of an unseasonal typhoon. This resulted in eleven young people arriving a day late for the conference but nonetheless safely. Overseas visitors from Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and one from South Korea also attended.

The Youth Conference theme was "Training in Godliness". There were three studies led by three visiting speakers: "Training in Godliness" - a study on 1 Timothy; "Discipleship – A Call to Holiness"; "Proverbs – Wisdom for Young People"

The studies were complementary to each other and were well received by the young people who found the issues presented very relevant. It is usual for visiting speakers to present their studies at youth conference in English without translation. However, on this occasion with a new batch of younger people it became evident early on that translation was needed and when implemented, the reception of the studies improved markedly.

A ponder and praise evening was held on the final night of the conference which involved all attendees. There were two baptisms during the conference. A new young sister and a new brother in Christ were received into fellowship at the memorial meeting on the final day.

This special event enjoyed by the Philippines' young people was substantially subsidised by the very generous donations of ecclesias, individual brothers and sisters and young people's groups in Australia. Afterward the organising committee acknowledged on behalf of the Filipino young people: "We are indeed grateful for having brothers and sisters who support us in our spiritual growth through these studies".



## A special welfare appeal for a young sister in the Philippines

During the year a special welfare appeal was launched for a young sister in the Philippines.

Sis Janeth Macaraeg was suffering from a memory disorder caused by Moyamoya disease. Moyamoya disease is a rare, progressive cerebrovascular disorder caused by blocked arteries at the base of the brain in an area called the basal ganglia. This was particularly debilitating for Sis Janeth given her relatively young age and the need to secure and maintain employment.

Following medical tests and a 4 vessel angiogram, the advice of a neurosurgeon was that her condition would only be resolved through surgery. The cost of surgery was estimated to be significant.

An appeal was launched to the brotherhood in NSW and the Ecclesias throughout the Philippines as well. It was very encouraging that the required funds were raised enabling the brain surgery to proceed on 8 December 2017

The operation was performed by a neurosurgeon and involved performing a cranial ultrasound and marking the course of the middle meningeal artery. This artery was harvested in its entire length then connected to the dura-arterial complex (covering the brain). This will in turn restore blood flow to the area that had been damaged.

The brain surgery went very well and Sis Janeth has already noticed an improvement in certain areas. A check up six months after the operation indicated very good clinical improvement.



Philippines



Philippines



Singapore Ecclesia

## Singapore

QLD

**Secretary:** Bro John Collins ([singapore@acbm.org.au](mailto:singapore@acbm.org.au))

The small but active Singapore ecclesia welcomes the presence of any visitors, whether specifically visiting Singapore, or just for a stopover when passing through.

A Bible class is held regularly in the same location as the memorial meeting, but can be on a Wednesday or Friday - so please contact Bro John Bounaparte if visiting. Brethren who can give talks are encouraged to offer their services.

Bro Sis Levett led a series of studies in June.

CHRISTADELPHIANS

**14**

ECCLESIAS

**1**

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

**1 (6 students)**

CONTACTS

**2**

ESTABLISHED

**1980**



CHRISTADELPHIANS

**6**

ECCLESIAS

**2**

CONTACTS

**10**

ESTABLISHED

**1985 / 1990s / 2009**

## Thailand

QLD

Secretary: Bro Terry Nutter (+61 408 961 682,  
thailand@acbm.org.au)

The Bible Education Centre in Chang Mai provides our base for preaching and pastoral activities in Thailand. Some of our young brothers and sisters act as translators for our fieldworkers and are becoming increasingly active in sharing the gospel message with others. We are making plans to extend our activities both in Chiang Mai and in other centres in north western Thailand – in villages and small towns – many of which we have visited in past years.

We are working on acquiring a legal basis for our presence in Chiang Mai through what is called a Thai Foundation. This will provide a legal framework for operations and allow us to extend invitations to fieldworkers. This will enable them to obtain long-term visas.

Plans have commenced to run intensive Bible courses and seminars to invitees. This will involve teaching the Bible to invited friends for 6 hours a day across 5 days each week of the course. This degree of intensity (due to the number of hours of contact time per day and the course duration of between 2 and 20 weeks) means the course will only be suitable for a limited advanced clientele and not everyone. Please pray for the success of this work!

CHRISTADELPHIANS

**488**

ECCLESIAS

**12**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**12**

BAPTISMS

**58**

CONTACTS

**51**

ESTABLISHED

**1997**

## Vietnam

QLD

Secretary: Bro Allan Bundesen (+61 7 3343 3461,  
vietnam@acbm.org.au)

Since our last annual report life has been going through the usual struggles and joy – joy that it has been a great year for baptisms; struggles with a typhoon and struggles with persecution in a country where paranoia about revolution abounds. If only they realised, we are the most unlikely people to give trouble to the nation.

Most reading this report will know of the typhoon which struck central Vietnam in November last year. Most of our brothers' and sisters' houses in the area sustained some level of damage and most lost lots of possessions from clothing to cooking utensils which were either ruined or blown away. The response to our appeal for funds was very heartening and well over \$100,000 was needed to help rebuild. We gave our affected members three quarters of their actual loss. They were very thankful for this.

We are still troubled by welfare issues. Each year we find that some members simply have to be given help with serious illness, especially cancer. We needed an appeal for bro Tri and this has enabled him to have another six months of chemotherapy which, we pray, will be enough to allow laser surgery and a cure.

Despite our problems we have record numbers of people seeking to learn from the Bible. All told, six of our standard Christadelphian works have now been translated, printed and circulated to all our members. We pray that our Father and His Son will continue to be with our brethren to bless and to guard them.





## China (incl. Hong Kong)

SA

Secretary: Bro Russell Li ([china@acbm.org.au](mailto:china@acbm.org.au))

An ecclesia was established in Hong Kong in the 1960s, and currently has about 9 members. In Hong Kong the ecclesia has freedom under the law to meet and to preach. In China, meetings for the breaking of bread or for bible study and preaching are illegal. There were 5 baptisms in the last year.

CHRISTADELPHIANS

84

ECCLESIAS

5

BAPTISMS

5

ESTABLISHED

1960s / 1995

## Japan

SA

Secretary: Bro Bruce Gurd (+61 8 82775196;  
[japan@acbm.org.au](mailto:japan@acbm.org.au))

The highlight of the last year was the baptism of the first Japanese national for many years. Saaya Takenezawa was baptized in Tokyo in December to the joy of the brothers and sisters in the area. There are some friends who are interested in the gospel but it is difficult in Japan. Brother Paul and Sister Naomi Riggio and Brother Fujio hold fast to the faith in the Gifu/Nagoya area and Brother Jonathan Prins is resident in Fukuoka. Visitors who would like to join the weekly memorial meeting in Gifu should email [gifuchristadelphians@gmail.com](mailto:gifuchristadelphians@gmail.com). Brothers and sisters who wish to visit the Tokyo ecclesia are best advised to email Brother Peter Evans ([pete@evansmail.com](mailto:pete@evansmail.com)).

The 3rd Tokyo Bible Week was held from June 14th to the 24th near Omori in Tokyo with Bro Andrew Culver (Simi Hills) as Secretary. Brethren Jamie Scott (Cumberland) and Phil Wong (Reseda) were the leaders. The local brothers and sisters were well supported by visitors from Australia, England and USA.

CHRISTADELPHIANS

6

ECCLESIAS

2

CONTACTS

2

ESTABLISHED

1992

WEBSITE

[C13N.jp](http://C13N.jp)



## CHRISTADELPHIANS

23

ECCLESIAS

2

BAPTISMS

2

CONTACTS

1

ESTABLISHED

1983

## South Korea

SA

Secretary: Bro Ern Wigzell (+61 8 8298 3167;  
korea@acbm.org.au)

South Korea is an ideal country for your first "Mission" journey. It is clean, modern and safe. It is easy to get around with inexpensive, reliable bus and rail systems, and Taxis available. The ecclesia in Seoul has private accommodation in their 'hall'.

The Seoul Ecclesia holds its Memorial Meeting on Sunday mornings, a mid-week Bible Class, and on Saturdays an Ecclesial Seminar for visitors.

The Daegue Ecclesia has meetings only on Sundays, with the Memorial meeting in the morning and a study in the afternoon. This is because the members have to travel long distances to attend.

Each August the two ecclesias come together for their Summer Bible Study Camp. This would be the ideal time to visit and to get to know the Korean Ecclesias. The camp in 2018 has visitors from Australia, Japan and Pakistan.

Last year there were 2 baptisms. One was Tana, the daughter of a sister, and the other, Hailie, an interested friend. At the moment there is one interested friend.

We would like you to think seriously about a visit to Korea, not only for preaching, but to encourage your brethren and sisters to maintain the Truth and to feel the warmth of a personal relationship based on the Hope we share. Even a short business stop-over would be most welcome.

## CHRISTADELPHIANS

4

ECCLESIAS

1

CONTACTS

1

ESTABLISHED

1995

## Mongolia

SA

Secretary: Bro Garnet Alchin (+61 424061063;  
mongolia@acbm.org.au)

Mongolia is a land locked nation of 3.1 million people, 55% of whom align with Buddhism. The capital is Ulaanbaatar, home to around 1.4 million including Bro Puuje and Sis Oyuna. They are brother and sister in the flesh and live about 2 hours apart making regular meetings challenging, especially in the bitter Winter. Ulaanbaatar's claim to fame is being the world's capital with the coldest annual average temperature! Unfortunately there's little warmth either for the things of the living God at this stage.

Two fieldworker visits were made during this last year, one in August 2017 and one in April 2018. These were very positive opportunities to encourage this small and isolated group. The local members were just so keen to maximise the fellowship and Bible study time during these visits. Sis Oyuna took four days off from her casual employment to enable her to join us for readings, fellowship and Bible discussion. Bro Puuje travelled over an hour each way each day on packed buses. It was most pleasing to observe that Sis Oyuna's daughter continues to show significant interest in the Bible's message. Sessions were held on current events, Bible marking of first principles as well as breaking of bread meetings.

It was pleasing that on each of this year's fieldworker visits time was able to be spent with a younger married couple, both with good English, who continue to be interested in Bible prophecy fulfilling today.

While Bro Puuje has English, Sis Oyuna is limited but making progress. On the occasions when Bro Puuje has not been available, technology has come to the rescue. Using Google Translate means communication is slow but it is most surely a very useful tool.

Apart from the Father's overwatching care our brother and sister are on their own, struggling on in faith in a harsh environment and difficult personal circumstances. Please remember this brother and sister before the throne of grace every day.



## Taiwan

SA

**Secretary:** Bro Craig Hill (taiwan@acbm.org.au)

For two years we have been providing exhortations for Memorial Meetings each Sunday, a Bible Class each Thursday evening and from the beginning of this year a First Principles Class on Sunday evenings. These activities are mostly provided externally, some by an expatriate brother in the USA and from brethren in Canada and Australia. There are a number of contacts that are quite advanced with whom regular contact is being maintained. Seven brothers and sisters have been involved in five fieldtrips to Taiwan throughout the year.

The Annual Bible School held last April was attended by 45 participants. Of these 13 were interested friends and 15 were children all of which added a wonderful element of activity to the program, including social and sporting outings. These gave all of the school attendees more opportunities to get to know one another.

God willing, there are plans for a number of couples to spend up to a month in the capital Taipei to provide more personal involvement with brothers and sisters and friends. Also in the planning pipeline is a fortnightly children's activity that will allow for a first principles class involving the children's parents at the same time.

As in many East Asian countries, Taiwanese work long hours and are left with little time beyond domestic responsibilities. A considerable amount of time is given to educating their children to provide them an edge for better jobs and livelihoods in a very competitive environment. For this reason going forward, an emphasis is to be given to children's Bible education which can provide a common interest for their parents.



CHRISTADELPHIANS  
7  
ECCLESIAS  
1  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
1  
CONTACTS  
5  
ESTABLISHED  
2003

## The Bible Missionary Magazine

The Bible Missionary magazine opens a window on the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ, right around the world; from Russia in the north, to Africa in the south, across the Indian subcontinent, Asia, the Pacific Islands to Chile in South America and 100 other countries worldwide.

You will read about the day to day lives of our dear brethren & sisters who live very different lives to us. As in the first century the written word plays a vital role in encouraging the faith of new and established ecclesias around the world. Many of our readers have very limited access to the electronic media that for us is part of everyday life; as well as news from fieldworkers committed to assisting them in their preaching efforts, pastoral and welfare needs.

Your subscription helps ensure that this magazine continues to be available at a cost that is within the reach of most brothers and sisters.

**Subscribe now for 2019. Only \$20 for 4 issues. See your Librarian or Recording Brother.**





# Financial Support

## Your Financial Support for the ACBM

Support for the Mission's preaching and pastoral work can be done in many ways, including travelling to a mission country, tutoring contacts from our home via email, remembering the work and those involved in your prayers and through regular financial contributions.



Baptism in PNG

Regular donations allow the Mission to develop a reliable budgeting base which ensures projects are able to be planned ahead with confidence, provides strong support to our brethren overseas for preaching efforts, pastoral support, Bible Schools, Youth Conferences and Hall Building projects as well as the ever increasing need for welfare.

The welfare of our brothers and sisters overseas is most important to us and they are very grateful for the support provided. Donations however small combine to help in meeting their many needs. Vital medications, health and dental checks, clothing, food gardens, farming, transport to/from meetings, water supplies providing for their self sufficiency are examples of welfare support. Remember the dollars go a lot further in our mission areas overseas than at home.

## Regular Monthly Donations

These can be made by:

- credit card
- eft or direct debit facility crediting the Mission's account

ACBM Account details and Credit Card deduction forms are available to download from our website: [www.acbm.org.au](http://www.acbm.org.au). You may use AMEX, Visa or MasterCard or simply set up a regular monthly eft.



Scan to donate  
online via Paypal

## Online Donations and Digital Giving

- Donations can be made via Paypal through our website.
- We are also investigating other forms of digital giving to provide an extensive platform via mobile apps, text giving, 'tap and go' and other online programs

## Remember the ACBM in your Will

Many of us have assets which we need, to support us during our lives and which will then be left via our Will to our family and charitable causes. While we acknowledge that we have a primary responsibility and expectation to provide for our family members in our Will, we ask you to consider making a bequest to the ACBM. Over a number of years the Mission has received both small and larger bequests which have made a significant impact on how the work in the Asia-Pacific region is able to be funded.

If you wish to include a specific sum of money for the ACBM in your Will we suggest you ask your lawyer to include the following:

*I GIVE to the Asia-Pacific Christadelphian Bible Mission Inc the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be applied for the general purposes (or State/Region specific purpose/area) of the Asia-Pacific Christadelphian Bible Mission Inc in such manner as its committee of management may determine and I DECLARE that the receipt of the National/Regional Secretary or other appropriate officer of the Asia-Pacific Christadelphian Bible Mission Inc shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executor.*



## Gook Islands

NZ

Secretary: Bro Robert Alderson ([cookis@acbm.org.au](mailto:cookis@acbm.org.au))

Following the death of the only Christadelphian brother in 2016 there has been nothing to report.

CHRISTADELPHIANS

**None**

ESTABLISHED

**2000 - 2016**

## East Timor

TAS

Secretary: Bro Stephen Taylor (+61 3 6393 1766;  
[easttimor@acbm.org.au](mailto:easttimor@acbm.org.au))

Dili is the capital of East Timor, accessible by a seventy five minute flight north west from Darwin. It is a poor country but for our sixteen brothers and one sister they have found the "pearl of great price" "without money and without price". East Timor is 98% Catholic and so our members have made tremendous changes in their lives to leave church error which is mixed with traditional beliefs, and have embraced the hope of the gospel.

So that the truth grows in this country we have set some goals which we believe will assist greatly. All our members are young. Most have been university students, who were attracted to the truth through the diligent preaching of one particular brother.

Firstly, our goals for the future until our Lord returns are to encourage all in personally preaching the truth of God's Word. Secondly, given there is only one sister, for practical reasons there is a need to attract female converts to the truth. Our aim is that all fieldworker visits should include sisters as a means of introducing the Truth among East Timor's female population.

Thirdly, we intend to develop ecclesial management skills, so the brethren

CHRISTADELPHIANS

**14**

ECCLESIAS

**1**

BAPTISMS

**2**

CONTACTS

**12**

ESTABLISHED

**2004**





might grow into an autonomous ecclesia. That is always the aim in Mission areas, but with a young ecclesia it takes time.

Exhortations have been provided weekly over the last few years but we are encouraged that as our brethren grow in the Truth they are taking on these roles and sharing these duties. They will obviously benefit from their own personal study as well as the ecclesia as a whole.

The Bible week in Solo Indonesia was a highlight of this year's activities. Through some very generous donations, ten of our brethren and the one sister were able to travel to Indonesia for the Bible Week. All who attended gained much from the studies on Samson and Ruth. They also developed new friendships with brethren and sisters from their nearest neighbours in the region.

We earnestly look forward to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ when all our brethren and sisters will be united with him from "every kindred, tongue, people and nation".

CHRISTADELPHIANS

**65**

ECCLESIAS

**2**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**1**

CONTACTS

**20**

ESTABLISHED

**1963**

## Fiji

SA

Secretary: Bro Nathan Shaw (+61 8 8555 4078;  
fiji@acbm.org.au)

Our Heavenly Father continues to bless this corner of his vineyard, the ecclesia in Fiji is well established, mature in many ways and welcomes regular visits from both old friends and new fieldworkers. The Fijian young people hosted the South Pacific youth conference (SPYC) in December / January 2017/18 in which 15 senior young people from Vanuatu and 5 from the Solomon Islands joined with 20 Fijian senior youth around a study of James "Be Ye doers of the word". The conference returned after being held in Vanuatu in 2015. A wonderful week of learning, fellowship, fun and lasting memories was enjoyed. This opportunity enables the Pacific Island young people to be encouraged to overcome, through prayer, the Gospel, and the help of each other their commonly shared cultural, social, family and economic pressures. The next SPYC God-willing will be in the Solomon Islands in December/January 2019/20.

The Ecclesia in Fiji continues to grow and were blessed with both baptisms and three weddings in the last year. Several gospel proclamation efforts have been concentrating on the area of Lautoka and Nadi that have attracted new contacts.



October 2018 sees the Jubilee celebrations of the Hall in Suva, a time of reflection on the faith of many passed members, current faithful families and the opportunity to reach out to those valuable sheep that have strayed to return in the spirit of Jubilee. Many past fieldworkers will join in and enjoy the warm fellowship that is a feature of the Fijian ecclesia.

Fiji is an ideal first step into the Pacific islands for those that are looking to do mission fieldwork for the first time in this area as it has a relatively well developed and safe capital city in Suva with a large relatively well organised ecclesia.



## Samoa

NZ

Secretary: Bro Ross Melles (samoa@acbm.org.au)

No preaching has occurred in Samoa for over 7 years now since the Bible Education Centre in Apia was closed.

CHRISTADELPHIANS  
**NONE**

## Papua New Guinea + Bougainville

Secretary: Bro Kevin Gore (+61 8 8295 7529, png@acbm.org.au)

Our activities have been focused in the Bougainville, Lae, Alotau and Goodenough Island areas. Each area presents its own set of peculiar circumstances. Unfortunately, these areas are separated geographically by sea and mountain ranges, and are only readily accessible by air.

We have been very delighted by the response of a group of friends on Goodenough Island. One of these, Steven llewana after 5 years of association via post and seminars was recently baptized. Currently there are 72 participating in the Correspondence Course from Goodenough Island. On the mainland at Alotau, it is a rewarding experience to regularly have 25 or more visitors attend seminar evenings.

Bougainville presents a peculiar problem with the referendum for national independence less than one year away. As the outcome could be volatile, we have been conscious of the need to spend as much pastoral time in Bougainville as possible. In Arawa the hardliner political faction has warned us against holding Bible Schools. The alternative has necessitated a 340 km round trip, plus a significant trek through the mountains so our brethren and sisters can meet us in Buka.

A most enjoyable and spiritually encouraging time was spent in Buka in June. A memorial meeting, studies from the Acts and a consideration of current events took place. Two young men attending were given individual tuition. They were encouraged to attend Sis Gorethy Biupa's weekly 'Exploring the Bible' and readings class.

CHRISTADELPHIANS  
**44**  
ECCLESIAS  
**4**  
SUNDAY SCHOOLS  
**4**  
BAPTISMS  
**1**  
CONTACTS  
**83**  
ESTABLISHED  
**1985**

The brethren and sisters were most appreciative of us coming and implored us not to forget them during the uncertain period ahead.

Finally, a visit was made to the Lae ecclesia and their growing Sunday School of 12 students. Lae is a high security area where we are advised to remain within protective fencing. Visitors come within the compound for meetings.

Bro Joachim and Sis Angelbert Ambia who have had their house burnt down twice in 2 years, are still suffering from the corruption that can be associated with acquiring Customary land. Meanwhile Bro Joachim is actively shepherding the ecclesia, holding discussions with the Berean brethren in Lae and preaching the Truth to a group of interested friends. It was a joy and inspiration to be with them for the week.



CHRISTADELPHIANS  
**37**  
ECCLESIAS  
**4**  
SUNDAY SCHOOLS  
**4**  
BAPTISMS  
**11**  
CONTACTS  
**12**  
ESTABLISHED  
**1996**

## Solomon Islands

SA

Secretary: Bro Michael Healey (+61 8 8595 1472,  
solomons@acbm.org.au)

The highlight of the last year was the number of baptisms which took place, increasing the number of brethren and sisters in the Solomon Islands by about 40%. The majority of those baptised are the children of brethren and sisters who have come through Sunday School, and had the benefit of attending Bible Schools and Youth Conferences.

Because the brethren and sisters are dispersed in different areas, we attempt to gather them together annually at a Bible Week. The first Bible Week was held in 2004 when there were only 8 brethren and sisters.

Youth Conferences have been held during the last two years, to cater for the large number of young people and this has contributed their desire for baptism.

There are four ecclesias, one in Honiara, two others within a few kilometres of each other on the island of Malaita and the fourth on the remote Reef Islands, more than 600km east of Honiara, where two brethren live.

The most recent Bible Week was attended by 20 brethren and sisters and 5 interested friends. There were about 30 children and young people in the Senior Sunday School and 28 in the Sunday School for those under 12 years.



Some were unable to attend the Bible Week because of difficulties with travel. Bro Johnmark from the Reef Islands was unable to attend because the boat from Honiara was delayed even though it had departed one month earlier for an island round trip. Fortunately Bro William, also from the Reef Island, had temporarily moved to Western Province and was able to make a short boat trip to attend.

During Bible Week workshop classes were held on preparation and presentation of studies and exhorting and chairing at memorial meetings. The response was very positive. As numbers are increasing, there is the need to ensure that local brethren are more self-sufficient in Bible study and leadership.

The "Let the Bible Speak" radio programme, which is broadcast by the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation still attracts a good listening audience throughout the Islands. A gospel presentation was advertised in Honiara during the last visit and three friends attended.

The Honiara Hall, which was built last year, is now being used regularly for meetings and Sunday School. Solar lighting has been provided to allow its use for activities at night. Anyone willing to support the work in the Solomon Islands should make contact solomons@acbm.org.au





## Tonga

NZ

**Secretary:** Bro Alan Struckman (+64 3 349 6204, [tonga@acbm.org.au](mailto:tonga@acbm.org.au))

Exciting things have been happening in Tonga, with Bro Zak and Sis Abi Read and their 4 children, Kade, Zeth, Cruz and Tayz, residing in the capital Nuku'alofa on the main island of Tongatapu since October 2017. They have been busy establishing a firm foundation with the Sunday School children, as well as enthusing new contacts with their enthusiasm for God's word.

A Bible Camp had been planned for Easter but Cyclone Gita intervened and wiped out the camp where it should have been held. Nothing daunted, the camp was conducted at the mission house instead. Unfortunately most of the New Zealand brothers and sisters who had booked were unable to attend due to the conditions in the aftermath of the cyclone. However Bro Warren and Sis Sheryn Shapcott laden with very heavy suitcases filled with food, were able to get through. Bro Warren gave a series of talks on Teenagers of the Bible appropriately chosen for the numbers of teenagers in the Sunday School. Despite the heavy rain and large stagnant pools of water, a very enjoyable, uplifting time was enjoyed by all. The work of Abi in cooking for the hordes was greatly appreciated. Bro Saimone and Sis Monica Puli'uvea with little son Ezra came all the way from the USA.

Cyclone Gita very destructive, but by God's grace our brethren and interested friends were kept safe, though they suffered crop loss. Funding was provided for food parcels and Bro Zak has also been hard at work repairing blown off roofs and damaged buildings.

We are very grateful to the ACBM for providing funds for a mission car, as well as funds for furniture and renting a mission house. This is a fantastic step forward, as we now have a mission house for any brethren who would like to join the work in this tiny corner of our Father's vineyard.

CHRISTADELPHIANS

5

ECCLESIAS

1

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

1

CONTACTS

7

ESTABLISHED

2000



## Vanuatu

SA

**Secretary:** Bro Phil Shaw (+61 8 8555 4116, [vanuatu@acbm.org.au](mailto:vanuatu@acbm.org.au))

Yahweh has continued to bless the preaching work in Vanuatu over the past year with four new baptisms, bringing the total to 56 Ni-Van brothers and sisters. These brothers and sisters are spread through 4 ecclesias on 5 islands, Santo, Malekula, Paama, Efate where Port Vila is and in Tanna out of 83 islands in Vanuatu, 5 brothers and sisters in Santo, 12 in Malekula, 1 brother in Paama, 2 in Emau Island, 19 in Port Vila and 17 in Tanna.

### Sunday School

There are also currently 5 Sunday Schools in Vanuatu, the biggest of these Sunday Schools is in Port Vila and Tanna. We have 3 Sunday School classes in Port Vila from ages 3-6 in one class, 7-12 in the other and from 13 years and above were regarded as senior Sunday School students allocated with two teachers assist in teaching each classes.

### Young People

Also we have more than 20 young people in Vanuatu and the majority of the young people are in Port Vila. The Port Vila Ecclesia has conducted studies and activities for the young people three times in a month which is quite encouraging for the young people to train them in the ways of God, as we live in challenging

CHRISTADELPHIANS

56

ECCLESIAS

4

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

5

BAPTISMS

4

CONTACTS

25

ESTABLISHED

1997



times especially the youths where we see Vanuatu is struggling with drugs and other issues affecting our young people.

In a positive note the brothers and sisters in Vanuatu selected 12 young people one from Malekula, 10 in Port Vila and 1 on Tanna including bro Dickson & sis Flora Muerifar as hosts attending the 2017 SPYC in Suva Fiji. After the conference some of the young people have shown interest in baptism and we are in process of arranging and conducting studies on baptism to our young people in Port Vila. Every year, usually in the month of May we have the Vanuatu Young Peoples Bible Week/Camp usually goes for a week in Port Vila. All the young people in the islands travelled to Port Vila during the school holidays to attend the Bible Camp. We are very grateful again this year 2018 to have the Youth Camp which is funded by the brothers and sisters in South Australia coordinated by bro Philip and sis Nathalie Shaw.

### Active Contacts

Much of the preaching work is conducted via a correspondence course available in both English and Bislama which is administered by local brethren. Fieldworker visits provide pastoral support and assistance with preaching activities. We have currently about 25 active contacts who are enrolling in the Bible Course thanks to a 6 months advertisement for the Bible Course in the local Vanuatu Daily Post paper with a positive impact resulted in interested friends calling in and requested the Bible Course either in English/Bislama. We are pleased that with the Bible Course we have had 4 baptisms in the Calender year, one each in Santo and Tanna this year and two in Malekula back in 2017. Fieldworkers are always needed to help with the gospel work in Vanuatu.

### Disaster Relief Assistance

The Republic Island of Vanuatu is located in one of the highest disaster-prone areas in the world. In recent years our people have been exposed to cyclones, volcanic eruptions, Earthquakes, floods and droughts. Since independence over a quarter of a century ago, our vulnerabilities to disasters have increased not only due to our changing lifestyles but also because we have lost some of our traditional methods for minimising risk and coping strategies in times of disasters. We are very grateful and thankful to our Heavenly Father, the brothers and sisters in Australia and the ACBM in financially continuing assisting the welfare of the Vanuatu brothers and sisters in times of cyclone and volcano in the past year especially Malekula and Tanna without the relief assistance it would be very difficult for our brethren and sisters in the islands.

The brothers and sisters in Vanuatu, especially on the island of Tanna, are fortunate to have the



Christadelphian Bethazer Fund to support a school which has very much benefited the brothers and sisters there in terms of shelter, teaching students about the truth, providing accomodation for fieldworkers, and facilities to preach the gospel.

### The Christadelphian Kapalpal School on Tanna

A recent visit by bro Dickson Muerifar to Tanna in July for a Bible Study weekend has been fruitful by the company and fellowship of the brothers, sisters, young people and interested friends. Fieldworkers are most welcome to help with the gospel work in Kapalpal school on Tanna and in any islands of Vanuatu.

### Vanuatu End of Year Bible Week

The Vanuatu Bible week again will be held at the end of this year 2018 in Port Vila where all the brothers and sisters in the islands of Vanuatu are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the Bible Camp is to have fellowship and company of each other and be spiritually encouraged around Gods precious word. We are looking forward to have visiting field workers and speakers from Australia, brothers and sisters in different countries to attend the Bible Week. As we approach the end of July, we also begin our countdown to the much anticipated 2018 Vanuatu end of year Bible Week where together we can impact, influence and inspire each other in the things of God as we wait patiently for our Lords return.

- Dickson Muerifar, Vanuatu Serving Finance brother



# Financial Report

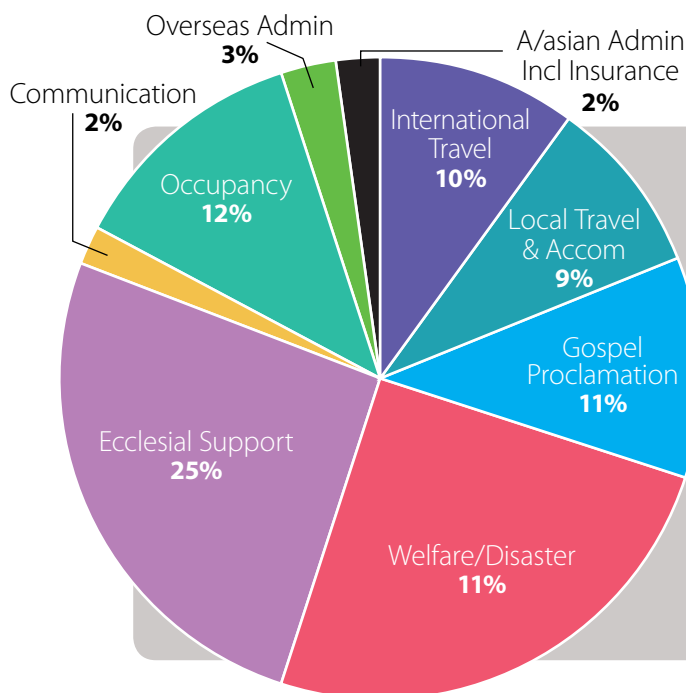
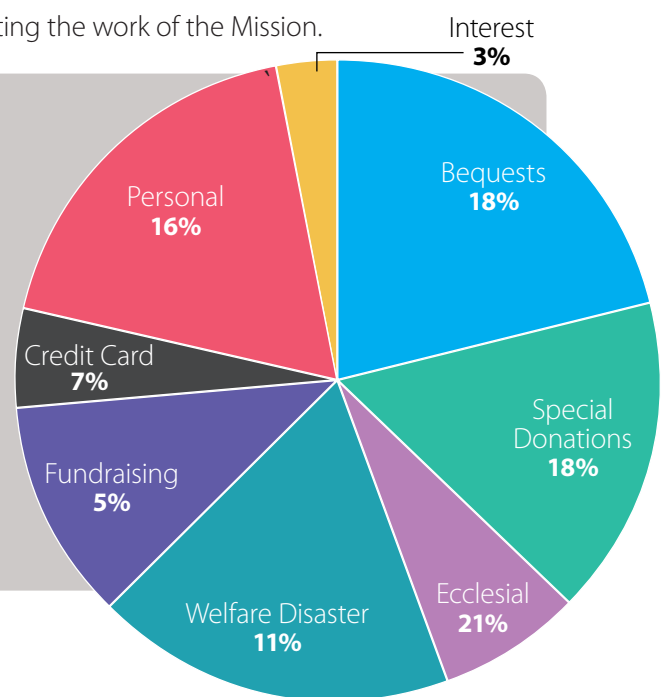
Your Bible Mission seeks to fulfil three basic goals:

1. To preach the Gospel across the Asia-Pacific region from Afghanistan in the west to Japan & Tonga in the east seeking the formation of Ecclesias and fostering their Godly development to the glory of our Father in heaven.
2. To provide effective & timely assistance for disaster relief and to provide support for individual medical and similar emergency needs.
3. To seek to relieve the burden for many of the household of faith who struggle for basic needs in the Asia-Pacific region by providing material welfare support as needed.

Please commit to sharing our God provided blessings in supporting the work of the Mission.

## Sources of income

Ecclesial	\$ 216,152	21%
Personal	\$ 167,053	16%
Credit Card	\$ 73,642	7%
Bequests	\$ 186,887	18%
Welfare/Disaster	\$ 108,809	11%
Fund Raising	\$ 55,045	5%
Special Donations	\$ 179,688	18%
Interest	\$ 26,869	3%
Total	\$ 1,014,147	100%
NZD	\$ 1,112,224	



## Expenses

International Travel	\$ 113,827	10%
Local Travel & Accom	\$ 103,979	9%
Gospel Proclamation	\$ 132,462	11%
Ecclesial Support	\$ 290,365	25%
Welfare/Disaster	\$ 305,813	26%
Communication	\$ 17,797	2%
Occupancy	\$ 144,619	12%
Overseas Admin	\$ 37,231	3%
A/Asian Admin Incl Insurance	\$ 23,690	2%
Total	\$ 1,169,783	100%
NZ	\$ 1,278,743	

The above figures do not include generous donations of travel and accommodation costs made by fieldworkers which we estimate to be around \$700,000.

Copies of the Income & Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet are published on our website at

[acbm.org.au/annual-report-2018](http://acbm.org.au/annual-report-2018)



“Go therefore  
and make disciples  
of all nations,  
baptizing them in the  
name of the Father and  
of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit”

Matt 28:19



**ACBM.ORG.AU**