

# MMM New Zealand NEWS

Issue 1 2009

**MMM**  
Building...  
Empowering People



God asks,  
"What's that in your Hand?"  
Exodus 4:2

Serving God in practical ways,  
building, renovating, maintaining  
facilities for Christian mission.

CAUTION  
GOD  
ATWORK

## CONTENTS

  
Parachute **p3**

  
Whittlesea **p3**

  
Nth Island **p4**

  
Upcoming **p8**

## CONTACT DETAILS:

### NEW ZEALAND

1 Kane Street  
Pirongia 3802  
Phone and fax: +64 (0)7 871 9161  
Email: mmmnz@mmm.org.nz  
Web: www.mmm.org.nz

### INTERNATIONAL HQ

Graham Young  
PO Box 86  
Lower Plenty  
Victoria 3093  
Australia  
Phone: +61 (0)404 943 212  
Email: intl@mmminternational.org  
Web: www.mmminternational.org

### AUSTRALIA

870 Yea Road  
Whittlesea  
Victoria 3757  
Australia  
Phone: +61 (0)3 5786 5432  
Fax: +61 (0)3 5786 5217  
Email: admin@mmm.org.au  
Web: www.mmm.org.au

### FIJI

PO Box 225  
Sabeto  
Fiji Islands  
Phone: +679 628 4429  
Email: mmmfiji@connect.com.fj

### HONG KONG

102 Sha Tin Tau Village  
Shatin  
New Territories  
Hong Kong  
Phone & fax: +852 2605 4813  
Email: mmmhk@mmm.org.hk  
Web: www.mmm.org.hk

### SOUTH AFRICA

PO Box 15638  
Beacon Bay  
East London 5205  
South Africa  
Phone: +27 (0)43 726 8870  
Mobile: +27 (0)83 566 4874  
Email: neil.eichstadt@swissmail.org

### THAILAND

PO Box 103  
Bandu  
Chiang Rai 57100  
Thailand  
Phone: +66 (053)705 595  
Email: mmmthai@mmm.org.au

### ZAMBIA

PO Box 73624  
Ndola  
Zambia  
Phone and fax: +260 (0)212 68 1058  
Email: gmt@zamtel.zm  
Web: mmminternational.org/zambia

## Letter from the Director

It is wonderful to reach another milestone in the life of MMM. At the International Council meeting last year the decision was made to change the identity of each MMM Centre and replace the word 'International', with their country name and for each country to produce their own magazine so it is with much pleasure we introduce to you **MMM New Zealand** and our first edition of **MMM New Zealand News**.

It is now 15 years since Charles and Ruth Sundgren began the work of MMM NZ and we are grateful to our God for all that has been achieved over the passage of time since then. We have been blessed with many faithful and hard working individuals, couples and families who have left the comfort and security of employment, homes and churches to serve the Christian community of Aotearoa and overseas using the gifts and skills God has given them. Many have discovered skills they didn't realise they were blessed with as they have been challenged by the many and varied tasks presented to them.

We all look forward to another busy and exciting year with many challenges ahead, from the task for the Mobile Team and Associates of completing the new complex at YWAM near Christchurch, to the many smaller but equally important projects scattered around the country. Another significant event is the re-staffing of our MMM Centre in Fiji, this will be a real benefit and provide assistance with the many projects coming up.

Our commitment to 'Building... Empowering People', remains our constant focus and we trust God to bring those people with the skills and interest to join with us to fulfill our commission. Please continue to pray with us that we at MMM will remain faithful to our calling and the resources needed to do the work will be provided, this includes people as well as finances.

We look forward to your partnership with us during the coming year.

**Bruce Alchin**  
Director



**The destructive fires in Victoria, Australia burnt down almost all the buildings at the MMM Centre situated on the 'mountain' above Whittlesea.**

MMM's International Director, Graham Young said: "Our house is one in a block of four and apart from a layer of ash, all is OK. One of the sheds is undamaged and two caravans came through almost unscathed. The destruction of the other buildings is total. The administration building, two

housing wings with six homes and the five accommodation cabins are all gone. We praise God that no lives were lost and no one was injured."

Also vehicles and thirty cattle were lost. As the fire came up the hill Graham and his wife Elizabeth escaped in their cars to the fire station at Kinglake where they sheltered with about 200 other people and their pets. The fire station was surrounded by fire and wind so strong it was hard to stand up. They then spent

Continued on pg 3

# Parachute Music Festival '09



## Approximately 25,000 people attended Parachute Music Festival at Mystery Creek near Hamilton from January 23rd to 26th.

More than 6000 of whom would not call themselves Christians. 150 local and overseas bands and speakers thrilled the crowds at the six different stages. More than 2000 people committed their lives to Jesus Christ for the first time, were counseled and put in touch with a local church. This is the largest response ever

experienced at a Parachute Festival. Over 400 Rwandan World Vision children were sponsored, and MMM was there! Along with over twenty other 'mission' organisations MMM had a stand in the Global Expo marquee. A number of other mission organisations combined for the Destination World experience. MMM spent the Wednesday before Parachute constructing Destination World. Temperatures soared above 30 degrees most days outside and the temperature in

the marquee would have been well above that. Once again MMM used the theme of 'hands' for the display; "What's that in your hand?" Exodus 4:2. A huge hand was borrowed from the 'Dominator' automatic garage door company and this caught people's eyes. Those who stopped at the MMM display were encouraged to pick a printed out verse from the Bible relating to 'hands' and pin it on a wire framed hand. There were lots of hands, tools and photos on the display. Many new contacts were made and over fifty people signed to receive the MMM magazine. At times there were so many interested people at the display it was difficult to manage to talk to each one of them.



From pg 2

the night in their car and awoke in the morning to utter devastation around them. MMM has owned the property at Whittlesea since 1978. Over the years the houses and sheds were built then in 1998 a large administrative building and conference centre. In more recent years a large workshop which housed the steel roll forming machine was built, this was also destroyed.

Previous to the fire the Youngs had purchased a house in Melbourne and will move into that soon. Meanwhile they have been loaned a house to live in. A Baptist Church has offered space for the International office of MMM to operate from.

The Australian Director Tim Cranna and his wife Briana and son St John were the others whose house wasn't burnt down. Tim and Briana were away from the Centre the weekend of the fire but their son, St John escaped taking the MMM computer back-up disks with him. The Crannas are staying with their other son, Justin until their unit is cleaned up.

Agnes Morrison, The Centre hostess had a close and traumatic escape from the fire. She is staying with her sister as she considers her future.

Phil and Kay Manning had been living on site in their caravan which was saved. They had a harrowing ordeal being on site during the fire.

MMM Associates Owen and Jane Bayliss

who have spent a lot of time working at the Centre, managed to shelter in the dam on their farm as they watched their house burn down. Jane lost her parents in the fires. Owen and Jane are moving into an older house on the same property.

Rod Heape who works here with the NZ team lost his vehicle and caravan with many personal belongings which were in storage at the MMM Centre at Whittlesea.

Ex MMM staff Peter and Kay Browns' son Tim and his wife Kelly were renting a

unit at the MMM Centre as well as Baden Grant whose parents also used to work with MMM. All three lost almost all their possessions.

The Centre at Whittlesea was insured and the insurers will take care of the cleanup. MMM International (Australia) has been offered temporary premises to operate from in the meantime until decisions about the future are made. Any donations can be made through the New Zealand office of MMM or directly via the Australian web site: [www.mmm.org.au](http://www.mmm.org.au)



# Work Reports

## North Island

David Halse, team leader, Rod Heape, Timo Stephan, Haapi Wilson, Ian Cross



The Papakura Wesleyan Church in Auckland has been building a new community centre and asked MMM to come and help. They plan for this to be a "One Stop Shop" for their low-socio-economic community for education, entertainment, sports, cultural and spiritual needs. David Halse, Rod Heape and Haapi Wilson went and helped to close in the building late last year.

More work has continued this year at Mercy Missions Trust, a foodbank in Drury, South Auckland. Bill and Pam Todd with some assistance from Earl Kennedy have been finishing the project commenced last year; creating a mezzanine floor in the main warehouse.

The first project for 2009 was in Levin. Queen St Gospel Chapel asked for help to renew their kitchen and upgrade their toilets. David and Rod made the journey down and enjoyed two weeks of fellowship as they worked and lived with the Chapel people.

About twenty mission organisations combined again this year at Parachute Music Festival to present *Destination World*, a mission experience in the Global Village marquee. Bruce Alchin, Harry Joe, Haapi and Erica Wilson worked during one day to reassemble the frames which MMM had made for *Destination World* last year. Over 600 people went through *Destination World* in the first six hours, an experience that will not easily be forgotten.

Ian Cross arrived back from overseas at the beginning of February and rejoined the work team who were making alterations and improvements to the home of John and Yvonne



Childers at Te Kauwhata. The Childers are missionaries in the Philippines. Timo Stephan, a young man from Germany arrived to spend three months working with our MMM teams, so he was at the Childers project too.

While David and Ian continued at the Childers, Haapi, Rod and Timo spent two weeks redoing three bathrooms and installing a new shower for Titoki Christian Healing Centre near Whakatane. This is a quiet retreat centre where people may go for 'time out' and counseling if they so wish.

At the end of February the team went to spend a week painting the Manse for the Tirau Cooperating Church. They enjoyed



working with Fraser Barrett who stepped down from fulltime involvement with MMM at the end of last year. With plenty of helpers from the church, and MMM Associate Doug Carson with his airless sprayer, the job was done in four days! So the Friday of that week was spent cleaning the exterior of the OMS Headquarters building in Hamilton and making a few repairs along the way.



Desert Spring Ministries is a Charitable Trust creating employment and working alongside families in the Fairfield area of Hamilton. They are operating a community garden and native plants nursery and with MMM's help they plan to open this up for sales to the public. During March the Team was able to help construct new work benches, entranceway, and shade house.

# South Island

Alan and Rosina Mitchell, Ernie and Michelle Pene

The Oxford Project here is going well. As you may know, the South Island MMM Mobile team is busy working at YWAM (Youth with a Mission) in Oxford, North Canterbury. YWAM own a large two storey villa type house, which has gradually become too small. A succession of different buildings, old army barracks and small transportables have allowed more students and staff to live here as the ministry has grown exponentially under Chris Donaldson's directorship. They are running three schools here this term; a Backpackers School, a Snowboarders School and



a Biblical Studies School. By the end of the month there will be 120 people living onsite! Most students come here and do three months study, then they go overseas for three months on 'outreach'. So there is a great need for more buildings. Thus MMM has stepped in to help construct a 420 square metre building which will have a dining room, offices, a commercial kitchen and lecture room. At present the dining room in the main house only seats 50 so meals have to be taken in shifts.

We have had wonderful support on this job and this has been really exciting to see. We have had Peter Cloughley, Clive Dennis, Bart and Muriel Gilmore, Cliff Hatton, Mike and Melody Nicholls, Neville and Pauline Stewart, Brian and Celia Sholl, Stan and Gail Schroder, John and Jean Taylor. Some days were really wet so the guys had it hard working in dreary, unseasonably wet weather. As you may know, before the year finished last year we got the ground leveled out, the start of the foundations poured with polystyrene boxing. This year the foundations have been laid, the framing gone up, now all the cross beams and roofing structure on so it's really taking shape. Next week they start putting the roof on so that will be good for them to have some shelter if the rain keeps up.

The home-schooling is going well and it's been great for the children to all work together and learn from each other, it is going to benefit them greatly. I take the preschoolers for the first hour while Michelle takes the older ones for Maths. After morning tea we do lessons all together. I'm enjoying making play dough and singing silly songs again which my preteens are not keen on anymore.

On behalf of the South Island Mobile Team, Rosina Mitchell



## Monday April 6th at MMM Centre, 1 Kane Street, Pirongia

You're invited to come and hear Felix Muchimba, Chairman of the Board of MMM Zambia and Director of GLO, Zambia. Visiting NZ with GCiM (Global Connections in Mission)

- 6pm** Bring a contribution for a shared meal
- 7pm** Felix will speak about the work of MMM in Zambia

## **Living Springs Camp**

by Virginia Mitchell aged 13

On the 26th January there was a Correspondence School camp at Living Springs Camp, Lyttleton. The Mitchell and Pene children went and their mothers. It was an amazing experience we all enjoyed, being with heaps of kids around our age who also do home schooling. We saw kids we hadn't seen for a while and made new friends. The timetable went something like this - swimming 7am, breakfast 8am. Then two activities like kayaking and abseiling. Then we had lunch and did more activities, tea, then another activity (believe it or not) then we could do whatever we wanted. We had Drama as well. My group's play was so funny. We enjoyed being able to show the play we had worked so hard on to the parents. We had a lot of fun and we can't wait until the next camp.



## **South Island Adventures**

by Daniel Pene 13

**After two years of working in the North Island Mobile team, it was time to start working as part of the South Island Mobile team. It was surely going to be the makings of a good story.**

When we got to the other side of Cook Strait our holiday-slash-adventure began. First we went to Dunedin where we visited the Cadbury Chocolate Factory, the world's steepest street, Otago Museum and the Octagon which is the middle of town. Next we went to the Bluff but Dad was disappointed to find that there were no Bluff Oysters so we stayed at Riverton. We visited the Invercargill museum and found the motor bike they used in The World's Fastest Indian movie, but Burt Monroe's real motor bike is somewhere else.

Then we went to the best place in the South Island, Monkey Island, on the southern coast, west of Riverton. This is a small island, accessed by walking at low tide. It is called Monkey Island because they used to pull boats and cargo using a monkey winch. Dad and I helped another family to drag a flounder net. On New Years Eve we lit a fire on the beach and roasted marshmallows.

Next we went on a cruise up the freezing cold but amazing Milford Sound. Then we went to Queenstown and went on the gondolas and luge which was awesome! We visited Puzzle World, the Warbird Museum and the Car and Toy Museum in Wanaka. We had a swim in the glacier lake, Tekapo. Brrrrrrr! By then Dad was getting restless so we went to our first South Island project at YWAM in Oxford.

## **MIKE'S MAGIC TRICKS**

by Josie Mitchell aged 10

One night while we were at YWAM, Oxford, Mike Nicholls, who had been helping Dad on the job did some magic tricks for all the children. He did lots of tricks, it was fun. He told my sister Erin to write her name on a piece of paper and she got an electric shock from the trick pen. But Alix Pene got the shock pen to work and she wrote her name. He let us use a stapler but it was a shock stapler. He did another trick with a grape where he made it disappear. In fact he makes lots of things disappear. And near the end he gave us some grapes to eat.

## **YWAM, Oxford - what a place!**

by Erin Mitchell aged 12

From the messy working site to the not so quiet classroom where we work with the Penes', the place is always interesting and of course really good fun. Right now, all the men are out working on the huge three month project. From the start I think everyone knew it was going to be a big project, but as MMM, they never give up. Starting from the foundations of the new big office, dining room and kitchen until it is finished, they have enough to keep them going on for a while.

Our first few weeks have been nothing but fun. In that time we have even done a play with the Pene children in front of the YWAM students and staff and made \$25 for our sponsor child. If you know us Mitchells you would know the countless plays we have done since we were little doing plays and performing with the Robinsons.

Through the whole job we seem to always have help. Rose-Mary is helping in the kitchen, and Muriel, Melody and Celia always find something to do. As well as me I'm sure my Dad on site really appreciates Bart, Clive, Brian, Peter, Ron, Neville and lots more people who have come to help.

This year has been the coldest and hottest summer I have ever been in. The South Island heat is not humid, thankfully. When it's hot it's above 30 degrees, but in Te Anau it snowed in the middle of summer! In the North Island we wouldn't have that problem.

We're now at Oxford at the YWAM base and the job is building a new kitchen, dining, office block. Already, since being here we've met a lot of MMM supporters. Also we've had a MMM barbecue and Prayer Fellowship here.

When it's really hot, we and the Mitchells go to a nearby river. It has a few rocks to jump off and we made some dams so there was no flow where Grace and Michael swam. A few hundred metres from the YWAM base is a swimming pool where Alix, Erin and I are training for the "Weetbix Tryathlon" in March.

There is a boy here about my age and we don't get up to *much* mischief.

I'm looking forward to going to the West Coast and meeting new people. Overall, I think I'll enjoy it down here this year.





# GREAT OPPORTUNITY

**God sometimes brings to us great, unique, and possibly life changing opportunities. This recently happened to MMM NZ staff member Ian Cross. This is his story -**

"My journey with God has been dominated by many periods of waiting for Him to show me the next step in His great plan for my life, then followed by some 'once in a lifetime, unique opportunities'. Last year was one of those times. Operation Mobilisation (OM) currently uses the ship MV Doulos in their worldwide ministry. This 95-year-old ship is in its last years of service before replacement. During 2008 the Doulos visited our area for the last time. It became obvious that there was perhaps for me a great, once in a lifetime opportunity to serve on that ship while it

was in ministry mode. After working through various options, I was accepted for the voyage from Fremantle, Australia to Dili, East Timor to Singapore to Kuching, Malaysia and to finish in Cebu, Philippines. Sailing from late October 2008 to mid January 2009. MMM approved the use of my 'long service' leave for this purpose.

Meanwhile my Wanganui commending church, Ingestre Street Bible Church, was planning to run their own project in South India, assisting with building a new village for fisherman whose village was damaged in the 2004 tsunami. I was asked to join this project after my time on the Doulos. MMM also approved this and it was now an even bigger journey of faith. God was to again enlarge my horizons and my faith in Him.

Now that I have returned to NZ, what did God show me, and what did He do in my life during these three months of opportunity?

- When God leads - He provides. That's a basic principle, but I sometimes don't realise that He may have already

provided. He may need to gently prompt me to look in my own back pocket.

- God in His infinite wisdom has formed man to be very adaptable and resilient. I recall many contrasts during my three months away:
  - Western and Asian - food, culture, languages, religions, people groups
  - Temperature and climatic differences rainy season, dry season, hot, cool
  - Population density - the millions in Hong Kong, Singapore and Chennai vs. the small village at Chinnakuppam, South India and the 350 on the Doulos.
  - Clean air and water vs. smog and polluted waters, interesting aromas, open sewers.
  - Modern, developed, 21st century civilizations vs. the less developed cultures
  - Lamborghini cars, Morris Oxford cars and ox carts.
  - Many people suffering in poverty while other folk deal with their prosperity
- I was taken way out of my comfort zone and God deliberately put me in challenging situations, where I learnt to trust in Him more.
- God brought many folk across my path, even if it was for only a brief, but significant time of encouragement. When I finally get to meet the Lord, face to face, there will be such celebration and reunion with so many believers.

I thank all who prayed for me during this journey. Without prayer support there is no way I can step out in faith to do the Lord's work."

## MMM Kids!

**"Hey, Mum do you have anything African I can wear for career day?" Jacinda asked a couple days before her school held a dress-up career day.**

"Why do you want something African?" I asked. "Oh I was going to be a school teacher but that's a bit boring so now I'm going to be a missionary school teacher to Africa because then I will store up treasure in heaven!" Wow, go Jacinda! I am pretty sure Jacinda would not have such a view of her future life if she had not spent the last ten years being immersed in missions. We have now been an MMM family for ten years and have met with, worked with and eaten with many people who are involved in mission. I do wonder what impact that has on our kids. From what I have observed so far, it is all pretty good.

Recently I asked Lance our 14 year old son about his first years of being home schooled in a mobile home when we were serving with MMM New Zealand and he said, "I thought home schooling was

great but that was just because I was five and I didn't know any better!" He was also quick to remember all the wonderful free time he had as soon as he got his work done, a very strong motivating factor! About being a kid living in Hong Kong he says, "I think what is different about my life because I'm an MMM kid is I get to do things not many other kids get to do in their lifetime." What kind of things? Well travel and all our kids love travel, especially in China's overnight trains or on planes. New places are popular, and being at an international school means his group of friends includes some from Indonesia, Canada, the Philippines, and a couple who were actually born in Hong Kong. He has worked on short term mission teams and seen the needs of the world up close.

Once when we lived in our mobile home I remember Jacinda having some confusion about where she was. We had put the kids to bed at night and kept travelling, the following morning I heard Jacinda ask Lance, "Where are we?" he replied, "In the bus silly?" to which she asked, "Yeah, but where are we outside?" and that is the dilemma when your home can move, ask any snail!

For the same school career day that Jacinda went as a school teacher to Africa, Trent went as an MMM worker, in T-shirt, tool belt, and hard hat. He is proud of what his Dad does and hopes to be a builder some day. Not because he sees his Dad building expensive houses, not because he lives in an architecturally designed home himself but because "Dad helps people."

We did not join MMM to broaden our children's international experience or because we specifically wanted them to rub shoulders with mission minded people. We did not join MMM for travel, or so our kids could see God meet needs and answer prayers. We did not join MMM so our kids could be involved in mission and we could do something as a family. We did not join MMM so our kids would see real needs up close or so they would get a heart for mission. We joined MMM because Dad, was called to use his skills for God, the rest of it? That's just what God alone has done.

**By Ave Robinson**

*Howard and Ave are New Zealanders working as Directors for MMM Hong Kong.*

# Upcoming Projects

ORGANISATION	LOCATION	DATES	PROJECT
<b>North Island</b>			
Jeff Pelz, TSCF worker	60 Seymour Road Sunnyvale, Waitakere City	23 > 27 March	Repair ranch sliders
C Pema, OMS Director	7 Portree Place, Hamilton	23 March > 3 April	Water blast and paint exterior of house/fences
Mercy Mission Trust	273 Sutton Road, Papakura, Auckland	30 March > 3 April	Entry porch roofing
Taumarunui Baptist Church	250 Taupo Road, Taumarunui	14 > 24 April to be confirmed	Build decks and entry and replace some roofing iron
Orama Christian Trust	Great Barrier Island An OVERSEAS TRIP in NZ! Cost approx \$140-00	27 April > 15 May	Rebuild decks and fire escapes. Renovate toilets and showers. Tile floors and stairs.
Russell Embling, Pastor	5 Radiata Lane, Chatswood North Shore Auckland	18 > 29 May	Paint interior of house
Family Ministries YWAM	Crystal Springs, 287 Springs Road, Matamata	8 > 26 June	Insulation, new ceilings and painting of 5 accommodation units
<b>South Island</b>			
YWAM	14 Church Street, Oxford	January > April	Construction of large building
Cobden/Runanga Anglican Church	44 Ward Street, Runanga	Date to be confirmed	Prepare and paint church hall
Stephen & Jocelyn Head, Missionaries	48 Momorangi Cr, Redwood Christchurch	Date to be confirmed	Painting and repairs
Tirohanga Camp Mosgiel	214 Tirohanga Rd, Mosgiel	June	Renovate camp hall

## IF YOU CAN HELP IN THE NORTH ISLAND

Ph David Halse and confirm that projects are on schedule  
 MMM 1 Kane St, Pirongia 3802  
 Ph/Fax 07 871 9161 email [mmmnz@mmm.org.nz](mailto:mmmnz@mmm.org.nz)

## FOR SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS

Ph Alan Mitchell 021 164 4939 or check the web site  
[www.mmm.org.nz](http://www.mmm.org.nz) (refer: Work Projects - Current Work Program)

# Upcoming overseas projects 2009



### Lami Gospel Assembly, Fiji

Beginning stages of constructing a new church building.  
 Cost approx \$1500-00 for 2 weeks

### April - Living Hope, Vladivostok, Russia

Completing renovations on three storey building used as a rehabilitation centre.  
 Cost approx \$4500-00 for 3 - 4 weeks

### Coral Coast Christian Camp, Fiji

Completing multi-storey accommodation units and constructing many bunks.  
 Cost approx \$1500-00 for 2 weeks

### Chinnakuppam Village, India

Building new housing for the poorest of the poor victims of the 2004 tsunami.  
 Cost approx \$4000-00 for 3 - 4 weeks



**Contact** Erica Wilson, Overseas Project Coordinator c/- MMM International (NZ)  
 1 Kane St, Pirongia 3802 email: [seasprojects@mmm.org.nz](mailto:seasprojects@mmm.org.nz)