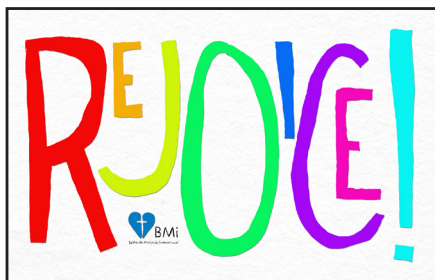


## The year of our Lord

Welcome to the year of our Lord 2017. It is His year and His world, and we belong to Him — so life is getting better by the day!

And the BMI family is doing well with healthy growth in many places, some of which we bring to you in this new-look issue of *HeartBeat*.

BMI is a family and the BMI leadership and office have been created to serve our churches. As part of that endeavour we present various events that not only aim to encourage local churches, but provide opportunity to get to know other members of our BMI family.



### Rejoice: BMI State Gatherings 2017

Each year we present a day of fellowship for the BMI churches in each state. Your pastors will advise of dates (or check the 'diary dates' sidebar) and we do encourage you to make every effort to be there. It is true that every individual is important in God's world and we do miss you if you are not there!

This year our theme is *Rejoice*. We are planning a somewhat different day with lots of opportunity for rejoicing. Come and let us rejoice together in the goodness and grace of our Lord!

### The Culture of the Kingdom: BMI Summer School 2018

Our other major annual event is the Summer School. Although designed primarily for pastors and leaders the Summer School is

a great blessing for any serious Christian (is there really any other type?).

This year's school was a great time with the theme *Preach the Word*. Sure it was for preachers, but the many attendees who were not preachers said they thoroughly enjoyed the week. I am sure anyone who loves the Lord would have been blessed by the various speakers and their presentations. David Steele (a 'non-preacher' from Ginninderra Christian Church in Canberra) has written a great report in this issue.

The 2018 school has the theme *The Culture of the Kingdom*, built around the idea Paul brings in Colossians 1:13 — 'He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love'.

Even if you have not attended the Summer School before — don't let this opportunity pass! Videos of the 2017 sessions will be available soon, as will registration information for the 2018 school.

### Our BMI family

This year I am visiting Joe and Primrose Chavez in the Philippines in March (to prepare for a Christian school and hold a BMI Pastor's conference), and in April Darren Hessenberger and two fellows from Highlands Christian Church in Mittagong will accompany me to visit Dr Luc Mulimbalimba in DR Congo for a couple of weeks to meet with pastors from Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya.

So enjoy reading all about the BMI family across Australia and the world, and I look forward to seeing many of you in person during the year.

*Peter Frogley, National Leader*

## Diary dates

**Sat 25 Mar**  
Tasmanian  
State Gathering

**5-9 Jun**  
National Leaders  
Gathering  
Grindelwald, Tas

**Sat 29 Jul**  
Victorian  
State Gathering

**Sat 2 Sep**  
South Australian  
State Gathering

**Sat 28 Oct**  
NSW/ACT State  
Gathering

**15-19 Jan 2018**  
BMI Summer School  
Details TBC



200 Florey Drive  
Charnwood ACT 2615  
Australia

P +61 2 6259 3946  
F +61 2 6259 3945  
E info@bmi.org.au

W www.bmi.org.au

# People (and clothes) get a second chance in Gisborne

In October House of the Rock Church in New Gisborne hosted a very successful fundraising event to support Prison Network Ministries (PNW) in Victoria.

This organisation was established in 1946 and since then has provided support, purpose and love to many women, whilst they are in prison and also as they transition back into the community. PNW does this by building stable and ongoing networks and relationships for these prisoners. Activities include craft and interest groups, bible study and discussion groups and services that enable children to meet with their mothers in a safe and fun setting.

The event hosted by HOTRock was called *Second Chance Fashion Parade*, a meaningful title for both the prisoners and the fashions that were on display. The fashion parade and high tea was followed by a sale of pre-loved fashions,



with much interest being shown in the pre-loved items that had already been displayed by our capable and fantastic models.

At various stages during the afternoon, some of the PNW personnel shared their hearts and some stories about the Network. The difference Jesus can make in a person's life was highlighted by many examples giving evidence to this fact.

Comments made by some of the attendees during the afternoon referred to the warmth, love and friendliness they experienced at the event. Over \$2,300 was raised for PNW — a very good effort given we are a relatively small church.

Some of our HOTRock ladies are also involved in visiting women's prisons in the city and in the country — sharing Christ's love and the 'second chance' he gives all those who believe in him.

Gay Wilding, HOTRock Church, Gisborne Vic

## Ray is outdoors

Ray Jeffries' recent operation that many have been praying about has been a success. Ray and Rebecca are delighted and rejoicing in God's abundant goodness — not only for Ray's healing but also in his fresh revelation of God's character as part of the process. Ray and Rebecca are planning to join us at the National Leaders Gathering in June, their first time in several years.

# Sing for Supper

Each year the folk at Open Door Christian Church put on a Christmas Lunch for any and all that want to come.

We've been doing it for so long that we now have a solid crew of regulars. Our first lunch found us out in the local streets carolling to promote the event. Our best endeavour so far had yielded about 30 guests. This year we hosted about 90! We still carol, but for worship's sake as much as that of advertising.

The Holy Spirit reveals Himself in various ways. There are times when He comes in joy and others when He attends with a certain solemnity. You might think that a community



*The Open Door Carolers (L-R): Jennifer Devlin, Jodi Cameron, Kate Ashley, Heidi Kazenwadel, Ken Duddy (crouching), Janine Bieg, John Krause*

lunch is not quite the right occasion for the Holy Spirit to manifest in quiet earnestness — but if you do, you're wrong. Two years ago I asked one of our old timers, Bob Duddy, to open the Christmas Lunch with grace. Bob is 'old school'. Sunday nights in decades past you might have found Bob on the back of a tray-truck in Russell Street, Melbourne CBD, preaching as to the majesties of Christ and His rightful claims on the hearts of all men and women. Bob comes from AOG stock and an era when being called a Pentecostal was a term of derision, but it was an era when preachers targeted men's souls not their hearts.

Bobby's in his 90s now and normally requires not a little assistance with his balance. Yet this day as he stood to say grace there was an unexpected transformation. This wizened wee man, barely visible to most, opened not his throat but his heart to pray; and out of this humble old timer there came a recital of thanks which dealt with the beauties of Christ, the joy of salvation, the hope of eternal life and finally, the food.

Ordinarily our guests are either impassively self-absorbed or politely ill-disposed toward the more serious parts of our lunch, but this day as Bobby prayed there fell upon the hall an intensity of silence as seemed to fix all attention on this ancient warrior of the faith and his heartfelt prayer of thanks. It was a moment such as many long for in their preaching but seldom see. It seems that that day the Holy Spirit made it His business to ensure that the gospel was heard.

So encouraged by such unexpected graces and always pleased at making Christ's love evident, we continue our (by now) tradition of treating folk to something of Christ at Christmas.

*Chris Whiting*

# Preach the Word

In January 2017 HOTRock Church in Gisborne hosted the fifth BMi Summer School: 'Preach the Word'.

The BMi National Leadership Team and various BMi pastors spoke over the school's 21 sessions. Pastor Peter suggested at the school that to speak for an hour could require up to twenty hours of preparation. Each session reflected good preparation and the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon the presenter.

Pastors Philip and Carol Oster jointly presented the final session which was entitled *Devotionals* (which some people know as 'Inspirational'). At the end of the session Pastor Chris was of the view that the best session had been saved till last.

Pastor Philip also presented three sessions on John's Gospel given with a preaching emphasis. Pastor Peter also gave three sessions, with his one on 'character' being outstanding. Other sessions were given by Nigel O'Reilly on the minor prophets, Kevin Donohue on the book of Acts, Peter Vacca on the names of God, and Hanna Fakhouri on prayer and the manifestation of the Spirit. There was also a special session where Terry Barnes posed as George Whitfield (complete with costume) and presented one of his sermons while Chris Whiting gave commentary. Chris Whiting covered anything that the other speakers had missed in his trademark thought-provoking style.

The school provided helpful hints on preaching, from a pastor's perspective down to one-on-one witnessing. Each session began with the singing of a psalm or hymn and occasionally a chorus. I was struck by the reverential way to which Scripture was referred. It was more than just the Bible, it was Holy Scripture or the Word of God. Pastor Chris's church in Cheltenham studied the book of Revelation over eight sessions during 2016, and the 80 pages of notes and guides were handed out in a bound publication with the title *The Revelation of St John the Divine*. In my opinion that was a further example of the reverence that the School ascribed to Holy Scripture.

Just as the evening session of day one commenced, we became aware that one of the Canberra delegates, Eugene Klefisch, was leaving us to be transported by ambulance to Sunshine Hospital. By morning tea on day two we were made aware that urgent surgery would occur that day — and less than 24 hours after leaving the school, surgery had been completed. When we visited Eugene and Katy on Friday at Sunshine we were delighted to see Eugene sitting up and reasonably chirpy given the circumstances, and they both mentioned that they could feel the prayer support over the whole time.

Overall it was an incredibly valuable time for all who attended and a great opportunity to spend time with other members of the BMi family.

*David Steele, Ginninderra Christian Church, Canberra*

# India 2016

In November and December a team of thirteen intrepid travellers spent several weeks in southern India, visiting the various ministries that relate to the BMi churches in Australia.



The team members represented churches stretching from Tully in far north Queensland, through the ACT and Victoria, all the way to Adelaide.

Throughout this particular trip India was being heavily affected by a currency crisis. In order to stop counterfeiters, the government had withdrawn all large denomination notes, which made it extremely difficult to exchange money for not just our larger donations but even our day-to-day expenses.

The team arrived in Chennai and were transferred to a different hotel than the one we had booked (because the power was out) and we spent two nights there, getting used to the traffic, noise and pollution. Chennai is quite a modern city, which gave us opportunity to stock up on various requirements like clothes, musical instruments and SIM cards before boarding our bus to Pondicherry. As part of that journey we stopped to visit a remarkable temple which had been completely carved out of a single piece of rock. During our one day in Pondicherry we organised some printing for the planned first aid course, saw the sights and enjoyed some of the delightful French cuisine at the hotel.

From there we moved on to Sankarapuram, home to the Christ Special School for children with disabilities. We were there for five



nights, doing such things as performing several launch ceremonies for the new physiotherapy and hearing centres at the school, unveiling plaques, and delivering the first aid course — but most of all spending time with the children. We sang songs, played games, gave gifts, talked as best we could, took (a LOT of) selfies and did activities with them. On the final day in Sankarapuram the team joined the children and staff on their picnic at a lovely lake around an hour's bus ride away. We departed amongst many tears from all involved and continued to our next destination, Vellore.

Vellore is home to the Ida Scudder Memorial Hospital, and we were treated to a tour with the superintendent. We did more shopping and it was also Erin (or Errin, if you believe the spelling on the cake) Garrard's 16th Birthday, a cake-infused celebration at the Surabi Hotel. The entire team enjoyed the festivities (even Kim Curry, who was absent from her husband on her wedding anniversary that same day).

After two nights in Vellore we boarded a train and continued to Tirupati. The porters at the train station there carried three suitcases at once... on their

heads! We transferred from the train into our desert-rally-style buses and were taken to our accommodation at 'DKM Campus', a part of the various ministries run by Gali Gangaraju and his son David. In Tirupati we had opportunity to speak and minister to many people at various conferences, as well as performing some songs and dramas to children in a girls' prison and a boys' prison. David is well-known to the prison wardens for his humanitarian efforts with the children, and the team were able to purchase blankets for them from the Indian equivalent of Costco. We were privileged to be involved in the church services in Tirupati (featuring genuine



wine from Cana, which Gali had procured on his recent trip to the Holy Land) and we also visited several villages in the surrounding area. After three nights there we bid fond farewell to our new friends and boarded the night train to Rajahmundry.

Boarding a public Indian train as a team of thirteen intrepid travellers is... tricky. Nobody seemed to know which seats we'd actually booked, and making sure everyone's luggage was on board and within sight of where they were actually sitting (and later sleeping) was definitely a challenge. But after not much sleep we made it to Rajahmundry the next morning and were greeted by Samuel Babu Merupu and his wife Vijaya.



In our eight nights in Rajahmundry we spent most of our time at a conference facility which had been rented for our visit — doing medical clinics, a family seminar, pastor's conference and of course lots of fun and games with the kids. The children had their Christmas party and concert on one of the evenings. It was quite a spectacle, particularly when we were plunged into



darkness part-way through when the power went out!

Samuel has quite a network of local pastors and we were able to fellowship with most of them. Some of us had opportunity to visit a Christian television station which was run by one of those pastors. We also spent some time walking around the local villages, which was a wonderful opportunity to see up close the lifestyle of around 70 percent of India's population. The people were from the lowest social castes and poor, yet they were incredibly hospitable and always had bright smiles for us.



The Indian government has been pushing for children to return to their home villages to be educated and housed. This has unfortunately led to the closure of the Naioth Children's Home, and the buildings have been put on the market. The children have been sent back to their villages and the scope for schooling and ministry has decreased in one way... but opened up in another. There are three villages where we are now running large tuition centres (before and after school tuition and care) under the banner of 'Rural Family Care Centres'. These are very popular with

the children and valuable to their parents and the school teachers.

Whilst we were unable to stay at the Naioth Children's home like previous teams to India, we were honoured to participate in a twentieth anniversary celebration for previous students which was held at the children's home. Samuel's brother, Paul, has a similar children's home on the

outskirts of Rajahmundry which has fortunately been allowed to stay open. We paid them a visit and were grateful for the use of

their bus while we were there.

On the final day in Rajahmundry we participated in a sod-turning ceremony for a new centre being built in one of the villages. When

complete this centre will be used as a base for ministry and education to serve several villages in the area.

A similar situation exists at Christ Special School in Sankarapuram, which has seen a significant drop in students due to changes in government legislation. But we have seen no less than twelve tuition centres opening in the surrounding villages, which are fantastic opportunities for the gospel as

well as providing for the needs of poorer children.

These ministries in India all covet our prayers for what appear to be challenging times ahead, with a government which seems to be less favourable towards Christians. In fact we have heard recent news that the Christian aid organisation Compassion has been forced to close their operations in India, as a result of the Indian government blocking external funding to their local program offices.

The day before we began our homeward journey back to Chennai, news surfaced that one of the popular political leaders had died. This meant that the public mourning ceremonies would potentially make travel to and from Chennai difficult, to the point that we called the travel agents and the insurance people to plan a different route back to Australia. Fortunately the situation seemed to resolve itself and in the end it was barely noticeable. Our final night in India was at the Park Hotel, which we're pretty sure has the best buffet in India (if not the world).

This trip to India was a wonderful time of meeting many new friends of all ages and walks of life, experiencing a culture very different to our own, and most importantly sharing the love of Christ to a people surrounded by much superstition and idolatry. We encourage you to continue to pray for particularly Samuel as he embarks on a new chapter in the history of the ministry in Rajahmundry — and also for John and Jenny Barnes and the team at HOTRock Church in Gisborne, who carry significant responsibility for the various Indian projects.

*John Garrard with Jenny Barnes*