

Contact

Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship

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**NEW OUTREACH
MINISTRY TO
BEGIN...**

New Ministry

A 'Make Over' at CRMF



Michael Wakefield
General Manager

It has been said that the only constant is change and the work of mission is not exempt from this. With a vision to fulfil the communication and technical needs of churches serving remote communities, we are always trying to keep pace with technology.

Having integrated with MAF International, we became aware of their Learning Technologies ministry, where various forms of technology are used to further the biblical training of Church workers in remote areas. This seemed to fit our vision and current ministry skills, and could possibly make more use of our vast Radio network in remote locations.

So at our Board meeting in May 2010 a proposal was put that we start this ministry in PNG. I was a bit concerned about this proposal as it is not our traditional HF radio ministry, it is new and brings uncertainty and lack of clarity. It will cost us a considerable amount of money without much potential to recover costs. Further with short staff numbers and other challenges it's easy for us to give excuses not to take on new challenges.

However if done well, this ministry has huge potential to directly lift the spiritual health of the churches of PNG, and I, like others, felt it was right. I am pleased to announce that our Board unanimously agreed to accept this proposal and give it a go, leaving the challenge up to us to make it happen.

We ask for your prayers that the Lord will bring along the right person to recruit for this work and that it can take root and flourish quickly. Also we trust the Lord for His provisions for this ministry.

Joint MAF / CRMF Dinner

Another first occurred on the 20th May 2010, that being the first joint MAF/CRMF dinner. Although MAF have a yearly dinner where they invite church, business and community leaders to make them aware of their ministry, this year it seemed fitting that with the integration of MAF and CRMF we do this in a united fashion.

The event was held at Goroka, and although some people were missing due to flight difficulties the evening proved a success.

What I particularly found encouraging was the incredible and genuine thanks given to our missions by PNG National

leaders such as Dr Gairo Onagi, the Anglican Regional Bishop, Denys Ririka, and others. These men told stories of when they were young growing up in the bush how their people relied so heavily on both our ministries, and how many thought CRMF and MAF were the same mission.

It is humbling to hear both their thanks and desire to raise awareness in the community to support Christian ministries such as ours. However it is also encouraging to see national leaders with such a love for the Lord and His work, a legacy to those who have gone before us.

Michael Wakefield



Speakers in photos: Michael Wakefield, Bryan Matthew, Campbell Smythe (Regional Manager - Learning Technologies - Asia Pacific) & Dr Gairo Onagi (Board Member)

We are grateful to the Information Technology Department of New Tribes Mission for the assistance they have given to CRMF in the past month. We have now had a make over that will probably not be noticed by many people, but for those in charge of this area at CRMF it has been a huge endeavour. Dan Perrett, Bryan Matthews and the NTM IT team, have spent many hours on this project, sometimes even into the wee hours of the morning, as this kind of make-over cannot be done in business hours.

This make-over came as a result of the IT (information technology) problems that were slowing the work of the whole centre down, to the extent where we were not receiving e-mails. Not only were the computer server and internet at CRMF failing, but so was our UUPlus system.

This is the system that bush missionaries use to access e-mail via HF Radio and Satellite phone. It is currently used by remote missionaries serving with organisations such as SIL (Wycliffe), Pioneer, ABWE (Association of Baptist for World Wide Evangelism) and the Baptist Union of PNG. As CRMF has grown as an organisation, so have our internet, email and UUPlus systems, and our old system was no longer able to cope with the demand.

In order to fix the problems that were occurring, a major make-over was required. This included a rebuild of our Linux server, a new operating system, a new UUPlus mail server and a new e-mail program including new addresses. While Dan is still troubleshooting some minor issues, we now have a system that is much more reliable, easier to manage and more able to cope with our long term needs.

This has really highlighted a number of issues for us. Firstly it has been encouraging to receive feedback from our UUPlus customers, testifying to how much they rely on the service that we provide. One customer commented that *'we really appreciate the efforts you guys are putting into improving this (UUPlus) system. It really contributes to the effectiveness of our ministry.'*

Secondly it has also brought to our attention, the need for a specialist IT person.

While this has been high on our recruitment agenda for quite a while, we have been unsuccessful in filling this position at this point.

We were extremely thankful that in this current crisis our fellow missionaries at New Tribes have come to our aid and given us hours of manpower time to rectify the problem and set up our systems in a more professional and reliable manner. To show our appreciation to our *Make Over* friends we took the IT Department and their families to a local restaurant for lunch and enjoyed a good time of fellowship as well as food.

On the outside there is very little to be seen with this *Make-Over*. But we are trusting that the benefits will be ongoing.

In thinking about this, we are reminded that we all have internal problems in our lives that also need a make-over. Our society is bombarded with external make-overs of all kinds, as a means to a new beginning. As we appreciate this fresh start for our IT systems, we recognise that a true make over is something which begins with a change from within which only repentance and acceptance of the Lord Jesus as our Saviour can bring.

Chris Turtle & Shannon Perrett



'Thank you' to the team....



Dan & Phil with server

Tools for Discipleship

Over the past 15 years I have come to realise that many missionaries have returned to their home countries. This has left the local churches and missions with an infrastructure initially setup by missionaries but now they have been left to fend for themselves.

A pastor once mentioned to me that in six years, he had not received any form of support from the provincial head office, no mail, messages, spiritual encouragement, financial support or even a visit from the supervising pastor of the province. The local church does not even have enough finance to pay the pastor's wage and this pastor was originally from another district so has no family to help support him.

Talking with the Superintendent of one denomination, he indicated that out of 450 pastors only 22 – 25% have had Bible College training leaving 75% with no formal Bible training of any kind. This is just one Christian mission

organisation, but a similar lack may well be applicable in other Christian Mission and Church organisations.

Potential Christian workers and trainee pastors from remote and isolated communities face many difficulties in receiving good biblical training. A lack of finances, the necessity to relocate to a town where all colleges are located, and the fear and uncertainty of such a move all make training unlikely.

Then even for those who achieve this, once trained many graduates do not return to rural areas, but prefer to remain in urban areas. It is estimated that only 1% return to remote villages.

This means that untrained pastors, mission and church workers struggle to keep the church running both physically and most importantly, spiritually.

Personally, the prospect of being involved in a ministry which will alleviate some of these problems means a great deal to me. With the vast resources available, we can be a real blessing to those in the remote locations who are in need of spiritual resources and information.

An understanding of the on going spiritual battle which pastors in remote areas face and in-depth teaching will enhance local communities with their pastors better equipped to deal with these issues. We don't hear a lot about the killings and accusations of witchcraft practices and innocent lives being lost in remote villages. But these happen, and many of those lives lost do not have Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour.

Most pastors ministering in remote communities lack any biblical teaching resources. Many only have a bible, no commentaries or any other material to help them in their ministry.

We pray, that through combining our resources with MAF Learning Technologies we can become a blessing to people in remote rural communities with this ministry for a long time to come.

CRMF is a well established mission organisation with over 55 years of technical ministry and experience in Papua New Guinea. It has a wealth of local knowledge, especially in the remote parts of PNG, together with highly developed technical skills in information technology, communications systems and networks.

I believe that CRMF has a lot more to offer in terms of Christian ministry and through this new outreach ministry we can help equip pastors and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through modern technologies within PNG and even beyond our borders.

Bryan Matthew

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28 : 18 - 20

Tools and Equipment

A number of software tools have been developed by MAF Learning Technologies to facilitate distant learning in places where internet connections are either expensive or unreliable.

These tools include:

- DigiStudy - A Bible study tool on CD
- DigiResources - A digital training library equivalent to 800 cds.
- DEScribe - A tool that creates, collects and organises course content in an easy-to-use, multilanguage format for developers of distance education courses.
- DEViewer - A tool that allows students to experience the benefits of online learning without the necessity of continuous connection to the internet

The hardware used includes:

- Solar powered audio Bibles
- Battery powered mp3 players

All hardware must be robust, easy to maintain and simple to use. This may be set up using a 'lending library' system.

Through distance education pastors, church leaders and new believers have access to courses in theology, evangelism, Bible study and a wide variety of other topics to develop spiritual growth.

CRMF's challenge is to assess the situation and to implement the best methods for the needs of the people ministering in the remote areas of Papua New Guinea. Working alongside existing organisations to provide the material required.



Photo from creativecommons.org



Kawandah heads for the high seas



Logos Hope

Thank you to OM for photos of Logos Hope!

At the beginning of this year Kawandah Kaman asked to spend some time at CRMF learning a few technical things from Norm. Since we knew Kawandah and his family from their active involvement at Church his request was granted. Kawandah always sits in front of us playing his guitar.

For the last 5 years the Kaman family have lived in Goroka where dad, Peter, is in charge of finance for the EBC (Swiss Mission) health work. Kawandah has 3 younger brothers and a little sister.

During his school year Kawandah had dreamed of being a ship's captain. Then in January 2008 the Captain of OM (formerly Operation Mobilisation) ship *Doulos*, Ashley MacDonald and his family visited EBC in Goroka.

At the time Kawandah was just beginning Year 12 at Goroka High School. He was inspired by what he heard about the ship *Doulos* and from then on his vision has been to join OM.

After finishing year 12 he spent a year visiting EBC churches to tell his story and preparing to join *Doulos*. However last year *Doulos* was decommissioned and so his plans of joining the ship were postponed, hence his request to fill in some time at CRMF.

For about 6 weeks Kawandah followed Norm around and learnt about technical things. He soon fitted in to the CRMF family and was always first at work strumming his guitar in readiness for morning lotu (devotions). At morning tea he was the storyteller among the guys.

At the beginning of the year Dan began a clean-up of CRMF storage areas. Kawandah was then paid to work with Dan for a number of weeks. What a job that was, and it was to be a good relationship building exercise. Kawandah also helped Ruben with concreting paths round the extension.



When the five BUPNG (Baptist Union) trainees came for their course, Kawandah joined them and sat in on two weeks of lessons, theory and practical, topping the class in this training. He enjoyed his time with CRMF and might have easily been tempted to stay and become a technician. But in May it was time to leave CRMF to travel around PNG visiting churches again before meeting up on the new ship *Logos Hope*. To date he has seen interest and some good financial support from EBC churches in PNG.

We commend Kawandah to you for your prayerful support as he ventures to the seas serving the Lord with OM. Pray for his family in Goroka as they say goodbye to their firstborn son. His long term plan after a couple of years on *Logos Hope* is to further his training in seamanship. If you would like to follow Kawandah's story further contact CRMF PNG and we will put you in touch with him.

Chris Turtle

Replace or fix?



In the western world we tend to rely on replacement or substitution when it comes down to a piece of faulty equipment. In Papua New Guinea that is not always so easy when you are in a bush location with a system that doesn't work. Having a basic foundation in electricity and how the equipment works can often be the means of getting the equipment operating again or at least knowing that it needs specialist attention.

This was the goal when we recently ran a ten day HF Radio and Solar installation course for five staff from BUPNG (Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea) as well as two trainees from CRMF - David Feka and Kawandah Kaman. The BUPNG candidates were health workers, maintenance staff and pastors from throughout the country.

The course was designed to teach the students how to properly install, use and maintain a simple 12v solar/radio system. They were also trained how to diagnose faults and do minor repairs.

The purpose of this is so that when they have issues with their radio in the village there will be someone there to assess the situation and determine whether they can fix it or if it will have to be sent to CRMF to be repaired.

The candidates enjoyed the course and were able to learn many new concepts. Although some of the content may have been slightly advanced for a few of the participants, our CRMF trainees performed very well and found the course to be invaluable.

We anticipate another course being run later in the year. Dan Perrett is responsible for the co-ordination of these courses. Most of the training is currently done by Norm Turtle with assistance from Dan, and our national staff members, Bryan Matthews and Koniel Idei.

Shaun Perrett



Practical training in erecting an antenna...

STAFF UPDATE

Agnes leaves CRMF



Agnes Issac has been with CRMF since April 2006. Aggie will be remembered around CRMF for her smile and hugs for the ladies and the flowers she often brought from her garden. She was always very helpful to our front counter customers and very confident and friendly in dealing with our radio customers. Agnes also worked in the accounts.

She and her children left Goroka at the end of the year intending to move to Madang, however after a time she found it wise to return to Goroka. She soon obtained office work at the Goroka University and her children are happy to be back in their familiar surroundings and schools.

We pray God's blessing on Agnes and her family. We are thankful to Aggie for all that she gave to the CRMF family especially for evidence of her sensitive heart and love for the Lord.

Chris Turtle

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Is God calling YOU to serve with CRMF in PNG?

ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN/SUPERVISOR

Position is at the CRMF base in Goroka, Papua New Guinea. The person should have a general background in electronics, a proven record in fault finding and component repair capabilities. People with mechatronics qualifications may be interested in this position. An important part of this position is the training of PNG Nationals, CRMF staff, representatives from National church groups, missions and students from colleges.

IT TECHNICIAN/SUPERVISOR

Position is at the CRMF base in Goroka, Papua New Guinea. The post holder needs a broad experience in computer hardware, software and network administration including wireless networks. Experience in running an e-mail server is desirable including Linux experience. Research and development experience would be useful as new areas of ministry open up. An ability to train and work alongside National staff is essential.

ADMINISTRATION SUPERVISOR

Position is at the CRMF base in Goroka, Papua New Guinea. The post holder will have experience in office administration and bookkeeping/accounting with experience using accounting software. A knowledge of Quickbooks and Quickbooks point of sale would be advantageous. Good communication skills and ability to train National staff are essential.

Applications or enquiries should be sent to Sheila Stewart, CRMF Ministry Co-ordinator. Email address: crm-f-australia@maf.org

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