

Going Deeper – October 2021

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the October edition of Going Deeper. Thank you for your prayers and support for our partners. It is greatly appreciated.

Australia

Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA), Colin Battersby, Nick Wight

Pray For:

- Outback Aboriginal NSW communities in Wilcannia, Broken Hill, Dareton and along the Barka-Darling River are experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak.
- The Aboriginal families and communities impacted by the most recent lockdowns.

Praise God:

- That Ngaama Ministries in Perth have commenced services on Sundays at 4pm.
- That around 30 people from churches in Perth spent time in the Norseman community listening, learning and enjoying fellowship together.

Fiji

Fiji Community Churches of Christ, Lautoka, David Reddy

Pray For:

- Doreen as she and her children are migrating to New Zealand. Please pray for fast approvals as they finish their paperwork.
- The Fijian economy. Numerous people have lost their jobs, with some families losing their sole source of income. Pray for God's guidance for the country's leaders.

Praise God:

- That one family going through difficulties with their work has returned to work.
- That our online services are continuing and we trust that this platform is a source of encouragement to many people. Continue praying for God to touch hearts of those listening and watching.

Fiji Community Churches of Christ, Vuci Rd, Raj Deo

Pray For:

- People in Fiji who are going through hard times and are without jobs.

Praise God:

- For keeping our church members safe during the pandemic. Fortunately, none of our church members have tested positive.
- That the number of COVID cases in Fiji has lessened.

Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.

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Fiji Community Churches of Christ, Lomowai, Muneshwar

Praise God:

- That Pastor Muneshwar and his family have recovered from COVID-19 and are out of quarantine. Muneshwar expressed his deep thanks to GMP and our supporters for their prayers.

Indonesia

Christian Church Theological School of Indonesia (CCTSI), Hery Susanto

Pray For:

- People who have lost family members, and those who have lost their jobs. Please pray that the economy is relieved from this massive destruction because of the pandemic.
- Pray for Kristin and Ewi who are going back to ministry in Aceh. They have developed COVID-19, so they will have to isolate for a while.

Praise God:

- For the opportunity to be 'salt and light' to local communities through delivering food parcels to families from a variety of faith backgrounds.
- For the nine students sent out to the unreached in rural islands, and that our school passed these regulations that are getting harder to accomplish.
- That the new semester commenced in August. Independence Day (August 17) was celebrated with sporting events, games, skits, songs and traditional dances reflecting the cultural diversity of the students.

Philippines

International Christian College Manila (ICCM), Ricardo Garcia

Pray For:

- A greater and deeper relationship with each other.
- ICCM to find a new and permanent home by 2022. ICCM's lease is nearing completion in February 2022 and the owner has not granted another extension.

Praise God:

- That ICCM started its first semester with online classes on 23 August 2021, despite many challenges and struggles brought on by the pandemic. Praise God that there are new first year students joining the ICCM family.
- For the unwavering support of kind-hearted people, including GMP supporters, whose support, both financially and in prayers, gives ICCM encouragement and strength to continue its mission of training future church leaders.

Papua New Guinea

Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT) La'o Curriculum Project, Martha Wade

Pray For:

- The next leadership training course on Exodus that is scheduled for 25 October-4 November at Angguna. Pray especially for the two young pastors who will be teaching the non-Apal speaking students.
- PNG Christians to be totally dedicated to God.

Praise God:

- For the 39 students who attended the leadership training course on Leviticus-Numbers 14 at the beginning of August.
- For the slow, but steady progress on typesetting the Apal Scriptures. Pray that they would be finished by the end of the year.

South Sudan

Christian Mercy International, Paulino Malou

Pray For:

- The health of children at Marial Baai, as malaria rates are very high due to heavy rains and flooding. Please pray for Paulino, the CMI Director, who is not feeling well due to the malarial outbreak across Aweil.
- The fighting of misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines. Paulino has been mandated by the Ministry of Health to raise awareness with Churches of Christ leaders, encouraging them to be vaccinated. The community is struggling with the idea that COVID-19 is a disease that only white people get. There are also concerns about the vaccine's effects on fertility, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and their babies.

Praise God:

- That Emmanuel School has received and planted many seedlings. Growing vegetables at the school has helped with children's health and nutrition.
- That the renovations of the Marial Baai Church of Christ in Aweil West County have been approved. The building will be plastered, painted and given benches so that the church can better operate.

Thailand

Church of Christ Thailand (CCT), Tewin Somchit

Pray For:

- The border communities of Thailand and Myanmar. Conflict in Myanmar has increased, leading to refugees crossing the border. Many of these communities are facing economic and health crises because of COVID-19. Please pray that these communities will be safe, and that the Thai government will provide shelter and support to these vulnerable people.

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- The planning of the 2022 budget. Adjustments need to be made to accommodate the challenges of the pandemic. Pray that these will be addressed sensitively, with hope and determination to fulfil the planned activities.
- A child under the care of Hope Home, a SDSU (Social Development and Services Unit) partner, who has been in intensive care. Thankfully her symptoms have improved, and she has been able to leave hospital. Please pray for her continued recovery, and for the staff and children of Hope Home as they work to prevent COVID-19 infections.
- Child Protection workshops planned for ethnic minority groups in Chiang Rai Province. Pray that travel will be possible so that this important work can take place.

Vietnam

Churches of Christ in Vietnam, Ps T

Pray For:

- Vietnam as we enter the fourth month of social distancing and lockdowns. Many people face difficulties, especially in terms of accessing food and necessities. Please pray that the infection rate will fall.
- The families and friends of those who have died from COVID-19.

Praise God:

- That the North and Highlands regions are not epidemic areas, so it is stable there. Church leaders gather there to pray together at the beginning of each month.

Zimbabwe

Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe, BJ Mpfu

Pray For:

- People to come to church as they begin to meet together after a month's absence.
- Those who are sick with COVID-19.

Praise God:

- That churches have been able to open from mid-September. 100 people can attend a service, so many churches can run a Sunday service, and the bigger churches can hold two.
- For the increase of activity in many congregations. A number of chapels are going through an expansion program and this is a sign of growth.

Showers of Blessing, Hlanganani Msimanga (Ntando)

Pray For:

- God to make available the places that most need water. Work is beginning on the next round of boreholes. Pray that there will be a 100% success rate as there was in the last round.

Praise God:

- For a bountiful harvest last season which has gone a long way toward alleviating hunger in many households now. The basic staple food (maize meal) is available for most people.
- For a successful COVID-19 vaccine rollout program in the rural areas, as more people are coming forward for vaccination.
- That rural community visits can happen more freely as the lockdown restrictions have been eased.

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