

Going Deeper – September 2022

Dear Friends,

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

Fiji

Fiji Community Churches of Christ, David Reddy

Praise God:

- We had a wonderful time with the team from Devonport Church of Christ. Our bond has deepened even more. The outreach went extremely well at two different locations and there were many people who we were able to reach with the word of God. We're looking forward to their next church visit next year.

Pray For:

- Anup's wife, his two children and grandchildren. We unfortunately lost a beloved church member in Anup. His family background was Hindu, and he was given a Christian funeral service. The church is a constant source of support and encouragement to the family. Pray that God will strengthen them in their time of need.
- The young girl who started coming to church and is showing a lot of potential. Pray that God will mould her and use her for the extension of his kingdom.

Papua New Guinea

Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ (MECOC) and Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT) La'o Curriculum Project, Martha Wade

Praise God:

- For the Scripture Impact course using the book of Mark (July 15-20).
- For the repentance ceremonies that a few families have participated in.
- The Apal Scriptures have been accepted by the printer.

Pray For:

- Continued repentance from people.
- That the Apal Scriptures will be printed well, and safely shipped to Madang.
- For the church to grow in the Nend and Mum language groups.

South Sudan

Christian Mercy International, Paulino Malou

Praise God:

- Four leaders from our local Churches of Christ have enrolled to complete training at Livingstone International University in Uganda. This is amazing. They will be equipped to preach the good news of Jesus and return to South Sudan.
- Income received from raising goats is assisting vulnerable children to pay for their primary and secondary school expenses.

Pray For:

- Paulino Malou who is escorting the four Churches of Christ students to Livingstone International University in Uganda. Pray for travelling mercies and a safe return to South Sudan.
- Lydia, Paulino's wife, has received a half scholarship to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Community Development. Pray that full funding will be provided for this opportunity.

Thailand

Churches of Christ Thailand (CCT) and Social Development and Services Unit (SDSU), Tewin Somchit

Pray For:

- Those impacted by recent flood disasters. There have been many severe storms and flooding. SDSU staff are closely monitoring the situation in partnership with the local church connections and ensuring ways to practically help those in most immediate need.
- The Church of Christ in Thailand is currently preparing to hold the 37th General Assembly in Chiang Mai. It is expected there will be 710 church leaders from across the country attending this year. The agenda includes important items such as determining the four-year strategy of the CCT for 2023 to 2026 and the election of new church council administrators.
- The SDSU who are currently conducting field surveys in rural communities. The field studies are in preparation for the annual Little Angel project which is a social support programme held in December that provides vulnerable children with gifts for Christmas.
- Community Training Preparation. SDSU is preparing to survey and assess the interest and understanding of community members in both highlands and lowlands regarding training in natural farming techniques, with a goal of leading farming communities towards greater self-reliance and sustainability. In particular, the training looks at ways of reducing the use of chemicals. It is expected that 60 people will attend the training in October.

Vanuatu

Vanuatu Conference Churches of Christ (CCCV), Owen Banisua

Praise God:

- For our Australian church partners who stand with us, supporting us through this tough time.
- The CCCV constitution review and consultation is progressing well. Owen hopes, in God's timing, to be endorsed next year in May 2023.

Vietnam

Churches of Christ in Vietnam, Ps T

Pray For:

- Pastor Phong who has been in hospital for liver surgery, that he will have a speedy recovery of his health.

Zimbabwe

Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe, BJ Mpfu

Praise God:

- Most churches are reporting good attendance on Sundays.
- New churches are interested in building chapels. Already two churches that were opened back in 2006 have started moulding bricks.
- Pastor Maxwell Watungwa completed his Masters in Biblical Studies, assisted by a GMP scholarship.

Pray For:

- Pastor Watungwa who has taken over a new ministry of running young preachers' clubs in churches in the Zvishavane area to help our leaders to be good preachers.
- Evangelists and pastors who are covering long distances, at times walking due to the high cost of petrol.

Showers of Blessing, Boniface Mpfu

Praise God:

- The month of September is so special to us as we continue to be blessed by the generous donations towards the Safe Water September challenge.
- For a successful drilling of three more boreholes in July. These boreholes are providing safe water to over 1,200 people and reducing walking distances from as far as 10 kilometres to as little as 500 metres to reach a water source.

Pray For:

- Safe Water September 2022, that it will be a success as the need for water is a gift of life in Zimbabwe.