

ACCI MISSIONS
ANNUAL REPORT 2018

To the ends of the earth



Acci
MISSIONS



**“Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a
harvest if we do not give up.”**

GALATIANS 6:9 (NIV)

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OUR VISION AND MISSION

THE TOGETHER CO
GATHERING
MAY 20

We're working towards holistic transformation of communities through reaching the lost and relieving poverty

IMAGE: TOGETHER CO.

WHO WE ARE


ACCI Missions is the missionary sending and support agency for the Australian Christian Churches movement.

OUR VISION






Our vision is for a world where all people have the opportunity to hear the gospel and the freedom to express their faith; where the principles of justice and equality are realised; and where individuals, families and communities are empowered to be the change in their world, with equal voice and value.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to transform communities and nations one life at a time, by developing holistic sustainable solutions to combat injustice and poverty, and reinstate the value of life. We aim to promote equal access to the rights and services that protect life and human dignity.

 For more information visit accimissions.org.au

WE BELIEVE

-  All people regardless of race, gender or social status have intrinsic value and inherent dignity.
-  The church has a crucial role to play in defending the rights of the marginalised.
-  The root cause of poverty is injustice and social exclusion.
-  Those living in poverty are rights holders not objects of charity.
-  The process of development should be empowering and should amplify the voice of the marginalised.



“... our missionaries are planting churches, training local leaders and sharing God’s message of redeeming love in countries and contexts where people might otherwise not have the chance to hear it.”

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

As director of ACCI Missions, I have the privilege of sending and supporting the men and women of our movement who are taking the gospel to every corner of the earth. In 31 countries around the world, our missionaries are planting churches, training local leaders and sharing God’s message of redeeming love in countries and contexts where people might otherwise not have the chance to hear it.

Immersed in their communities, our missionaries work to present a timeless message in a way that connects and engages with the people they’re seeking to reach. Whether new to the field or building on years – or even decades – of experience, they are adding daily to the Kingdom and living out the unique call God has placed on each of their lives.

I pray that as you read this report, you’ll be inspired by their stories and reminded of the eternal difference you and your church are making through these partnerships.



PS ALUN DAVIES
Director



OUR VISION AND MISSION

“We have continued to maximise the proportion of funds that reach the field ...”

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

ACCI Missions' total revenue for 2018 was \$2.95 million. We have continued to maximise the proportion of funds that reach the field, with 76% of total expenditure directed to missionary support, missions partners and projects during the year.

Our staff costs remained steady at 13% of total expenditure, which has enabled us to continue to provide a high level of support to our missionaries, as well as advocate on their behalf within Australia. Operations centre costs remain quite low at 6.5% of total expenditure, with promotions, travel and conference costs at 4.5%.



CHAD IRONS
General Manager



A copy of the full General Purpose Financial Report is available for download on our website at accimissions.org.au. If you would like a further explanation of the accounts, please contact ACCI Missions.

Our impact[🌍]

Global reach

● ACCI Missions partners



2018 SNAPSHOT

\$2.95m

IN TOTAL REVENUE

130

FULL-TIME
MISSIONARIES

49

CHURCHES
PLANTED

3,194

LEADERS
TRAINED

1,848

SALVATIONS

471 WATER BAPTISMS

606 PEOPLE BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

106,759* CHILDREN ASSISTED

182,764* ADULTS ASSISTED

Three core areas

Sending
missionaries

Church planting
and leadership
training

Unreached people



Sending Missionaries

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’”

MARK 16:15 (NIV)

A photograph of a man and a woman standing on a rocky path, holding hands. The man is on the left, wearing a maroon sweater and glasses. The woman is on the right, wearing a dark grey sweater and a colorful patterned scarf. They are both smiling. In the background, there is a waterfall cascading over rocks, surrounded by lush green trees and foliage. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Sending missionaries to the field

JULIA AND ARUN BRITTO. IMAGE: ACCI

Many people feel called to serve in some capacity overseas but few are ready to quit their jobs, raise support for their living expenses and move away from everyone and everything they know.

Here, Julia Britto shares how she and husband Arun have done just that and what it's like preparing for life as a full-time missionary in their eventual ministry destination of Nepal.

PREPARING TO GO

"We have both always been interested in missions. I spent some time on the mission field as a teenager when my parents were serving in the Solomon Islands and Arun – having grown up in south India – always had a burden to do something about the poverty he saw around him. We both went on short-term missions trips through our church and I also had the opportunity to lead several teams of students to southeast Asia from the secondary college where I taught.

But it was about a year after we'd been married, early in 2017, that we both felt stirred to seriously begin pursuing full-time missions work, after attending the annual missions weekend at our home church in Melbourne (Faith Christian Church). We started talking to our senior pastor and the team at ACCI and were advised to come and learn from the team in Vietnam for a time, which has already been such a blessing.

It took about 18 months from those initial conversations till we actually left Melbourne. We began contacting as many churches as we could, and visited many and shared our story, and we loved meeting new people and building those relationships. So far, we have raised about 93% of our monthly support budget through their generosity and support. We also attended PanAsia Conference, which was very inspiring – to hear from so many people out on the field doing the things we would like to do."

LEARNING

"We have only been in Vietnam for three months, arriving December 2018, and so we are at the beginning of our learning journey, as we are planning to be here for around a year.

It is definitely helping us develop an understanding of community development, which we are seeing as a combination of solid, culturally-accessible programs which also result in good relationship building in the communities. The team here also run many life skills programs, which we can see would be welcomed by many developing countries. In fact, many of the programs here are adaptable to other developing nations, so we will have several tools to address different needs we encounter in Nepal.

We are also learning the administration and reporting that goes on behind the scenes, how to host visiting teams, and how simple things (from a Western viewpoint) can be life changing."



EXCITEMENT FOR THE FUTURE

"Nepal has been on our hearts from the start, given Arun's background and I also had the opportunity to do some teaching there in 2017. It is a lovely country with a lot of need and the more we prayed about it, the more doors seemed to open up. There is a local pastor with whom our church in Melbourne has worked with for many years, who would serve as a local contact, and he is involved with many ministries that we can get involved in.

There is a great need for training church leaders and teaching sound doctrine, as churches are growing rapidly but with influence from traditional religions sometimes confusing people. We both have teaching backgrounds and have done some theology studies, so hope to be able to help with this. It is also an underdeveloped country (ranked 149 out of 189 on the Human Development Index) and so there is a need for community development in many facets, which is why we are spending time learning from the team in Vietnam to upskill ourselves in this area.

We are excited to see what God will do, and is doing, in us during this preparation time, and to see what He has in store for us as we move on to Nepal. We look forward to being able to apply what we have learned here, to see communities in Nepal improve their quality of life."

How ACCI supports new missionaries

Q&A WITH GENERAL MANAGER CHAD IRONS

In a nutshell, what does the 'sending' process look like?

"We like to think of the sending process as a coaching process. Every field worker applicant already comes with a range of skills, training, experiences and qualifications, and our goal is to help them move from where they are now, to using all that previous learning, skills and experience on the mission field. We want to identify the gaps in their learning, skills and experience, and target those areas in their preparation.

For example, an experienced pastor going to church plant overseas probably does not require any additional ministry training but will need to increase their understanding of cross-cultural communication. On the other hand, a qualified social worker going to work as part of an overseas children's ministry or project, will need to learn family, cultural and community dynamics, the different legal child protection frameworks in that country, and they may also need to do some supplementary ministry training.

The social worker might also have no experience fundraising or engaging supporters for their ministry vision, whereas the experienced pastor will probably be able to draw upon their experience of engaging their church."

What are the most common challenges people encounter when preparing for life in the field?

"The most common areas we need to help people work through are their own assumptions, which are based on the culture they are coming from, as we don't want to see them carrying that cultural bias to the field. It is also a big change adjusting from short-term missions to long-term missions.

We work to proactively identify and address these skill, knowledge and experience gaps with learning opportunities, training, or even short-term field experiences. The topics that we have put into our Intercultural Missions Course are the most common collection of missing knowledge items – or the knowledge items that require life-long learning, like growing in cultural intelligence – so we believe that will play a big role in preparing and equipping people."

What are the benefits of missionaries having ACCI backing, rather than trying to go it alone?

"Networking with other cross-cultural workers, a peer support network, as well as opportunities to connect and engage with Australian churches.

We also offer ongoing coaching because as people stay in the field, exploring new opportunities, they will continue to unearth more of these 'gaps' in their knowledge and understanding, as well as just through the normal change of seasons. The ACCI team has a mix of skills in finance, support-raising, systems, organisation and management, cross-cultural communications, community development, and so on. The team can give wise advice in times of change and at any point during a missionary's journey.

Lastly, ACCI has the systems to manage the finance side of things, so our missionaries can focus on the ministry and activities that they are called to."

ACCI launches its Intercultural Missions Course

Preparing for life in the field is no small task, particularly if it's someone's first time embarking on long-term overseas missions. In response, ACCI has created a new Intercultural Missions Course; an online course which covers the information most relevant to engaging in effective intercultural missions.

Here, John Symons, one of the course's creators, talks about how undertaking the training can help people maximise their impact once they arrive in the field.

Broadly speaking, how will this course help people prepare for long-term work in the field?

"The various modules will help people think through the way they're going to approach things in the field; what they are going to do and how they are going to do it. This

will save them time once they're there, by hopefully preventing them from reinventing the wheel or from setting off in the wrong direction. Completing the course will provide motivation, assurance and confidence for the road ahead."

How does this course differ from other training people might have already undergone, like Bible college or university degrees?

"The course is designed to provoke thinking rather than provide a 'complete knowledge base' for people. It's designed to make them go and find out more about something or to provoke further enquiry in a particular area that they think they will be working in.

This course is very strongly focused to the work that ACCI missionaries, in particular, are likely to be doing, and it is quite pragmatic and oriented to the process they will be going through to become ACCI missionaries. Being able to tailor the course this way was one of the motivations for creating it."

How important is it that people have this knowledge before they embark on long-term work in the field?

"No course can provide all the answers, or help people avoid all the pitfalls, but I think this one will push people in the right direction. It will get them thinking the right kind of thoughts and pursuing the right information; to launch them in the right direction, the right way, for the right reason. It will also hopefully improve their ability to deal with pitfalls, should they stumble upon them."

How can people get the most out of it?

"I'd say that as people do this course, they need to be thinking about how what they are reading and hearing impacts the context in which they intend to minister. For example, how does it impact the ministry they are thinking they will do? They need to engage with the course on that level and discuss the issues that arise from that thinking with their field supervisor."

COURSE AVAILABILITY:

The course is online at acci.talentlms.com/catalog and can be started at any time, with new modules being released every month.

Module 1	Welcome: available now
Module 2	A Biblical theology of mission: available now
Module 3	Culture, worldview and belief systems: available 1 June 2019
Module 4	Cross-cultural communication strategies: available 1 July 2019
Module 5	Biblical responses: available 1 August 2019
Module 6	Planting and developing churches in context: available 1 September 2019
Module 7	Self and family care: available 1 November 2019
Module 8	Working with others on the field: available 1 January 2020
Module 9	Managing effective ministries and organisations: available 1 February 2020
Module 10	Supporter and funding engagement: available 1 October 2019



JOHN SYMONS. IMAGE: ACCI

Called to the nations

ACCI has a total of 130 full-time missionaries serving in countries around the world.

From planting churches, to conducting language exchange programs, holding concerts and running community centres, they are sharing God's love in practical and tangible ways.

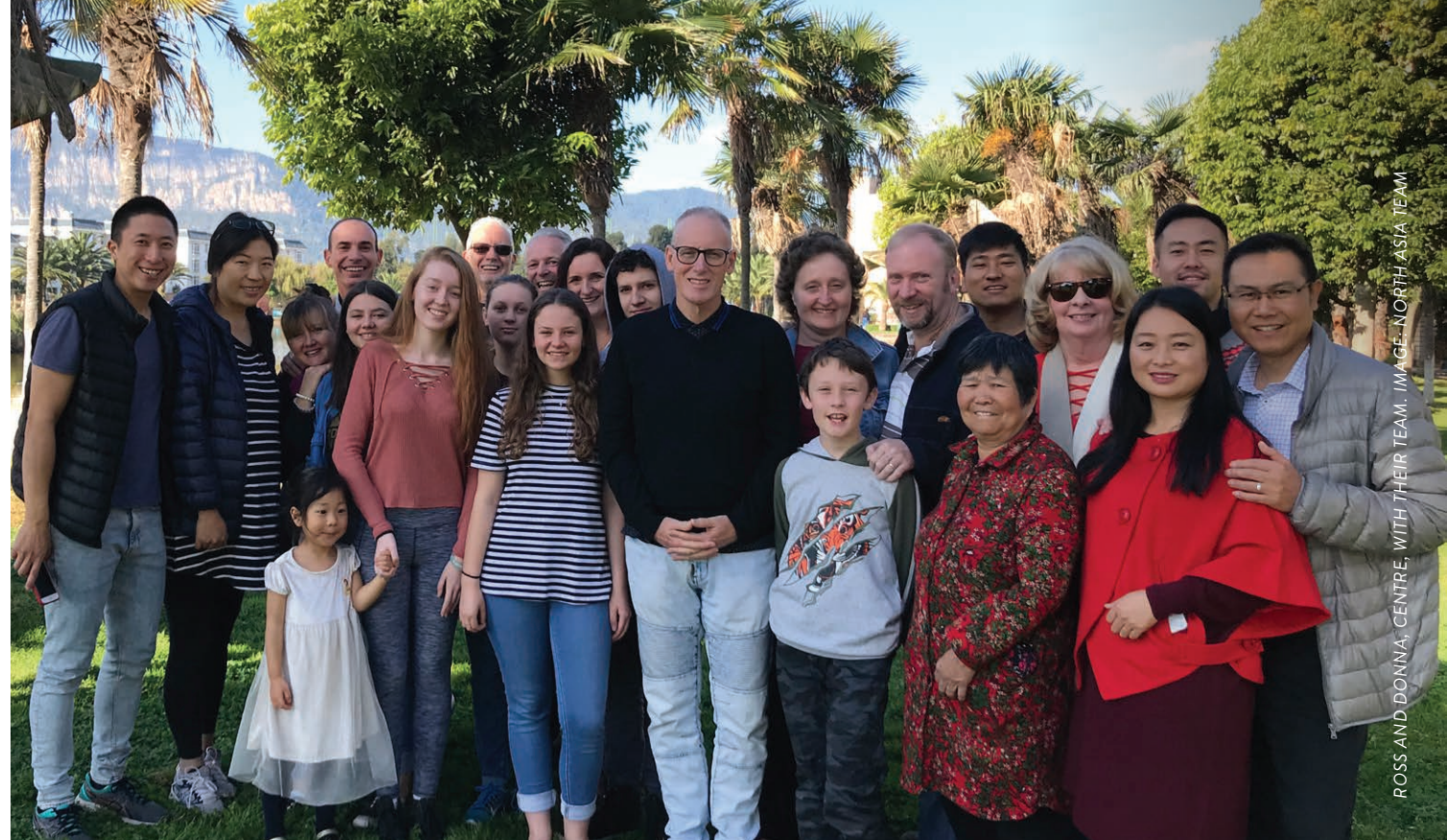
For missionaries Ross and Donna – who have served together in north Asia for 19 years – life on the mission field is one of living in their calling and releasing others into theirs.

"It's the best job in the world because it's what we are called to do," Ross says. "We love what we do and the team we have the privilege of serving with. The thing that gives me the greatest satisfaction is to see people released into ministry and be effective in their calling."

Ross and Donna and their team minister to their local area through a community centre – supporting children from poor families with after-school and weekend activities – as well as by training local church leaders, conducting language exchange programs for university students and hosting evangelistic youth concerts throughout the country.

They've also recently planted a new church – Hope Central.

"We are really excited about the new church plant," Ross says.



ROSS AND DONNA, CENTRE, WITH THEIR TEAM. IMAGE: NORTH ASIA TEAM

"Hope Central is a touch point that links contacts that we make through our community centre and other ministries, to a Christian fellowship where they can encounter Him and grow."

Ross – who has been with ACCI for 36 years, having previously served in Thailand – says the couple's combined experience helps them navigate the challenges of sharing the gospel in a closed country, while remaining relevant to their community.

"Obviously, the more experience you have, the more you have to draw from. Also, the longer you are on the field, the more relationships you will have built, which not only helps you get things done but is a great strength and encouragement as well."

While the couple's motivations for serving remain the same as when they started, their roles and approach have changed over the years. They now focus primarily on building up their team; helping each member grow in their ability to influence and lead so they can continue to impact their community into the future.

"We have always sought to be relevant to the ministry context that we are serving in and sometimes that means reinventing ourselves," Ross says.

"Our main role now is mentoring an amazing team – both locals and Aussie workers. They are the future of our work in north Asia."



Church planting and leadership training

**“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”**

HEBREWS 13:7 (NIV)

Church Planting

It's now been three years since Andrew and Maija Thomas moved to Cambodia to start a church focused on reaching the young people of Phnom Penh.

In that time, they've started monthly services, built a team and continued to make connections with young people in their city, through language exchanges and dinner parties. They've also expanded their family and are now raising a toddler (their two-year-old daughter, Aija), while following God's call to plant a church. Here, they share the challenges and excitement of their journey so far.

ANDREW AND MAIJA THOMAS. IMAGE: ACCI



You moved to Cambodia in 2015 and started laying the foundations for your church, The Together Co. How have you found the last few years?

"We've found the last few years some of the most challenging of our lives but also some of the best. The highlights are definitely seeing people discover God's grace and begin a journey with Him; that will never get old! Probably the biggest challenge for us has been the pace of things. We came with high expectations, however God is working at the pace He wants to work and doing a lot in us before we see huge 'breakthrough' in terms of church growth. This can be pretty frustrating and put seeds of self-doubt in but we're strong in our faith and know God is building. It's His church; we just get to play our part."

How are your gatherings and monthly services going?

"They've been great! There have been a lot of ups and downs, as we seek to establish something permanent. We know we're taking ground, and doing something new and bold, so we can expect the enemy to try and stop that. But God is good! And the services are a lot of fun. Most people coming have no church background or experience, so that's amazing. We've got some incredible team but always need more! We definitely have more vision than resource, as everyone does, and are really praying for some new team members to join and help."

How about language exchanges, family dinners and your outreach into universities? Are you seeing people transitioning into church life from these meeting points?

"We're still doing language exchange and other activities; just trying to make new friends and grow relationships. This is going well; it's always a long road though. We are seeing some people make that transition but it's a big shift for people. So, it's really exciting when we see people building real friendships, asking questions, feeling like they belong with us – and with our church family – before they believe or understand everything that's going on church-wise. So, our LEX (Language Exchange) and dinner parties are really important; making people feel like they belong."

What is it like living and serving on the missions field with a young family?

"It's pretty challenging to be honest. You don't realise how isolated you can be on the missions field until your baby is crying in the night! It definitely makes all the everyday things completely different and has forced us to prioritise and be realistic about what we can achieve in this season – which is challenging when we have a big vision and always want things to move a lot faster than they are! Our daughter Aija is a huge blessing and it's amazing to see her growing up and learning, and just thinking that this life we're living is completely 'normal'. She only recently learnt the English for 'thank you'; before then she would only say it in Khmer, which is so cool."

What do you hope is ahead of you? What excites you about the future?

"To see more lives changed; for people to get closer to God; to bring their friends to Him. Our audacious goal is that we would see God make significant change in this nation; that the young people we're reaching now would be future nation changers."

It's a critical time right now in Cambodia. There is so much growth and change in the country and the influences are shifting. So, we know that we're right in the middle of a battle for the future of this country and its young people. It's exciting that we get to play a small part in that and we pray that God will continue to use us, and that His Kingdom would come in Cambodia, as it is in heaven."



IMAGE: TOGETHER CO.

Training people to lead in all areas of life



In Georgia, Doug and Anna are working through the Teen Challenge program to help former drug and alcohol addicts radically change their lives. While many leave after a year, having broken their addictions and found Jesus, others choose to stay on to keep learning and sow into the life of Teen Challenge and their local church. Here, Doug explains how this approach is growing leaders who are prepared to put it all on the line for Jesus.

“Teen Challenge is a cross between a Bible school, a hospital and an army. That’s how Don Wilkerson describes it. It was started by the Pentecostal Church and has been very successful; not just in terms of dealing with the drug problem but also for discipleship.

It’s a residential model, so you live in. Unlike Bible college though, these drug addicts don’t have any free time in that first year. In the Teen Challenge program, they do a curriculum that’s basically character studies – dealing with all the rebellious issues that young people go through. So, relationships, conflicts, growing through failure and submission to authority. They’re also doing Bible school as well; a new Christians’ Bible school. By the time they’ve finished their rehab program, they’ve probably heard preaching 2-3 times a day. So, it’s incredibly intensive. They come in as unbelievers and they’re either saved during that year, or they leave.

Out of that group, probably 30 percent will stay on and do a second or third year but by the fourth year, that’s down to about 20 percent. At the end of that first year, all we’re looking for is their attitude really. Do they feel that the need more help; that they could benefit from staying? They will have been drug and alcohol free a

year by then. Some just find they’re happy and head off to start their life again and the most important thing is that they’re part of a local church.

The ones who feel they need more help – often they’re also the ones who have a desire to serve God. It kind of works together. We look for that humble attitude, of ‘I definitely need God to do more in my life, I know God can keep working in me. Can I be useful to other people?’ That’s availability, not ability.

The next year, they continue in the Bible school. In Georgia, we are part of a Pentecostal Union there so they do the Bible school with the Pentecostal Union but also, they’re full-time in ministry, helping out throughout the life of Teen Challenge and in a local church. It’s the same in Kazakhstan where we were previous to working in Georgia.

The directors [of Teen Challenge] directly disciple them. They’re discipling them principally through their failures. When they make a mistake, then the directors sit with them and open up scripture and they look at the Bible together. Teen Challenge is a confrontational ministry. People continually have to be confronted with

the difference between them and Jesus Christ. The more that they can change, the more they’ll be able to stand when they leave.

After seven years in full-time ministry, in Teen Challenge and/or a local church – and if they’ve completed all the appropriate Bible school – we will ordain them. From there, they will either go on to start their own churches, take on leadership roles in Teen Challenge (if they haven’t already), or go out as missionaries and make their own disciples throughout the world.

Discipling is what’s really important. Jesus told us to make disciples. He never told us to plant churches. He said, ‘Go into all the world and make disciples.’ When you make disciples, disciples plant churches, go out as missionaries, start Christian institutions, start schools ... Discipleship lasts a lifetime. I’m still being disciplined. People are still speaking into my life; encouraging me, rebuking me.

So that’s the model. Life is about relationship with God and with each other. They come broken and we help them and at the end of that year, they’re welcome to stay on and we’ll train them further so they can disciple others. Muslim society, like all human society and culture is relational. I am convinced the world can only be saved one life at a time. I love the great preachers and evangelists and it’s easy to expect them to do the heavy lifting but they can never do it all. Because, the Kingdom of God is relationship and is made of disciples, not converts. If every Christian made just one disciple each year, the entire world would be saved in four years! Jesus said GO and make DISCIPLES. That’s the Great Commission. Let’s do it, everywhere and every way we can.”

Unreached People

IMAGE: OPERATION UGANDA

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

MATTHEW 9:37-38 (NIV)

Talk with muslims; not about them

In countries all over the world, our field workers are meeting with local people, asking questions and building bridges between faiths, cultures and backgrounds. Here, one of our east Asia field workers shares some of the practical ways he encourages such conversations.

“What do Muslims believe? Why do they dress/act/talk the way they do? Is it true that they ... (fill in the blank)? [Previously I've written] about 'loving past our fears' [and] how the greatest barriers to relationship with people of other cultures/religions is within our own hearts. But what's next after 'hello'? What about all the crazy things we've heard about these people? What about the tragedies we see every day in the news?

I recently ran a weekly gathering of people at my house that wanted to learn about Islam. Amidst a rising culture of Islamophobia around them, this group wanted to be better equipped in reaching out in friendship across faith traditions. It was a genuine assortment of people who were ready to change themselves for the sake of others. In the



first meeting I asked them what they knew about Islam. There were few who said with confidence 'fill in the blank' is what Muslims believe'.

Mostly people just wanted space to ask questions. After filling a small whiteboard with what they knew and what they had questions about, I asked them (gently), 'Where did you hear these things? Have you ever asked a Muslim what they believe? Have you ever spoken to a Muslim? Have you ever watched a YouTube video of a Muslim explaining what they believe?'

I shared with the group about what love could look like. 'Let's try putting ourselves in their shoes. Wouldn't you want someone of a different faith to ask you about your beliefs – and then really listen – before making any assumptions about you? Wouldn't you want them to come to your place of

worship and read your holy scripture in order to understand you better? If that's the case, and you're wanting to love your Muslim neighbours as yourself,' I said, 'then here's your homework:

- 1 Watch a YouTube video of a Muslim telling you what they believe.
- 2 Meet a Muslim and ask them what they believe.
- 3 Go to a mosque and ask for a Quran and say you would like to understand Islam better.'

I thought afterwards that for sure I'd handed out too big an assignment for our first meeting.

The next week we met together and to my surprise more than half the group had done all the homework. One guy who had gone to a mosque was my neighbour, John. He's in his seventies, British and had never intentionally spoken with a Muslim. He'd asked me to come with him, so together we had walked the two blocks from our houses to a new mosque up the street.

Three surprised men were there to welcome us warmly. After exchanging names, we found ourselves sitting and listening to the Imam share about his faith. But before he said anything about his beliefs, he greatly honoured us by saying, 'You guys are really brave. Thank you so much for coming and listening to us. Most people are afraid of us. You guys are really different.'

From there he did his best to explain the Quran, different traditions and Muhammad. There were no questions off the table. John was able to honestly ask questions about some of the negative things he had heard and seen. The Imam graciously and patiently shared his heart about these topics, and we ended up with new friends, as well as an invitation to bring along anyone from our churches to a community BBQ the mosque planned to host. As we were leaving, the Imam kept expressing his astonishment and gratitude for our coming. And John and I walked away with a whole lot more context for building friendships with Muslims in our community.

I was told when I was a kid, that it's better to talk with someone than to talk about them. It's something I'm still learning. Let's listen. Let's love."

Allowing Buddhists to meet Jesus

ACCI field worker Michelle Dellan has served in Cambodia since 1998, where she works to create, and train others in, Church Multiplication Movements. Here, she shares about some of the breakthroughs she's had during her time in Cambodia and how God is using her to spread the gospel throughout this nation.

"Just as we all grow up thinking that the way dishes are washed in our family is the right way to do it, so we all grow up thinking that our way of viewing the world is obviously the only right way. The problem is that every culture feels the same way and every culture views the world differently ...

Once I arrived in Cambodia and learnt the language sufficiently to talk with Cambodian people about their understanding of what they heard in church, I was dismayed to find that few were grasping the grace of God and the majority were substituting meeting Christian requirements for meeting Buddhist requirements.

I was seeing syncretism in action in the churches, even amongst some long-term believers. The word 'syncretism' tends to conjure up images of people mixing Christian practices with other religious practices but in fact, syncretism is a matter of the heart that goes far deeper and is surprisingly common amongst our churches in the West, as well as on the mission field.



After several more years, I began to wonder why I was always having conversations with people about Christian religion, rather than just being able to get to the heart of the issue regarding depending on Jesus.

By 2001, I understood that Cambodia has an oral culture and, even amongst literate people, the preferred way to learn and interact with information is through story and other concrete-relational means. Learning to tell Bible stories and made-up parables in a way that fitted well with Cambodian learning styles took a while but after a few more years, I felt that I was communicating effectively at last. Yet I began to realise that using storytelling and simple house-church methods didn't overcome the fact that Jesus was seen as a foreign God, and followers of Jesus felt they were leaving behind their culture and adopting foreign culture and religion.

Most missionaries and pastors around me seemed content with the reality of extracting people from their culture and forming groups of believers that followed 'Christian' religion. However, the goal of a spontaneously multiplying movement of disciples making disciples and churches forming churches urged me beyond the status quo. I knew that God met me in my context, culture and sin and that He intended nothing less for Cambodians and yet, how could people really meet Jesus without extracting themselves from their cultural identity if that was entwined with animism?

The breakthrough began with exposure to multiplication movements among Buddhist people in Myanmar and Thailand. I met the people involved in initiating these movements and an immediate application point was to experiment with using Buddha's Four

Noble Truths as a bridge to the gospel. As I began using Buddha's Four Noble Truths to share the gospel with Cambodians, I was amazed. Instead of conversations focusing on Christian religion and its differences with Cambodian culture, people of all ages were suddenly eager to understand what Jesus was all about and realised that he was relevant for their world and their reality.

A sticking point in my mind, however, was the fact that all of Cambodian culture is permeated with asking for blessing from the spirits of ancestors and territorial spirits. As time went on, God led me to understand how His authority over all things even includes places where people interact with spirits. Instead of retreating from Cambodian culture and Buddhist practices, God was leading new Cambodian disciples to exert His authority over spirits and turn the cultural and religious practices into expressions of dependence on Jesus. I also began to engage with Buddhist ceremonies, at homes and in temples, demonstrating that Cambodian forms of spiritual activity could be transformed into opportunities to engage with Jesus. This became a key activity in demonstrating the truth of the gospel as it spread to new areas and to new relational networks.

As a result of engaging with Buddhist ceremonies and turning their meaning towards dependence on Jesus alone, people could grasp that Jesus really is the God who is everywhere, for all nations, and that salvation comes from a change of heart to depend completely on Him rather than a change of cultural identity and customs.

I've come to the conclusion that Jesus' parable of the Kingdom of God being like yeast put into a lump of dough, means that Jesus himself enters into a culture, changes the

hearts of people; triggering a spontaneous multiplication of disciples making disciples, and eventually changes the nature of that culture from the inside out, while the integrity of that culture is maintained, not destroyed.

I've also come to appreciate Paul's exhortation in 1 Cor 7:17-24 for believers to remain in the social and religious situation they were in when God called them to believe. By remaining, they can begin to see Jesus take possession of those spheres and transform them. If we extract people from the situations they were in before they met Jesus, we are essentially teaching them that Jesus doesn't have dominion over those situations and we most certainly don't own ALL THINGS as Paul states in 1 Corinthians 3:21-23.

Freeing Jesus from the shackles of any particular forms of Christianity as the gospel enters different cultures is essential to the integrity of the gospel and to the fulfillment of God's plans for this world.

We need to keep Jesus central and keep complete dependence on him the measuring stick for fulfilling our task of making disciples of all nations, rather than the establishment of our brand of Christianity."





Campaigns & advocacy[®]

1Day

ACCI's 1Day campaign continues to have a powerful impact; both on those who sacrificially give and those whose lives are forever changed because of it.

In 2018, generous churches, businesses, organisations and individuals gave a total of \$242,950 through our combined 1Day Campaign. Of this, \$124,792 flowed through ACCI Missions, which was distributed to missionaries and missions projects across 12 countries.

CASE STUDY



ROSS AND DONNA (CENTRE) AND TEAM WITH THEIR 1DAY GIVING. IMAGE: NORTH ASIA TEAM

Long-term north Asia missionaries Ross and Donna have personally seen the difference that 1Day giving makes for people in need.

1Day giving has helped their team establish and run a community centre to support children and families in an impoverished part of their city. It's paved the way for more than 30,000 young people to attend Christian concerts throughout the country. And it's enabled the team to operate a ministry training centre – as well as conduct mobile training in other cities – to equip emerging leaders.

"The funds we have received from our Australian partners through 1Day giving have had a huge impact on what we are able to achieve here," Ross says.

But Ross and Donna, and their team, don't just receive support through 1Day; they give it too.

Every year, for the past five years, the team has taken up a 1Day offering at its annual retreat in order to bless other people and projects like theirs.

"We feel that we need to give beyond ourselves and our own needs. We want to sow seeds throughout the nations that make an impact through other field workers," Ross says.

"It is always a very moving and exciting time for our team. We feel it connects us with what is happening throughout the nations."

ETHICAL SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Making short-term missions trips a positive experience ... for everyone!

Short-term missions trips (STM) are an important part of overseas missions and development; providing support to our missionaries and giving Australian teams a chance to expand their thinking and see the work they're making possible. But for trips to have a positive impact in overseas communities, and support long-term sustainable change, they must be approached wisely and should always involve detailed planning.

To support people in their preparation for overseas STM trips, ACCI has developed an ethical short-term missions and volunteering online training course and toolkit. It is intended for prospective volunteers, team members and missions pastors, as well as sending and receiving organisations. The course, which is available at ethicalmissionstrips.org contains a decision-making framework, based on Christian ethics, which teaches people how to consider what is 'good' and 'right' (the basics of ethics) when making decisions. In this way, teams and individuals can learn how to make ethical decisions – which consider all those involved in their trip – both before they depart and during the STM context they'll be a part of.

Here's a quick look at some of the key questions the site helps teams answer in advance of their trip.

- ✓ What are the main things I need to consider for my involvement overseas to be ethical?
- ✓ Who are the actors in STM and how does power and privilege affect each group involved?
- ✓ What does the Bible say about our motivations for helping?
- ✓ What are the rights all children and adults have, and how can I be a part of protecting them?
- ✓ What kind of trip am I going to be involved in and why does it matter?

The site also contains a range of useful resources for organisations and individuals, including policy documents, communications guidelines, due diligence checklists and a post-trip action list.

Visit ethicalmissionstrips.org



PanAsia conference

ACCI's annual PanAsia Conference offers an opportunity for Australian pastors and leaders to connect with ACCI missionaries from around the world.

In 2018, Lifepoint Church Pastor David Hall attended the global missions conference for the first time.

Here, he shares his conference highlights and the way his heart has been forever changed by hearing from men and women who are putting it all on the line for Jesus.

Q&A WITH LIFEPOINT CHURCH'S DAVID HALL

This was your first time at PanAsia Conference. How did you find it?

"It was pretty incredible; heartbreaking at the same time. Every missionary gets your heart when they speak.

I often found myself thinking about pastoring in a big Australian city versus leaving everything you've got, and everyone you know, and going to the middle of nowhere to fulfil the Great Commission. Pastor Alun asked me to speak on one of the nights and I genuinely felt like the least qualified person in the room. I felt like I was in a room full of giants; a local church pastor in a room full of heroes."

How did hearing from the missionaries your church supports help you feel more connected to their work?

"It puts a face to a name; it makes it real. You're not just supporting a name on a piece of paper; you're hearing them speak, you're sensing the anointing that drives them and the touch of God on their lives. It also helps connect you to the people they're working with and you realise that everything you give is actually touching a kid; it's touching a person in poverty; or it's bringing the gospel to the closed Muslim parts of the world. To me, it's the fulfilment of the Great Commission and it's got the spirit of revival on it."

How did hearing from some of these people challenge and strengthen your own walk with Jesus?

"It not only makes you want to give but also makes you search your own heart as a Christian and as a fellow believer. Like, what am I putting on the line to fulfil what God's calling us to and what am I doing to win souls for the Kingdom that's outside of my own comfort zone? It had a profound impact on me when I looked at what these people had left, in order to do what they're doing."

Is there anything from conference that has particularly stayed with you?

"I think the Groves in Africa — Josh and Belinda — who are giving hope and a fresh start to kids who were living on the street. That messed with my heart a whole lot. There was also a couple working in Thailand, Erik and Mariaana Klar, who described the situation of young girls and women in the sex trade and the work they're doing to prevent it. When both of these couples were sharing, I almost couldn't stay in the room. I found myself thinking, I've got my middle-class church in my middle-class city and my middle-class house and these people are just doing things that I couldn't even imagine ... Everything stays with you."

Do you think attending this conference will change anything about the way your church does missions?

"We will up our giving to some of the missionaries we already support and probably cease some of our support of non-ACCI missions projects and start directing a lot more through ACCI because these people are the real deal; they're full of the Holy Ghost. They carry the same heart; the same passion. They're doing exactly what we're doing in Adelaide in the far corners of the world."

As a pastor, you must get invited to a lot of events and conferences. What made this one special?

"I enjoyed the meetings, the presence of God and connecting with other pastors. And I enjoyed hearing testimonies of what was happening all over the world. It was encouraging and it was faith building. It also made me proud to be part of a movement that has such a big vision. It reaffirmed my desire to serve it; to be part of it. It had a big impact on my heart."

Governance[®]





IMAGE: OPERATION UGANDA



GOVERNANCE

Our Board

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Our commitment to best practice

AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION

ACCI Missions is an ACNC registered charity.

This means ACCI Missions is listed on the ACNC's Charity Register and is regulated by the ACNC. The Register has information about charities' operations, including who runs it, how charities spend their money, if they are up to date with their reporting and if any compliance action has been taken against them. More information is available at acnc.gov.au

MISSIONS INTERLINK

ACCI Missions is a Missions Interlink member.

Missions Interlink Associates that are incorporated within Australia accept and adhere to the Missions Interlink Accreditation Standards. More information is available at missionsinterlink.org.au



FEEDBACK

ACCI Missions recognises that listening to and responding to feedback, concerns and complaints is integral to our commitment to achieving the high standards and ensures accountability to all stakeholders. Anyone wishing to provide feedback or lodge a complaint regarding the conduct of ACCI Missions, please contact the General Manager at complaints@acci.org.au or the Director at info@accim.org.au



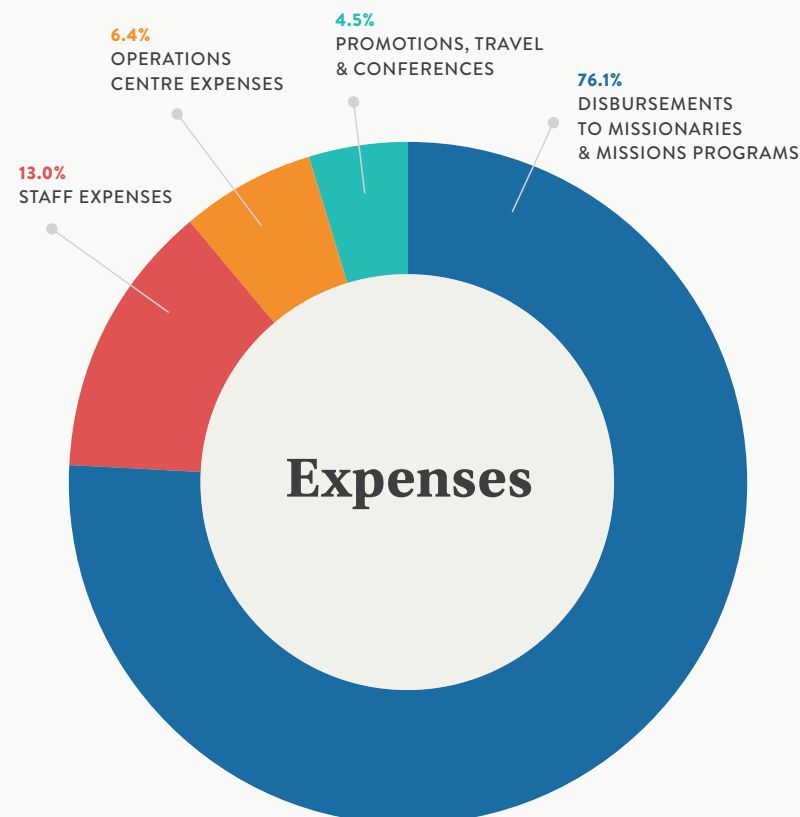
IMAGE: OPERATION UGANDA

Finances[®]

Financial report

WHERE FUNDS WERE SPENT IN 2018

The total revenue for ACCI Missions for 2018 was \$2.95 million. The graph below provides a high-level overview of how funds were spent. If you'd like to see the full General Purpose Financial Report, visit accimissions.org.au



EXPENSE CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Staff: Expenses (including for professional staff salaries) incurred through overseeing the ministry programs, engaging in monitoring and evaluation, training, coaching, providing pastoral care for missionaries and ensuring the effective use of funds.

Operations centre: Expenses supporting the executive, finance, administration, HR, IT and donor service functions.

Promotions, travel & conferences: Expenses relating to promotional activities and fundraising campaigns, as well as travel to meetings and conferences.

Disbursements to missionaries & missions programs: Funds invested into activities run by our missionaries in the field.


Thank you to all our One Life partners!

ACCI One Life partners support the growth of global missions by giving towards ACCI's administrative costs. The generosity of these partners allows us to staff our operations centre with skilled and passionate people who can provide vital support and advice to our missionaries and field workers around the world.

OneLife partnerships have also helped fund the development of our ethical short-term missions resources – including the STM website – and our Intercultural Missions Course, which will train the next generation of missionaries. Lastly, OneLife support enables us to help churches throughout Australia see the difference their giving is making in the field.

Thank you!



A photograph of a woman and two children on a bicycle, set against a background of dense foliage and a bamboo fence. The image is overlaid with a teal color filter. The woman is smiling and looking towards the camera, while the children look forward. The bicycle is a standard road bike with a basket on the front.

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

JOHN 14:6 (NIV)

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