



Annual Report
2008-2009



ea *Engaging Australia in global mission*

Mission Statement

OUR VISION

Australian churches and organisations actively engaged together in effective cross-cultural and global mission for Christ's glory.

OUR MISSION

Empowered by Christ, Missions Interlink seeks to be a growing and vibrant hub linking, equipping, serving, inspiring, and representing organisations and churches across Australia as they engage in cross-cultural and global mission together.

We do this for mutual benefit and encouragement by:

- **Connecting** members nationally, regionally, and internationally through information sharing, events, and common-interest networks.
- **Providing** ministries, resources and information through our members to support and promote cross-cultural and global mission.
- **Representing** members on matters of common interest and concern.
- **Exploring** key mission issues, trends and ways of working together.
- **Promoting** and facilitating best practice, prayer, and unity.
- **Seeking** God's will and ways to complete His agenda on earth.

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Highlights

Growth of Member Care Networks

It has been exciting to see the way existing Missions Interlink Member Care Networks in NSW and Victoria have grown and developed throughout the year as well as the establishment of new Member Care Networks in South Australia and Queensland

A National MI Member Care Consultation was held in Sydney on 25 & 26 November 2008 where about 30 people came together each day to share information and resources, build relationships and discuss issues.

Three Australian delegates attended the Global Member Care Network meetings in Thailand in November during which Helen Macnaughtan was invited onto its Board as the representative from the Australia/Pacific region. As a result of this, the Global MC community has been able to provide us with support, encouragement and helpful resources.

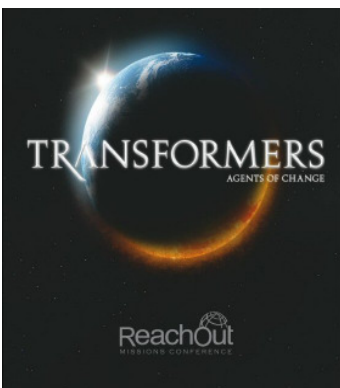
The year culminated with a three-week visit to Australia by Dr Marjory Foyle, which included an extensive series of events in Sydney, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Adelaide for mission leaders and staff, church mission representatives, medical workers and counsellors, missionaries, and those exploring future participation in cross-cultural mission. Marjory and the MI National Director, Pam Thyer provided a radio interview at Life FM Adelaide.



Marjory Foyle & Pam Thyer at Life FM Adelaide

MI Events

MI NSW *ReachOut Missions Conference* in Katoomba in August 2008 on the theme "Transformers", and MI Queensland *Outlook* at Mt Tamborine were successful teaching, mobilising and networking events, drawing together hundreds of people exploring mission. MI NSW *ReachOut Equipping Track* events were held throughout the year to 'equip, encourage and enthuse for participation in God's mission'. These provided ongoing opportunities for young people to engage with mission issues and consider their own involvement in mission.



MI WA held a smaller event, *Go!Reachout* a young adults missions conference at Murdoch University on 29 November 2008.

MI Victoria co-ordinated large missions displays at the *Belgrave Heights Conventions* at New Year and Easter. The Easter convention display followed the theme of 'transport and mission' and included an MAF plane inside the foyer of the auditorium.

The MI state networks held regular meetings for prayer, fellowship, information, and planning, as well as breakfast and dinner events.

The year also included a seminar on "The Secrets of Internet Marketing" in Melbourne in February 2009, and a presentation in Sydney by Paul Borthwick on "The Three Greatest Challenges facing Mission Agencies" in April 2009.

Government Submissions

Missions Interlink made four submissions to the government during the year; providing input to the Senate Enquiry into the regulation of charities, the review of Australia's future tax system, the Productivity Commission's review of the contribution of the not-for profit sector, and changes to income tax requirements for Australians working overseas.

Although the outcome of the reviews is still unknown, the submissions successfully provided a voice for MI members and the wider missions and Christian not-for-profit community in Australia.

The MI submission proposing exemption from tax changes proposed in the 2009 Federal Budget, was accepted by the government and incorporated into the new legislation. We are indebted to Keith Benson and Kim Smith for their work in the preparation of these submissions.

New MI National Network

An MI Australian Missionary Trainers Network was announced in June 2009.

MIST Facilitator's Manual

A facilitator's training manual for MIST (Missions Interlink Short-term Mission) program was produced this year. This manual provides a standardised syllabus for MIST along with background information, lesson plans and ideas for implementation. The manual has enabled MIST programs to be easily reproduced and new programs have commenced across Australia. Our thanks go to Christine Bird for writing the manual and the Alfred Clarke Missions Trust for providing a grant to make it possible.

MK Personnel Training

An MK Personnel Pre-field Orientation was held in Sydney 29 - 31 May 2009 for those preparing to work with expatriate children overseas. This was the first such course to be offered in the Southern Hemisphere and 20 people took part in the program which was run by Steve and Gill Bryant from the UK.

National Director's Report

Missions Interlink has taken on a "new look" over the last year. We have a vibrant new logo that depicts both the global activity of mission, and coming together through Missions Interlink. We have new vision and mission statements that describe who we are, what we are working towards and in general terms how we are going about it. Our national Bulletin Board newsletters have progressively taken on a new format as we have sought to inform the Australian missions community about events, issues and other matters of common interest.

While maintaining separate state networks, collaboration nationally has increased. This is particularly evident in our National Leadership Team meetings, network activities and training programs.

Highlights for the year include four submissions to the government, the development and expansion of MI Member Care Networks and activities, the production of a *MIST Facilitators Manual* and co-ordinated MIST programs across Australia, and the announcement of the *MI Australian Missionary Trainers Network*. Work has also begun on a number of new ways of supporting and servicing our members into the future.

It was a privilege to represent MI Australia at the WEA General Assembly and Missions Commission Global Consultation in Thailand last November. This provided a

wonderful opportunity to hear presentations and engage with others on current mission issues, to network internationally, and to get to know other leaders of national missions movements.

While there is much that is new, the basis and strengths of Missions Interlink remain the same. There is an ongoing commitment to engage and collaborate with others in cross-cultural mission. The contribution of MI members and volunteers for the benefit of the wider community continues to amaze me. I thank you all for your gifts of time, skills, and resources. The National Leadership Team has continued to enthusiastically provide me with encouragement, support and guidance, and have set aside a morning each month to fast and pray for the work of Missions Interlink. Generous donations from the Alfred J Clarke Missions Trust, the Leon Morris Foundation, MI state networks, and some members and individuals were greatly appreciated and averted a potential funding shortfall. Our praise goes to God who has provided for our needs.



Pam Thyer
National Director

Chairman's Report



Stuart Brown
Chairman

The past year has seen a number of new developments and successful submissions for which we give thanks to God. We have been acutely aware of the pressures that the international financial crisis has placed on many of our member organisations. However we finished the financial year with a small surplus for which we are grateful.

The ongoing effectiveness of Missions Interlink rests largely on the staff and the National Leadership Team (NLT) that met once in Adelaide and once in Brisbane but continues its business through task groups and individual responsibilities throughout the year. Our thanks to both South Australia and Queensland MI networks for hosting these two series of meetings and for the opportunity to meet with the State Leadership teams for discussion and fellowship.

Newly elected members of the NLT are Judy Kay (Two by 2), Omar Djoeandy (SIM) and Richard Coombs (MECO).

While it is disappointing that we can only afford to have our National Director four days a week with limited administrative support for two days, we really appreciate their unstinting commitment and contribution to all the MI activities.

I would also thank all the members of the NLT and their respective missions for their tremendous effort and contribution of time to ensure that the many programs undertaken and submissions made have been of the highest quality and professional integrity.

As you read the rest of this report I trust that you will be encouraged and led to make a commitment to prayerfully support Pam Thyer, Fiona Schroeder and the NLT in their endeavours to facilitate, coordinate and lead in the provision of services that assist all our mission partners to more effectively be Christ's messengers to the world.



Effective Mission Together

“Providing”

MILL (Maximum Impact Language Learning)

MI has continued to serve the missions community through MILL - a pre-departure program to help missionaries develop skills, techniques, methods and attitudes necessary to learn another language. MILL programs were held in Melbourne (September 2008 and June 2009), and Tasmania (November 2008). A series of MILL workshops and individual tutoring were also provided to member missions. Our thanks goes to Cathy Bow for running these programs.

Transition Training

Transition Training was held once this year, in July 2008. This course provided a 17-day program, preparing 19 adults and 9 children from 6 different missions, to live and minister in a cross-cultural context. We are indebted to Karen Newnham and the rest of the TT team for the program's high standard and value to those who participate.

MIST

Seven MIST training programs for short-term mission were held this year in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

Stakeholders' meeting

On 21 May 2009, 19 people attended a meeting for stakeholders in MI Training activities. This provided an opportunity to share information about current MI training and to hear from member missions about their training needs and how MI can best serve them in this area into the future.



MIST Participants

Member Care Networks

The growth of Member Care networks and their activities has included:

- ⇒ A MI National Member Care Consultation
- ⇒ The collection and collation of Member Care resources and Australian professionals.
- ⇒ MI Debriefing Training days in Brisbane and Adelaide teaching participants how to debrief missionaries after a tour of service on the field.
- ⇒ Regular Member Care network meetings providing support and encouragement.
- ⇒ Other events and seminars on topics such as Third Culture Kids/ Missionary Kids, Language Acquisition and Wellbeing, Self-Care, and Human Sexuality and the Internet.
- ⇒ New Member Care networks in Queensland and SA.
- ⇒ Residential Missionary Transition and Re-entry Retreats held in Victoria in October and NSW in May.
- ⇒ A Missionary Enrichment Retreat facilitated by Stephen and Jocelyn Head (Heartstream Resources NZ) held 5 - 11 June with 32 participants from a wide range of agencies.

ICT Network

The MI Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Network held its annual conference in Sydney in February 2009. Both IT personnel and business managers represented a range of missions at the conference. The keynote meetings addressed “Entrepreneurial Missions” and other topics included security, internet evangelism, and dealing with inappropriate content.

Business Managers Network

The MI Business Managers Network activities during the year have been through e-group exchanges of information and resources, as well as discussion forums on topics including policy and procedures, finance, legal, tax, superannuation, and secure email.

MK and TCK networks

The MI NSW MK network has continued to have a successful ministry to children of missionaries returning to Australia through a camp in July and regular events throughout the year. While the MK network in Queensland has struggled for leadership this year, a new MI TCK Network has commenced in Victoria.

Short-term Ministries

Regular events organised by the MI NSW Short Term Mission Network are held in Sydney to provide opportunities for those involved in

short-term mission activities to meet together and discuss relevant issues. The debriefing opportunities provided by this group have been particularly valuable for those who participated. The committee of this network has also developed an MI Code of Best Practice for Short-term Mission.

Other Network activities

State network activities include a Chinese Church for Mission Network (NSW) seminar on ‘China Trends’ and the development of a catalogue of mission resources for Chinese Churches; and the Closer Ties Network (NSW) ministry to specific ethnic groups. A Mission Pastors Network is also being developed in Queensland.

Retreats for mission agency representatives in NSW, Queensland and S.A. provided teaching, fellowship and opportunities to work together.

News & Information

Members were assisted to connect nationally through two distributions of updated copies of the MI Directory of Members and four editions of the MI Bulletin Board email. MI state networks also kept members up-to-date with local news and events through regular emails and calendars of events. The MI community website continues to be developed.

“Connecting”

A Voice for Missions

“Promoting” “Exploring” “Representing”

Advice & Advocacy

The Missions Interlink Liaison Officer assisted with nine Centrelink enquiries and one Medicare enquiry. One Centrelink case involved preparation for an Appeals Tribunal hearing which had a successful outcome.

Senate Enquiry

In response to our submission to the Senate Economic Committee's Inquiry into Disclosure Regimes for Charities and Not-for-Profit Organisations, MI and EA were invited to make a personal representation to the committee on 30 October 2008.

The submission stated that while there is a need for clearer and more effective regulation of the charities and not-for-profit sectors, this should not impinge on their ability to offer essential services that they currently provide.

The Senate representatives at the committee hearing appeared genuinely appreciative of the insights provided by Missions Interlink, and there were numerous references and a number of quotes from our submission in the final report prepared by the Senate Committee.

Future Tax System Review

MI also prepared a comprehensive submission to the Government in relation to Australia's Future Tax System Review and a briefing to members on this submission was held on 23 April 2009.

This submission noted that all levels of Government are dependent on the Third Sector, and especially charities, for their delivery of essential community services and requested that the Government continue to recognise their value by providing benefits and tax concessions together with a simplified regulatory framework.

Productivity Commission

MI made a submission to the Productivity Commission's study into the not-for-profit sector. This highlighted the "added value" NFP organisations give to society that comes from their experience "on the ground" and is as much about the way they work as the results they achieve, despite the inadequacy of resources available to them. [The Productivity Commission Draft Research Report published in October 2009 makes some direct references to the MI submission.]

Tax changes for Australians working overseas

The Australian government accepted Missions Interlink's submission regarding changes to income tax for Australians working overseas. As a result personnel of Missions Interlink members are exempt from the new laws and can continue to follow the previous arrangements, consequently avoiding an increased tax burden.

Research

The final report from the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) questions on "Support of Overseas Projects and Ministries" commissioned by Missions Interlink was received in August 2008. While the findings didn't reveal any surprises, they did indicate some helpful and worrying trends regarding who demonstrates the greatest commitment to, and provides the most prayer and financial support of, mission workers and overseas ministries.

Prayer

MI provides regular opportunities to join with others in prayer for mission with regular prayer breakfasts and meetings across the states of Australia. MI NSW produces a bi-monthly Missionary Prayer Calendar, and MI distributes Global Prayer Digest to over 80 subscribers. MI special interest groups have also met and provided information to prayer specifically for India.



Best Practice

MI has promoted best practice through maintaining high standards of compliance among its members. The MI Compliance Group have continued to assist in assessing member compliance both through new member applications and the Compliance Review process. A new "MI Standards Compliant" logo has been distributed to members.

Treasurer's Report

Missions Interlink ended the year on a positive financial note with an operating surplus for its national activities of almost \$22,800. Of this amount, \$4,800 was attributable to a net surplus generated by national ministries (Transition Training, MILL and Re-Entry Retreat), and \$15,000 to a grant from a trust received on 30 June for MI's 2009/10 activities. This means that the underlying surplus for MI's national office was \$3,000 for the year.

The major income item for MI was membership levies of \$52,600. However, we were very grateful to receive donations of \$20,300 and grants from trusts and foundations of \$38,000, particularly in light of the fact that EA was not able to provide its annual grant to MI of \$20,000 which was included in MI's 2008/09 budget. The major part of the donations received during the year represented gifts of \$16,400 towards the support of the National Director.

The most significant expense item for MI was salaries and salary on costs of \$70,700, representing 70% of expenditure.

A total of \$8,800 was expended on office space and office expenses, and \$4,250 was distributed in grants to MI state branches to assist with state expenses.

\$6,300 was also invested in various consultancy and research projects which will, or already, have benefited MI members. One of these projects was the documentation of the MIST program.

The cost of EA membership for MI member organisations, which is normally paid for by MI, was waived by EA in lieu of the annual grant to MI. However, the annual grant received by MI from EA in the past will no longer be available.

The National Leadership Team is very thankful to God for His provision for MI in a year which was difficult for many mission agencies. The \$15,000 trust grant already received for 2009/10 will be of great assistance in the coming year, and we look forward to God's continuing provision for us.

Richard L Dickens
Hon Treasurer

2008/2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME	\$
Membership Levies	52,596
Donations	20,280
Grants	38,000
Sale of Resources	8,676
MI Conference/Events	1,849
Interest Income	187
Misc Income	<u>500</u>
Total Income	122,088
EXPENDITURE	
Salaries & Salary On Costs	70,659
Consultancies & Research	6,286
NLT Meeting Expenses	1,980
MI Conference/Events	300
Purchase of Resources for Sale	7,404
External Meetings & Seminars	1,980
Travel	1,466
Membership of EA	-
Printing/Postage/Promotion	2,160
Office	4,151
Insurance	1,400
Depreciation	1,126
Accounting/Audit	640
Misc Expenses	<u>276</u>
Total Payments	<u>99,829</u>
Net Surplus	22,258
Grants to State Branches	<u>(4,250)</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit) before TT, MILL & Re-Entry Retreat	<u>18,008</u>
TT Surplus plus Interest (net)	(386)
Mill Surplus (net)	3,809
Re-Entry Retreat (net)	<u>1,370</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	22,801

BALANCE SHEET

	ACTUAL 2008/09
ASSETS	
Current Assets:	
> Current/Savings	
- Missions Interlink	11,896
- Transition Training	64,063
- Petty Cash	<u>591</u>
> Total Current/Savings	76,550
> Accounts receivable	18,359
> Other Current Assets	<u>3,548</u>
> Total Current Assets	98,457
> Fixed Assets	<u>1,905</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	100,362
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities:	
> Accounts Payable	200
> Other Current Liabilities	<u>24,891</u>
Total Current Liabilities	25,091
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>25,091</u>
NET ASSETS	75,271
EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	52,470
Net Income	<u>22,801</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	75,271

“Thankful for God’s continuing provision”



“Seeking God’s will & ways to
complete His agenda
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