

December / 2023

Souls



A note from the OSM Director

Rev Jonathan Downs



Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

The Overseas Missions Department has had an incredible and busy year, and we are excited for what 2024 holds as we partner with the Lord in spreading the whole gospel to the whole world.

In 2023, we've continued to focus on Timor-Leste and have sent several missions teams to Indonesia. Additionally, we continue to support missions work in various areas such as the Middle East, Lebanon, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Botswana. I want to express special gratitude to all the churches that generously contributed to the offering for the purchase of land and building in Kiribati. Our theme for 2024 is simply one word, "SOULS". The mission and mandate of the church is to reach lost souls and see them become disciples of Jesus Christ.

In the parable of the lost coin (Luke 15), Jesus speaks of a woman who loses one of her ten silver coins. She diligently searches for it, sweeping the house and lighting a lamp until she finds the lost coin. When she finds the lost coin, she rejoices and calls her friends and neighbors to celebrate with her.

The point that Jesus was making is that lost SOULS are worth whatever it takes to reach them. Jesus did just that – He came "to seek and to save lost SOULS" (Luke 19:10), including you and me.

We labour and fuss about so many things here in earth, but all that matters is that we have worked out our own salvation and we take as many SOULS to heaven with us. Only in becoming outwardly focused and ministering to the needs of others can we experience real satisfaction and a sense of purpose.



Director

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Rev Greg Hackathorn

Promotions

Rev Marcela Ferrari

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Rev Martin Khuplian

This year we'll see our long-serving missionaries, Br and Sis Perry, retiring as missionaries to the nation of Timor-Leste. I would like to acknowledge their tremendous work and remarkable contribution over so many years in helping establish the United Pentecostal Church of Timor-Leste (Igreja Pentecostal Unida Timor-Leste, IPUTL).

Br and Sis Perry have displayed unwavering dedication and patience, fostering a strong relationship between the UPCA and the IPUTL, and supported the establishment of Apostolic doctrine. The IPUTL has taken significant steps towards nationalisation, including the adoption of their own national constitution and by-laws, as well as the recent election of their first Executive Board.

Most importantly, we are witnessing the growing number of preaching points throughout the nation, as many people have been baptised in the name of Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. Let us come together in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Br and Sis Perry for their many years of dedicated service and personal sacrifices.

The partnership between the IPUTL and the UPCA will continue, as together we seek to plant churches across the nation, taking the gospel as far and as wide as possible. For this cause, we have appointed Sis Marcela Ferrari as the new missionary to Timor-Leste. She will continue to work with the IPUTL in this new phase of their growth. Sis Marcela Ferrari has served on the Overseas Missions Committee for more than 15 years and has a deep love and passion for the work in Timor-Leste. Please remember to keep Sis Marcela Ferrari in your prayers.

We are also excited to announce the appointment of Br and Sis Meijer as short-term missionaries to Papua New Guinea. Based in the UPC headquarters in Goroka, they will support the national administration and the Bible School while Br and Sis Carver are on deputation in the USA for around 12 months. The UPCA will fully support the Meijers while they are on the mission field. Br and Sis Meijer have many years of missionary and pastoral experience and will be a blessing to the work in Papua New Guinea. Please keep them in your prayers.

THE URGENCY OF THE HOUR

I encourage all Pastors and ministers to keep the burden of missions at the forefront of their congregation's minds. With that said, I am going to make an unashamed plea for every church, pastor, and saint to get behind the Overseas Missions Department with your giving. Our focus must be on those outside the "four walls" of our church. We are blessed to be a blessing! Your financial support keeps the mission in motion.

The apostle Paul described the living conditions of "the last days" as "very difficult times". The Greek term for "difficult times" means, literally, "fierce, harsh, hard to deal with, savage" which seems an apt description for these times we now live.



Five baptisms in the city of Baucau this past November



*Praying for new elected IPUTL Executive Board:
Rev Silvester Randut – Superintendent
Rev Lidia Lawu Lokka Malana- Treasurer
Rev Martinho Sarmento- Secretary*

In the Bible, the supernatural working of God occurs during the greatest chaos, turmoil, and tension in the land.

I am believing God for a mighty outpouring in the last days. This is the church's finest hour. This is why we are here. We have come into the kingdom for such a time as this. Ours is to be a posture of harvest. Look up! Stay passionate about Jesus and the cause of the Kingdom! Yes, there is a cause... SOULS!

Yours for the Kingdom of God,
Jonathan Downs

A fruitful journey



*Rev Perry and Sis Perry,
Pacific Regional Missionaries*

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus.

What a privilege it has been to represent the church of Australia on mission to the nation Timor-Leste.

From early activities, including bible school establishment to more recent developments such as the adoption of national church constitution and by-laws, it has been a blessing and honour to work alongside the Timor-Leste ministry to extend the work of God and strengthen His church.

At all times it has been a collaborative effort between the Timor-Leste and Australian churches. I give honour to the pioneer pastor of the church of Timor-Leste, Bsp Bernardo Guterres, as well as the current General Superintendent of the UPC of Timor-Leste, Pr Silvester Randut, and to the two Australian General Superintendents, Bsp John Downs

and Pr Stanley Harvey, who over almost two decades have supported the work of God in Timor-Leste.

As some are already aware, Diane and I will be finishing formally as missionaries to Timor-Leste this January.

We have learned so much from those under whose direction we have served over the past 14 years: Sis Margaret Bellette, Br. Simon Butcher, Br. Stan Harvey and Br. Jonathan Downs. We have also learned so much from our Timorese ministry counterparts who we love, admire and will dearly miss.

As our final 'duty' as missionaries, Diane and I will have the pleasure of hosting at our 2024 UPCA AGM and General Conference the newly elected Executive Board of the UPC of Timor-Leste: Pr Silvester Randut, Br. Martinho Sarmiento and Sis Lidia Lawu Lokku Malana, as well as Sis Olinda Soares Guterres who serves as executive liaison with the Australian church and more broadly in the region. We will make the most of this time with them!

Br. Buckland in the role of Pacific Regional Director has supported and provided guidance at key points in the development of the work in Timor-Leste, which is both acknowledged and appreciated.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Sis Marcela Ferrari who has undertaken so capably the Timor-Leste missionary tasks required over the past three months, while Diane and I have navigated transition.

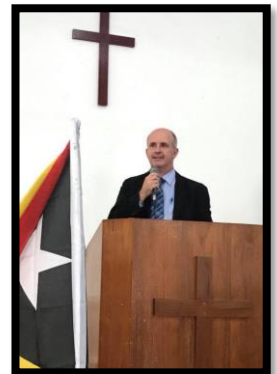
I am confident that the work of God in Timor-Leste will continue in good hands.

God bless & thank you all.

Br. Michael Perry



*Mk 16:15-16 ... Go ye into all
the world and preach the
gospel to every creature.*



Supporting the work in Indonesia-Nabire



Rev David Kent



The brethren from Nabire seemed overjoyed to have visitation and expressed a desire to have further visits in the future.

Nabire can be accessed either through Jakarta or Bali. In both cases three flights are required – to Makassar in Sulawesi, then to Timika in southern Papua, then to Nabire. We left Jakarta at 10pm on Wednesday, travelled through the night and arrived in Nabire at 10am on Thursday.

On our arrival we were taken to see the new church building and have lunch. We were then taken to visit all the churches in Nabire, and to meet the Pastors, including one that was an hour and a half outside the city. There are 9 churches in Nabire, and 21 in Papua overall.

We were accompanied by the Indonesian Superintendent, Br Larry Khubani, and General Secretary, Br Thomson Manafe. Br Thomson did the interpreting for all the sessions.

On Friday, there was the dedication of the new Church building. This was a very big event, with over 1,000 people in attendance, including the Governor of Nabire. There were a number of special items and speakers, and I was asked to speak on behalf of the Australian church. The dedication service was followed by a lunch feast that the community was also able to attend. Later that day, we went to the Bible College and we answered a range of questions from the students.

On Saturday morning, a seminar was held for ministers and leaders, with good attendance. Br Caltabiano taught on Humility and Submission, and I taught on Integrity, the importance of Accountability and Transparency. Br Thomson also taught a session. That evening there was an evangelistic service with Br Caltabiano ministering. There was a very strong response to his ministry, with a number of people receiving the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday, a combined Church service was held, where I ministered. There was over 1500 in attendance. Following the service, we went to the ocean where we baptised 12 people in the name of Jesus. One of the people baptised was from a non-UPC group that had attended the service.

The Church in Nabire seems very strong. All of the churches have their own buildings, usually with the Pastor's residence attached. The largest church would be the original church pastored by Br Diaz, then the new one pastored by Br Alfie. They would certainly benefit from more visitation and teaching in the future. Please keep the work of God in this area in your prayers.



Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.



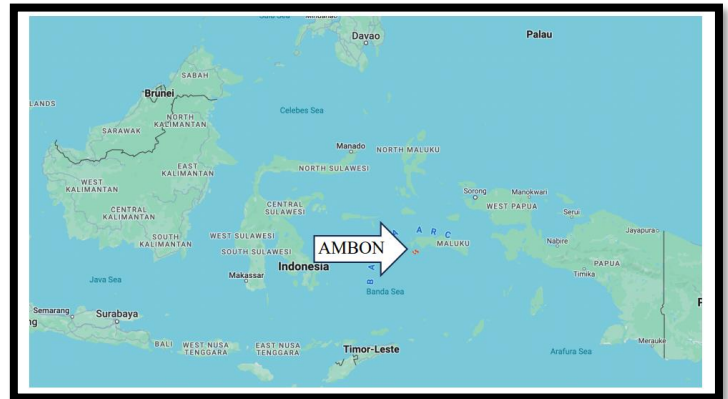
Ambon and Dobo



Rev Greg Hackathorn



We continue to work in partnership in the Pacific region to support the establishment of Apostolic doctrine. Only 40% of the ministers in that district are baptised in Jesus Name. Many are part of the Indonesian UPC organisation, however, they are teaching trinitarians doctrines



In the last week of October, I was privileged to travel with Br Errol Paulus to Indonesia. We were invited to speak at a conference, accompanied by Br Larry Khubani, General Superintendent of GPSDI, and Br Thompson Manafe, the General Secretary.

Our first stop was Ambon where we ministered at a local church. Br Paulus preached a powerful message about the miraculous and God moved. Late last year, Br Paulus was given a word from God about Ambon and the island of Tual. In the vision, he was told that there 'awaited hungry souls'. He encouraged the local population to explore this open door in Tual.

From Ambon, we flew on a small plane to the island of Dobo where we taught leadership sessions to the local church leaders and ministers for 3 nights. This was a multi-denominational crusade hosted in an outdoor soccer stadium.

The island is remote and there was a feeling among the people that they were behind the rest of Indonesia. We assured them that God cared for them, and He had not left them behind.

There were wonderful moves of God throughout the crusade. On the Sunday following the crusade, we ministered at local churches around Dobo and we were able to pray for the congregations.

God bless you.



Sis Steph Hackathon

Early November Greg and I were privileged to go to Jakarta, Indonesia. While the initial plan was for both Greg and I to be together for the week, ministering at various churches, our schedules were re-arranged which saw Greg and a small team head to Dobo, a remote island of Indonesia, while I stayed in the city of Jakarta for the week.

It was a wonderful week in Jakarta – I was able to reconnect with so many that I had seen a few years prior when Greg and I were there back in 2014.

The first service I attended was a District Ladies Conference at Pr Wenas' church. Due to the distance for some of the church ladies, the conference was live streamed via Zoom. Praise God for technology! We had over 100 ladies join us in person and many more via live stream, from all over Indonesia. It was a powerful service!



On Friday, I was picked up at 6am, to speak at a scripture class. Br Amin and his church minister to the Christian Class, ages 6-12. I spoke about being full of faith and used a water bottle with the lid on or off as an example – it was a great visual tool to explain what it means to have God in you. The kids were absolutely adorable! I showed them pictures of my two little girls which they loved!

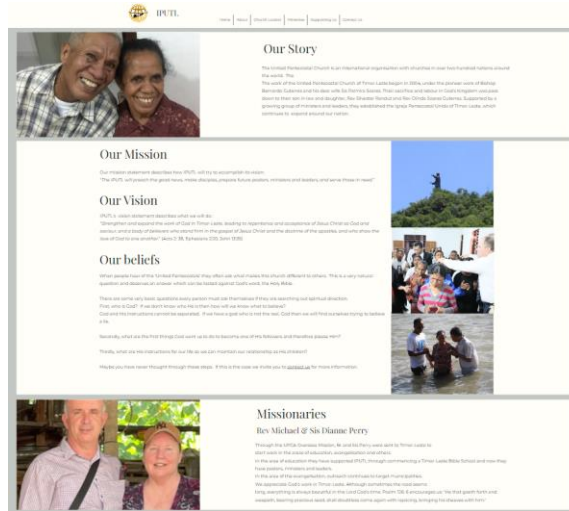
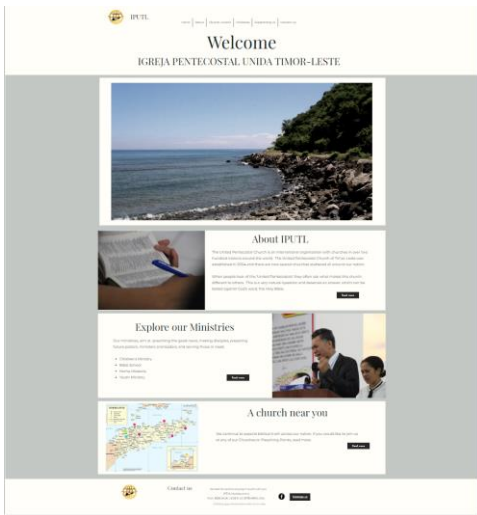
While leaving this school, Br Amin received a call that we were being invited back to minister at another school but this time it was the older classes – year's 10 to 12! They hadn't had this opportunity in a number of months, so that was great news. I spoke about Gideon, and I used the example of an elastic band: without being stretched, it isn't used to its full potential. These young people were coming up on their final years of school and I challenged them to make their lives count for the sake of the Gospel! It was a great afternoon.

The following day, we taught some Music Sessions, spoke at a Ladies' Prayer Meeting and ministered on Sunday at the Mandarin service at JSS, and later at Br Kubani's Church on the other side of Jakarta. It was a powerful service!

God is moving throughout Indonesia – please continue to pray for strength for the Apostolic saints there. It is a nation where Christianity is the minority. We believe that God is continuing to open doors. Please continue to pray for the Pastors of the Apostolic churches – that God would bless and multiply every effort they make to further His kingdom in Indonesia.



Please continue to keep the Apostolic Churches in Indonesia in your prayers



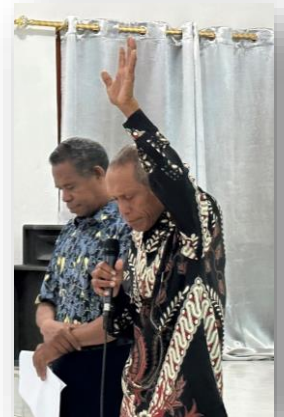
Visit the website and Facebook page to see updates of the work in Timor-Leste.



Prayer Points

For our Mission Fields: Timor-Leste and Indonesia as well as the UPC churches in the Pacific Region:

- God's mercy, care, wisdom and peace
- God's protection and healing, signs and miracles
- God to supply all essential needs
- God to continue to add souls to His Kingdom



OSM Promotion at 2024 General Conference

We invite you to attend the Overseas Missions promotion on the 5th of January 2024, after the morning service. This year we are privileged to host a delegation from Timor-Leste. Join us, as we celebrate God's work overseas.

This year the Executive Board is allowing the Overseas Missions Department to make an appeal to all the churches of the UPCA. There is a significant increase in the work of the Overseas Missions Department across the next two years and we need each church to partner with us.

We are not necessarily asking for a pledge, but a Faith Promise.



OVERSEAS MISSIONS DEPARTMENT
FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

Overseas Missions Department is a member of overseas missions department of the UPCA. We are seeking financial partners to support our work in the Pacific region.

OVERSEAS MISSIONS DEPARTMENT FOR 2024 & 2025

Church: _____
 Address: _____
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Thank you for your support of Overseas Missions Department. We are grateful for your partnership.

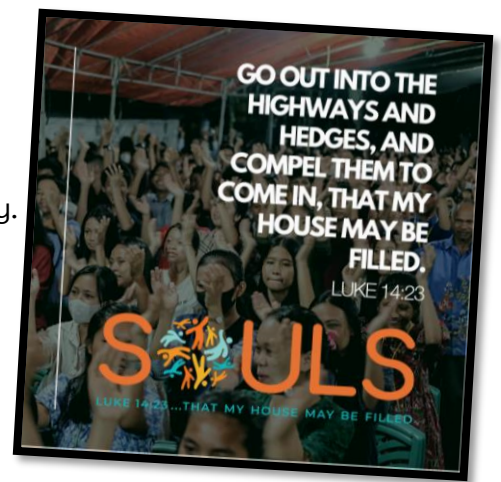
SOLS
SUPPORTING OVERSEAS MISSIONS

What is a FAITH PROMISE?

Rev Jonathan Downs

What is a “Faith Promise”?

- It is a commitment to God to give a specific amount monthly or weekly.
- It is a spiritual covenant between the donor and God.
- A pledge, which is based on the ability of the donor whereas Faith Promise is based on the ability of God to provide.
- Faith Promise is an agreement that, as God provides, the donor (the church) will give a specific amount monthly (or weekly) to the Overseas Missions Department.
- Faith Promise is a spiritual experience that requires faith in God.



Often our first reply to this assertion is “MY faith is so weak” or “I wish I had more faith”; and more often than not, we are only making excuses for not being totally committed to the cause of reaching a lost world.

Let’s get the clear picture here that you do have “faith”, be it great or small. I know this simply by what the Bible teaches, for example:

“Without faith it is impossible to please him” (God), and we all seek to please Him (Hebrews 11:6)

“To every man God hath given the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3)

“We walk by faith . . .” (1 Corinthians 5:7)

“The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17)



Faith Promise works because:

It is based upon a scriptural precedent.

It involves faith in God and personal commitment to the great commission.

It leads to consistent, individual involvement in missions.

It insures an increasing return.

Based upon the law of sowing and reaping, one can expect a harvest in proportion to his investment (II Corinthians 9:6; Luke 6:38).

Faith Promise giving incorporates the dynamics of faith, love, commitment, consistency, and the sure promises of God. It cannot fail! It works!

A Faith Promise commitment should involve the three dimensions of giving:

Stewardship: giving from the wise use of material blessings the Lord has entrusted to you.

Sacrifice: giving that requires you to give up something in order to add a dimension of sacrifice to your giving.

Faith: giving that goes beyond your ability, and requires the exercise of faith in God to supply. (Heb 11:1, 6).

We supply the faith and God Will provide the promise.



Faith Promise giving supports the establishment of apostolic teaching across the Pacific, the building of churches, bible schools and evangelistic programs. It will always be about SOULS!

Photos: PNG Bible School students, Timor-Leste Bible school graduates and new church building in the village of Buzi on the island of Daru (partnership between UPC PNG and The Church on The Rock, Boigu Island).

Timor-Leste – Leaders Conference



Greetings from New Caledonia in Jesus Name,

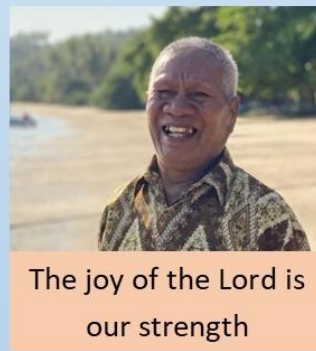
It was a privilege and honour to have the opportunity to attend and be a part of the ministers and pastors teaching sessions with Bro. Willy Bishop from New Caledonia in Baucau, Timor-Leste the 1st and 2nd November. As we travelled the 122 kms by road from the capital city of Dili to the second largest city of Baucau, we were able to be made more aware of the need of the Gospel in this nation.



And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Romans 5:5



In Jesus Name



The joy of the Lord is our strength



The heavens rejoice



May the blessings and strength of the Lord be upon the leadership and ministry.

Just a few highlights of our trip.



Thank You for the gifts and all the hospitality shown to us!

*Rev Eddy Kennedy,
Missionary to New Caledonia*

Youth Camp- December



Rev Greg Willmott

Greetings in Jesus name,

I just wanted to provide a brief overview of the recent trip to Timor-Leste. Firstly, on behalf of the entire team we would like to thank Pastor Silvester and Sister Olinda for their warm hospitality and care. We truly were blessed by them and felt their love and warmth.

We would also like to thank Pastor Downs and the OSM Department for the honour of being able to participate in this trip. We all had a wonderful time and felt so incredibly blessed by the beautiful people of Timor-Leste. Thank you for allowing this youth team to be able to travel and be part of this event.

The young people whom travelled alongside me, Sis Jemima Hikila, Sis Sarah Drew and Br Gian Ojunga, did a fantastic job. I want to thank them for their preparation, prayerfulness, and efforts throughout the five days. I could see the amount of preparation they each put into their sessions, and it was wonderful witnessing them minister in Timor-Leste for the first time.

The schedule included a wide range of topical sessions, as well as services. There was a strong focus on evangelism, and it was wonderful to see some first-time visitors attend services on the back of the outreach focus.

We have left Timor-Leste feeling so incredibly touched by the beautiful souls in this nation. We hope that the ministry left an impact on the young people, but we know beyond a shadow of a doubt, the people of Timor-Leste left an indelible mark on each of us.

God Bless



NYM NATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRIES



“...Go ye into *ALL THE WORLD*,
and preach the **GOSPEL**
to *EVERY* creature.”

**OVERSEAS
MISSIONS**
— A department of the UPCA —

OVERSEAS MISSIONS’ PURPOSE

The Overseas Missions Department of the United Pentecostal Church of Australia has touched many nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ since its inception in 1973.

The purpose of the Overseas Missions is to:

- preach the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world;
- to establish new churches;
- to send forth missionaries;
- to endeavor to perform any other duties connected with religious work;
- to help in any way possible to meet the needs of local churches;
- to translate, publish and distribute religious literature.

The success of the Overseas Missions Department of the UPCA is a direct result of a co-operative effort between local assemblies, missionaries and this Department.

Your giving will ensure the work of God continues to yield fruit in our region!



We sincerely appreciate the involvement of many churches and individuals throughout Australia



**OVERSEAS
MISSIONS**
— A department of the UPCA —



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