

Newsletter



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From the President's Desk



Greetings!

Recently I attended some meetings in India with the Campus Crusade for Christ South Asia Area leadership team. They were reporting on the progress in church planting and multiplying disciples of Jesus throughout South Asia. God is doing many amazing things and people's lives are being changed through practical help - development, training and relief - as well as the power of the Good News of Jesus.

As I watched one of the Power Point presentations I noticed one featured story was of a partnership with a group from outside the region who came to serve the nationals in their church planting efforts. Looking closer at the photos I was delighted to see Jiji and others from our GAIN Medical Mission team. I realised that the group the leader was speaking so highly of, giving thanks for what God had done, was our own GAIN. How proud I felt to hear the report of the villages served through the medical mission team!! This is exactly what we seek as the outcome of our contributions. Partnering with nationals, local agencies, where we contribute our efforts to be a part of something much broader, enduring and transformational.

Immediately after that India meeting I continued on to another leadership gathering in Europe. Campus Crusade leadership presented a report on community development and church planting in the Philippines and one photo and story shared included our Australian GAIN team! Once again my heart swelled with a sense of gratitude to God that we get to contribute to His working in local communities. Small as we are, God is using us to make a difference and our contribution, though it seems small in the face of the needs and brokenness in the world, is still significant where it lands.

In the gospels we read the story of the little boy who only had a few bread rolls and a dried fish, certainly not much in the face of the hungry crowd. But he gave what he had to give, he gave all that he had to give, and Jesus took it and multiplied it in His hands and 5,000 men had a story of God's kindness and provision to tell. Perhaps that little boy occasionally overheard people talking about that day's events. Whilst he could never take credit for the outcomes - that was the working of Jesus and the miracle of God - but he could say, "...that inadequate little lunch contribution.....that was mine, I gave it to the Saviour and he did more than I could have imagined. I'm in that story..."

One of the exciting challenges we are working on presently is the need and opportunity to purchase a facility for GAIN in Sydney. Presently we are in temporary rental facilities in Parramatta. We are now working together with Power To Change (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ Australia), our parent organisation, to locate a suitable and affordable facility to purchase and share. This is a huge faith step and we will need to raise significant funds to finance the purchase. Please pray for GAIN CEO and Board as we advance this project and commence both search for potential property as well as potential donors to assist in this significant step. More details will be forthcoming soon.

Thanks again for your involvement and interest!

Bill Hodgson
President, GAIN Australia

Global Aid

The Global Aid Network (GAIN) exists to demonstrate the love of God to those who are hurt and in need, through word and deed around the world with relief and development projects.

First established in Canada in 1998, GAIN has expanded to 9 different locations around the world, such as Australia in 2003, to provide the necessary resources to over 52 different countries in need.

www.globalaid.net.au

Bring Only 12Kg Of Luggage

Travelling Light on a Humanitarian Mission

Jiji Skariah, the CEO of Global Aid Network Australia (GAIN), knows about humanitarian aid trips.

As the leader of the medical mission team that recently travelled to Legazpi, Philippines, he was able to give clear instructions to the group about what to bring and how much. This time, there were 20 on the team. Like Jesus' disciples who travelled light (Jesus told them not to even take a change of clothes!), their focus was on ministry and depending on God's provision, not personal comfort.

Teeth and More

The team helped out 1,673 people with illnesses ranging from ear infections to tuberculosis. They also performed numerous surgeries. If you're into teeth, the dental team

reception desk when the team arrived. She agreed to change her plans and volunteer the help at the clinic on those days. Furthermore, two Legazpi-based medical practitioners and 2 dentists from Manila also joined the team. God's provision is amazing!

The team shared the Gospel with the Muslim student doctor and he accepted Christ. He was elated and shared his testimony at the mission farewell dinner. One woman became very curious about the change she saw in her colleague, and after further



(Left) GAIN medical staff doing minor surgery

(Below) Medical Mission Volunteers



saw 247 patients with an average extraction rate of 3 teeth per patient.

A Medical Team without a Doctor?

Two Australian doctors were unable to attend part of the clinic days during the trip. The GAIN team prayed, but there were no replacements when they arrived in Legazpi. At the hotel, an Australian doctor who was attending a school reunion happened to be at the

One night while the team was out in the city, some of them chatted with a group of locals. They turned out to be medical students.

Three of them decided to join the mission for hands-on training with an "expert from Australia". This encounter led to a meeting with the director of the local hospital who expressed an interest in partnering with GAIN for future medical missions trips.

conversations, she also made a decision to trust Jesus. Over the course of 8 days in 8 villages, 747 people heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and made concrete faith decisions.

The next GAIN Australia medical missions trip will be to India from 29 August to 10 September 2016.

– Athena Peter

2016–A Year of Growth



Jiji Skariah
CEO, GAIN Australia

We have just passed the half way mark of 2016. 2016 has been a year of growth for GAIN. From the beginning of the year we saw God working through committed people. Many volunteers became regular staff and missionaries with GAIN. Our commitment to serve God is clearly visible as we see people dedicated their time, talents and treasures for the expansion of this ministry of compassion among the poor and needy.

From the beginning of this year, Melanie Bodo became a missionary with GAIN and started working from the Power to Change office in Melbourne. Jacob Idiculas started to work as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of

GAIN and is in the process of becoming an associate missionary of Power to Change. Liza Mathews progressed much in becoming a full time missionary of Power to Change and a Public Relations Officer of GAIN.

GAIN Germany COO Raphael Funck and his wife Tabitha stayed in Sydney and helped us for two months in enabling us to standardise

direct result of this and we are stepping out in faith to see how we can encourage and build relationships to spreading the GAIN opportunity to become a national movement than a Sydney based mission.

Joining with GAIN Canada, Melanie Bodo has worked to promote the Water for Life project in Benin, Africa and our first well has been

“My prayer is that all of us will be contagious Christians in showing God’s love to the poor and needy communities around the world. As we get more staff and missionaries, we will be able to further expand our missions.”

our operations, procedures and management structure. The Building Powerful Ministry Teams (BPMT) course led by Tabitha Funck and Grant Bickerton impacted heavily on our commitment to serve Lord as a team. The Re:Connect event was a test case and we had the opportunity to work as a team to impact past and new mission members of GAIN. The introduction of GAIN Ambassadors is a

moving from a dream to a reality. My prayer is that all of us will be contagious Christians in showing God’s love to the poor and needy communities around the world. As we get more staff and missionaries, we will be able to further expand our missions. So please pray as mentioned in Mathew 9:38 “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field”.

Water for Life Initiative has Launched

In Africa, a woman will walk up to five kilometers a day to gather water for her family. She longs to bring them life, but tragically, she also brings them death. The water she labours to fill her containers with is murky, filled with bacteria and parasites. She sacrifices so much for her family, yet the very water she provides could ultimately cause their death. She is just one of 663 million people around the world who lack access to clean drinking water.

But it doesn't have to be this way, often just 80 meters below their feet are aquifers of pure, disease-free water. By proving one water well, GAIN can help to break the cycle of disease and death and transform communities for a lifetime by proving life-changing clean water for up to 1000 people.

The Water for Life Initiative has launched in Australia. What a journey it has been to get to this point! I first made contact with GAIN at a Power to Change – Campus Strategy Conference last year and I was excited in hearing that an organisation was out there

that focused on meeting the physical needs of the poor purely to show them the love of God and lead them to Christ. After finishing my university studies I joined the team, based in the Power to Change Headquarters in Melbourne.

My role involves starting up the Water for Life Initiative in Australia, an incredible project that has been operating through GAIN Canada to provide clean water and the Living water to villages in Africa and Asia for over a decade. Our Australian office will be collecting funds to assist in reaching the goal of providing one million people with clean, safe, disease-free water within the next five years!

It has been a busy time as we've been working closely with the GAIN Canada team to start fundraising in Australia. It was also a privilege to have GAIN Germany's Chief Op-

erating Officer, Raphael and his wife Tabitha visit Melbourne and be available to us as we plan for this new project, planning the beginning of my time with GAIN and the start-up of the Water for Life Initiative in Australia. We are excited to see the real physical and spiritual impact of this project.



Melanie Bodo – Water for Life Coordinator

Please contact waterforlife@globalaid.net.au if you would like to request a speaker to visit your church or to learn more



We would love your help in reaching out to your network of family, friends and coworkers to fundraise for our Water for Life projects.

Visit our peer-to-peer fundraising site (www.givematcher.com.au/water-for-life-initiative-benin) and click on "Start Fundraising" to create your own fundraising page, where your friends can donate towards your own fundraising goal.



All donations made towards Water for Life are tax-deductible. You may even want to set your goal at \$10,000, the total funds required for one water well. By doing this you can be part of transforming communities by providing clean water for 1000 people for up to 25 years. What an achievement!!

Fundraising ideas:

You can do pretty much anything to raise money for Water for Life. Here are some ideas. You can ask people to sponsor you as you undertake any of these challenges:

Give up all beverages except water for two weeks. At the end, you could donate the amount of money you saved by only drinking water, or ask your donors to do this challenge also and they can donate the amount they save to your fundraising page.

Women and children in Africa walk an average of six kilometers every day to collect water. You could commit to walk six kilometers every day for a week to raise awareness and donations.

Run for running water in a marathon

Keep with the water theme by committing to swimming a certain distance

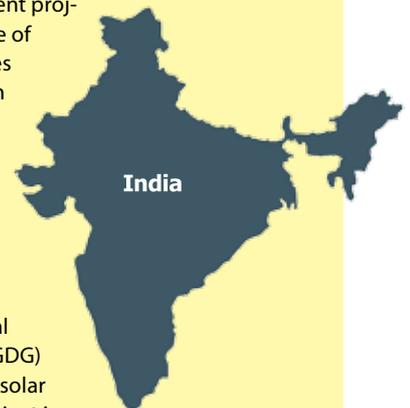
Thanks so much for your help in providing water for the thirsty.

Light Up Lives

A Community Development Project



Last year, GAIN Australia stepped out on a major community development project in India. Bihar is one of the North Eastern states of India with more than 85 million people, of which only less than 3% are Christians.



GAIN Australia, in partnership with India Campus Crusade for Christ (ICCC) and Global Development Group (GDG) Australia, conducted a solar energy community project in the remote village of Daniya, in Bihar State, where there is no supply of electricity. In this part of India, many people live in very poor conditions without electricity, telephone, schools or hospitals.

Last year, Gynea Baptist Church (GBC) accepted this project and served as a major donor. The solar energy project was named the 'Light Up Lives' and is a major milestone for the development of the remote villages of Bihar.

The project gave electricity to 129 houses in Daniya village as Phase One of the project. We have another 41 houses left in this village waiting for electricity. We need to raise funds for this and hope to get that done by the end of this year. Your financial support is what we depend on to fulfill this need. It is estimated that each house will cost \$500 in installing and maintaining a solar system with 8 hour battery backup with 3 lights, one table fan and a power point.

Jacob Idiculas joins as new Chief Operating Officer



Jacob co-leading a team meeting at the GAIN office

Jacob has been with GAIN Australia ever since his wife Alice Idiculas has been involved in 2013 and for the last 2 years as a volunteer helping with general administration work, sorting out the office management system and collating information & data and preparing reports for our various reporting obligations.

Background

I was born in Malaysia. Coming from a devout Christian home, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord in 1965 through the work of Boys' Brigade at the Holy Light Presbyterian Church in Johor Bahru, Malaysia and have since served in various leadership positions in Churches and Christian associations in the various places (several countries) where I lived and worked. For the last 25 years, I have been an active member of Parkside Baptist Church in Edensor Park in Sydney.

Ministry and Service

I held several key positions in the Boys' Brigade Malaysia and was the Chairman of the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigades of East Malaysia & Brunei; and was its Convenor for Training & Extension for a number of years from 1979 to 1987 at Battalion, state and national levels.

At a social level I have served various cultural and service organisations like the YMCA, Ys Men Club, Lions Club, etc.,. I served in the Lions Club as President and as Zone Chairman. I am currently a Life Member of the Stedfast Association NSW and the Western Sydney University Alumni Association.

Professional Career:

A Civil Engineer and Quantity Surveyor (Building Cost Engineer) by profession. I hold a Master of Business (Operations Management) and an MBA and several other qualifications in Project Management, Quality Management, Materials Management, Marketing, etc., and am an accredited management trainer. I worked with major multinational engineering consultancies like Freeman Fox & Partners (UK) and construction companies like Gammon (UK), Bovis (UK), Theiss

Australia and Leightons Australia. I have also worked in the Malaysian Civil Service with the Rural Development Corporation (KPD) in Sabah Malaysia which also owned a couple of Australia's largest cattle stations like Camfield, NT.

I worked with Sydney Water Corporation as Contract Relationship Manager (Procurement) with Sydney Water Corporation; and as Procurement Manager, Business Manager (Train Crewing) and as Group Business Manager (ICT Group) at RailCorp NSW where I was involved in multi-million dollar infrastructure projects and acquisitions.

My Passion

I left the NSW Public Service in 2011 with the intention of doing consultancy work and teaching. I was looking forward to taking a break and to take some time off for travel. Having done local and overseas trips and cruises; and spending some time recuperating after a major surgery, it very became clear that it was GAIN Australia where God was leading me to serve. God had a better plan for me.

When a request was made to me by Jiji Skariah to join the leadership team of GAIN Australia, I felt the challenge that God was speaking to me to make myself available to serve God in seeing the gospel spread in the countries of Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Pacific; and to bring help and hope to those countries. With much prayer and soul searching I feel this is where God was calling me to. I hope and pray that God will use me for His Glory wherever he leads me.



Newsletter created by John Dionisio
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Raphael and Tabitha Funck visit from Germany



(Left) Group photo with a few GAIiN AU staff
(Right) The couple ministering and training the GAIiN AU staff



GAIiN Australia was fortunate to have Raphael and Tabitha Funck visit us from GAIiN Germany. They spent 8 weeks with us. Raphael started as a project manager and is now the Chief Operations Officer for GAIiN Germany. With his administrative and organizational skills he built up systems and structures within the German GAIiN Office and its overseas projects. Raphael has been on staff with GAIiN Germany for more than 10 years now.

GAIiN Germany is one of the earliest and largest partners within the GAIiN Worldwide movement. GAIiN Germany has been in the frontline with many humanitarian responses in Europe and elsewhere. Raphael has had the benefit of experience of managing the office and staff within Germany and participated at ground level and management decision making.

Raphael and Tabitha have been married for 5 years and live in the City of Giessen in the heart of Germany. Tabitha is part of the mobilization team taking care of the volunteer involvements. Having great interpersonal skills and a degree in systematic counselling she is also part of the member care team giving seminars and doing team building activities with the different teams of GAIiN and Campus für Christus in Germany. She is an accredited BPMT (Building Powerful Ministry Teams) trainer.

Tabitha and Raphael set aside the year 2016 from their usual tasks to support other GAIiN offices around the world as well as taking time for a sabbatical. As such they have been with GAIiN Australia

Building Powerful Ministry Teams Workshop



Workshop participants in an activity exercise



A BPMT (Building Powerful Ministry Teams) workshop training course was held from April 27th to 29th for staff and volunteers at the GAIiN Offices. The course was facilitated by Tabitha Funck and Dr Grant Bickerton and assisted by Raphael Funck. 10 participants took part in the course. Tabitha and Grant are accredited presenters of this training and we were fortunate to have them organise this workshop for our office staff.

The course is a universal team management training course designed by Trixia Partners (USA) Inc which is used Campus Crusade for Christ International ministry organisations worldwide.

The workshop is a team building training to change our culture to include *accepted leadership, *effective processes, *solid relationships and *excellent communication defined by a common purpose and clear roles. The course was very engaging and there were plenty of practical group exercises. We touched on strategic planning and even had a life project that was put to test - the May 22nd ReConnect event which turned out to be a success with our entire office team working hard together. This training was so motivating and it brought the office staff together and we believe we will never be the same again.

We record our thanks to Tabitha, Grant and Raphael.

Are You a Reluctant Volunteer?

Are you a reluctant volunteer ?

Are you struggling against the prompting of the quiet little voice telling you to serve God by ministering to the people in need? If you are, please read on because I was like you before.

I can still remember ...

21 December 2012, my last day at work in a Sydney law firm where I spent more than 17 years at the Help Desk, assisting lawyers and secretaries solve their computer and other IT issues. One month earlier I had turned 60. It was time to retire and take it easy, wake up at 9 or even later, go to bed late watching my favourite TV shows and old movies, or so I thought

In Proverbs 16:9 ... it is written that " A man's heart plans his way but the Lord directs his steps."

After turning 60 I read about the medical mission of GAIN Australia in the Philippines scheduled for the early months of 2013. I dialled GAIN's number. Lo and behold, a man with a familiar Filipino-American accent answered. His name is Isaac Puno, then the interim CEO of GAIN Australia. He told me that the reason for selecting Legazpi City and vicinity as the 2013 mission field was to help people recover from the devastating effects of a strong typhoon. I was touched but did not make a commitment to go. I told him that I would consider it seriously. I was actually buying time to find out first whether my meagre superannuation benefits would have extra left after paying off our mortgage. I told my wife about my phone conversation with Isaac and proudly told her that he is the brother of a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. She was so excited, not about the Chief Justice and his brother, but rather about the prospect of going to a medical mission. I told her that if we get some money left from my super, we might go.

Guess what? There was no extra money left. Was my wife so disappointed!

She told our eldest daughter about the mission and the lack of funds for it because years before Trix had gone with Daniel Win, the founding CEO of GAIN Australia, to mission trips in Burma and Cambodia.

Guess again what our daughter said... " You should go... our Lord will provide."



Leo with his wife, Helen. Leo says "After four medical missions I now feel and think that a year would not be complete without joining at least one mission."

Even after hearing from my wife what Trix had said, as stubborn as I was then, I still did not commit to go. However, as a compromise, I agreed to study the New Testament with my wife every night thus forsaking my TV-watching sessions.

It was during one of those Bible study nights that the words from the Bible spoke to me. I felt a tugging in my heart. That night I decided to commit going to the 2013 medical mission in Legazpi City, Albay. Wasn't my wife so happy!

There are so many stories I can tell, lessons I have learned, and so many wonderful Christian brothers and sisters and people that I have met and worked with during that first medical mission and during the other subsequent missions. To mention them all will require more pages than what is allocated to my article so I will share with you only one anecdote that has had a lasting impact on me and has changed my attitude towards missions.

On the first day of the 2013 mission I looked around at the backyard of the site where I saw an old man sitting alone inside a nipa hut. I smiled at him and waved my hand. He waved back so I approached and talked to him. He told me that his name is Conrado Benitez and that he could no longer stand, much less walk by himself. He also said that he really wanted to go to the GAIN clinic at the barangay hall in front of his nipa house but he could not, due to his physical condition I told him that I would ask one of the nurses and one of the doctors to look after him right where he was sitting. I am not sure whether the people I talked to fulfilled what I told Conrado. What I am sure about is that one of the pastors, Ptr Duane, later in the afternoon called me to join

him and share the gospel to Conrado. After hearing the gospel from Ptr Duane, Conrado turned to me and said, " You know, when I first saw you approaching my nipa hut and waving at me, I thought that God sent you for me". Conrado became a born again Christian that afternoon.

There was a plan to go back to Legazpi in 2014 and 2015 to follow up the first mission and to help further in planting more churches. But typhoon Haiyan struck Leyte, Cebu and the other Visayan islands. The GAIN medical missions were redirected instead to Tacloban, Leyte and Bogo, Cebu in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

When GAIN finally went back to Legazpi in February this year, one of the mission sites was Conrado's village in Mabinit, Albay. I asked Stuart Holder to walk with me to the place where the 2013 mission was held to say "Hello" to Conrado and ask how he was doing. A lady answered our greeting at the yard where the nipa hut once stood 3 years before. She told us that she was Conrado's daughter and that sadly her father had passed away in June 2015. It was sad news for me but I found consolation in knowing that Conrado died a Christian and that someday we shall meet again in a much much better place and in the presence of our God Almighty. He would no longer need a wheelchair there.

I would also like to share with you one of the inspiring statements from my fellow volunteers. Bee Bee Koh said to another volunteer, "It does not matter what role you have during the mission. Simply by being there you encourage the people in need of help. Just by giving some money to help provide free medical and dental services and free medicines and vitamins you have already contributed greatly."

To conclude I would like to share the sentiment of Atheena Peter who was with us in the latest 2016 medical mission in the Philippines, as expressed in an article that she wrote about the mission. She wrote and I quote,

Was the trip challenging? Yes
Was it exhausting? Yes
Was it rewarding? Yes
Was it life altering? Without a doubt
Would I do it again? Try and stop me

To our Lord Jesus Christ be all the glory and honour.

– Leo Kalinisan



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MEDICAL MISSION DATES

29 August — 10 September		India
31 October — 13 November		Cambodia
21 November — 04 December		Philippines
6 February — 19 February		Philippines

Please Note: Our medical missions are NOT tax deductible. All community development projects and disaster relief/rebuilding projects partnering with GDG (Global Development Group) are tax deductible. The tax deductible projects through GDG are as follows:

J822 - Bihar Development Project (Solar Power)
J897N - Water for Life Initiative – Benin
J871R - Nepal Earthquake disaster relief Project
J110.1 - GAIN International Projects (General)



GAIN is a partner for the above mentioned projects with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian NGO approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

HOW TO DONATE

Make your donation directly to our Global Aid Network account as shown below. Be sure to put your surname and project number or name in the description field. You may also choose to donate online using a credit card, through our secure system on our web page, www.globalaid.net.au

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Account Name: Global Aid Network
BSB No: 062 271
Account No: 1011 5657
Description: [surname] - [Project Number]

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