

# PartnerNews

## Why I love working with MTS

by Ben Pfalert

I think I first heard the MTS 10% vision in 1997. I was at a conference and Col Marshall was outlining his vision for Australia.

The 10% vision inspired me like you wouldn't believe. This leader of MTS stood up front and said, "We want to see 10% of Australia believing in and obeying King Jesus". My response was, "Great aim Col, but how do you plan to pull that off?"

The next slide that this godly, unassuming bloke put up was titled, "The MTS Strategy." It detailed the 4 key parts of the strategy: (i) Challenge Conference (formerly Club 5) (ii) Apprenticeship (iii) Theological Training and (iv) MTS Training Days.

My first thought was, "Dear Heavenly Father, please answer the prayer of Col and others like him and make this happen." I also thought, "This MTS way of thinking is absolutely brilliant. The MTS strategy actually makes the 10% vision achievable."

From that time on I was very interested in getting a closer look at MTS. I was also very aware that God in His sovereignty could make 20% of the nation love Jesus tomorrow or alternately He could pour out judgement and stop anyone believing in Christ.

In late 2002 I ended up working for MTS 1 day a week as the Victorian Network Coordinator. My task was to get people 'living out' the strategy in the 'garden state'. My great overriding passion was to see 10% of Victoria believing in and obeying King Jesus.

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## MTS in New Zealand

by Mark Santich

"I was challenged about the importance of godliness, and the importance of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and the danger of just assuming it in ministry".

This reflection by Aidan Febery on his MTS apprenticeship captures well the mind-shift that needs to occur in Christian ministry throughout New Zealand, where much ministry appears to have lost sight of the gospel and MTS is a key part in bringing about this change.

This year looks to be another encouraging year as Andrew Sinclair and Kris Muir join Paula Sinclair (2nd year) as apprentices at St John's, Latimer Square with trainers Peter Collier and Al Drye. Andrew says he is "excited at the opportunity of being able to spend the whole week teaching the Bible and introducing people to Jesus", and Kris feels that "the prospect of teaching the Bible in a full time capacity is a terrifying responsibility and an amazing privilege at the same time".

Scott Mackay (pictured right) is entering the second year of his apprenticeship at the University of Canterbury with trainers Mark Santich (pictured left) and Nick Duke. David Parker (from the UK) is enjoying an overseas experience with a difference doing an MTS style apprenticeship with James de Costobadie at St Saviour's, a 12 month old church plant from St John's Latimer Square.

Earlier this year we said good-bye (for a time) as Chris Spark (with Sarah & Esther) and Aidan Febery (with Sophie) headed overseas to Sydney for theological study, they are currently in the depths of learning another language (Greek not Australian). Both have been greatly challenged during their MTS apprenticeships.

Please continue to pray for God to raise up reliable people in New Zealand who will be able to faithfully proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus until he returns.



# Financial Review



## Apprentice in VIC by Alan Green

While studying Engineering at RMIT, I was often facing seemingly trivial theoretical problems. Often it was hard to imagine how these theoretical problems would ever be useful in industry. Looking back, it's obvious why they are important— but sometimes I wonder whether I would have benefited from seeing the practical side of things first so that I could have seen how the theory would find its application.

This is one of the reasons I was attracted to MTS. Doing full-time practical training first made a lot of sense to me – even if to discover it wasn't for me. Having been gripped by the gospel, it made sense to spend more of my time sharing the gospel under the guidance of experienced godly leaders who provide both a mentor relationship and a model to follow.

I first became affiliated with MTS when I was personally urged to attend MTS Challenge Conferences – I found them to be some of the most encouraging weekends in my life – they really did 'put a fire in the belly' that gave me a passion for the lost and a desire to train for Christian service. They gave me opportunity to share my hesitations with experienced trainers, and work through my concerns.

Having now completed a two-year MTS apprenticeship, I found it to be everything I trusted it would be. I have just recently begun studying at Bible College to be further equipped for Christian service. God willing I'll spend the rest of my life in full-time word service.



by Hans Norved

In 2006 we aimed at raising \$165,000 in Partner Donations and we received \$138,525. We thank God for the generosity of our partners and their willingness to invest in the work of the gospel.

Our target for 2007 is still \$165,000 which we pray in God's providence we will reach by finding new partners and asking current partners to give more. We are not embarrassed to ask for money to support this work for we know that through the evangelism and bible teaching of ministry apprentices men and women are being snatched from the flames. These same apprentices are also being prepared for a lifetime of recruiting and training still more faithful gospel workers. There is a leveraging, or magnifying effect built into the whole strategy which is the beauty of it.

We are still asking God to raise up 1000 partners to donate \$100 (or more) annually and we still have some way to go – so if you know someone or haven't yet committed to giving to MTS we ask you to consider supporting this important work of

raising up future gospel teachers who will themselves be training others.

To make donations please use the form on the back on this partner news, or if you prefer download a donation form from [www.mts.com.au/partner/finance.htm](http://www.mts.com.au/partner/finance.htm)

The money that you give to the work of MTS national office is spent on:

- Network Coordinators who support local ministers in training MTS apprentices and organising training events.
- Training materials for apprentices and trainers, such as handbooks, conference materials and online resources.
- The promotion and growth of the MTS network worldwide so the grassroots systematic training of gospel workers may increase geographically.
- Our office team that coordinate apprentices, organise recruitment conferences (Challenge) and training conferences (MTS training days).

### Donations Report

Received General Donations in 2006 = \$138,525.80  
Target for General Donations in 2006 = \$165,000.00  
Target for General Donations in 2007 = \$165,000.00

## 4 Pfahlert Facts

1 As a family we love going to the beach. Cronulla is amazing! Em loves the 'fish & chips', Bella is learning to body-board, Edmund loves the playgrounds and Sam eats sand.

2 We are privileged to be parents by adoption. Shaun (now 22) lived with Emma as a foster brother whilst she was a teenager. 2 years after getting married (1996) Shaun came to live in our home. Shaun, thanks be to God, loves Jesus & gives us great joy. Shaun stayed in Melbourne and is going well.

3 I have a twin brother called Quentin. He was my womb mate for nine months.

4 Emma and I did our Ministry Apprenticeships with AFES in Melbourne (1992-1993).



(continued from page 1) A vision I am still thoroughly committed to.

But even though I pray fervently for this and plead with God to energise believers, the brutal reality is that many arms of the church are struggling. Denominations lack new leaders, church planters are scarce and our evangelists are few in number.

The situation is dire. MTS has a key role to play. Firstly getting people to pray, secondly by recruiting future leaders, thirdly encouraging evangelism and

fourthly being the catalyst to get God's people to work toward the 10% vision (God willing).

Join me in the task. Join me in being personally committed to the 10% vision for Australia. Let this obsession dictate your will, your words and your wallet. For the sake of Jesus Christ's name and the work he did on the Cross.

Pray for 1 minute now: for future leaders, for more evangelists and that God would bring the Gospel to the residents in your street today!

## What's Happening

by Ben Pfahlert

MTS is an extraordinary organisation. It operates a little bit like a military battalion. There's an HQ and then there are soldiers in the field. Let me share with you what's happening in each arena; and since HQ serves the troops on the ground, let me tell you what's happening in the field first.

### In the field...

#### The David Jackman



'Passing on the Baton' Tour: David Jackman is a great preacher and a great trainer of preachers. He has been preaching since

1968 and had been training preachers at the Cornhill Institute since 1991; 700 students from 40 countries to be precise. He will visit Brisbane, Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra and Sydney between May 17 and June 14, 2007.

#### New Victorian Network Coordinator:

MTS is privileged to have Andrew Reid join its team (see right column). Andrew has an amazing track record of training up Christian leaders as does his wife Heather. Andrew was AFES National Director from (1984 – 1990), he pastored Shenton Park Anglican Church in Perth and now works as a theological lecturer at Ridley Theological College in Melbourne.

#### Apprentice Workshops

have started up in some areas of Sydney. The aim is to get apprentices together regionally for training in



conviction, character and skills. Michelle Philp will be running some Sydney wide women's training. Michelle wants to equip female apprentices to

deal with some of those issues that constantly arise e.g. IVF, abortion, and women's ministry.

#### The Development of Ministry Apprenticeships in Ireland:



Col and Jacquie Marshall will be spending 5 months in Ireland to help the pastors and leaders of local

churches understand the Ministry Training Strategy. Col will spend time teaching pastors "The Art of Ministry Training" Let's all pray that (i) the Irish can finalise details and (ii) that the Marshall's visit will have a grass roots effect, for the sake of the church and for those who do not yet believe.

#### At HQ, Head Office...

##### Book publishing:

"The Ministry Apprentice Handbook", name yet to be confirmed, is in the final stages of editing. Col has 'captured' in book form the why and how of Apprenticeships. This is an exciting new era for MTS, please pray that the book would be printed by April. It is desperately needed.

##### IT Redevelopment:

MTS is currently executing two major IT projects (i) the database

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## MTS in VIC by Andrew Reid

Andrew and Heather moved to Victoria from Western Australia in January 2005 having been involved in church planting in Perth. They left their two adult sons in Perth and Andrew now lectures in Old Testament and Hermeneutics at Ridley College while Heather works as the senior women's staff worker in the AFES ministry at RMIT.

Andrew's lengthy involvement with MTS, largely through student ministry, found a particular focus in Perth where he and Tim Thorburn began CTVfm during the 1990s. CTVfm had similar goals and strategies to MTS and has since become affiliated with MTS. Heather is involved in MTS through the training of women apprentices at RMIT and through mentoring women training for ministry.

Andrew's hope is that MTS might play a vital part in the continued growth of evangelical ministry in Victoria. In particular, he hopes that he might be able to strengthen the links between traineeships, local evangelical theological colleges, and local churches.



## What's Happening?

(continued from page 3) redevelopment and (ii) the overhaul of the website. We're putting together a five year IT plan so that these two projects provide long term benefits. Please pray that all would go well and that these IT changes would enable thousands more people to pick up the ministry multiplication mindset.

### Happenings relevant to everyone...



The 20th Anniversary of the Challenge Conferences is this year. Wow it's hard to believe that the first Challenge Conference (called 'Club 5') was in 1987, that was 20 years ago.

A change of guard. The hand over of the leadership of MTS from Col Marshall to Ben Pfahlert. Ben's commissioning will be held at Drummoyne Presbyterian Church on Thursday 22 March at 7.30pm. Please join us if you are able to.

Please pray for us at HQ. We want to be an office that exists to "serve" not "be served". Pray that we'd have the mind of Christ individually and organisationally. (Mark 10:45)

# GAP enters its 6th year in Japan

by Grahame Smith

In April, Tetsuya will start as the 7th ministry trainee with the Graduate Assistant Program (GAP); the Japanese equivalent of MTS.

GAP grew out of a need for more gospel workers to work with KGK, the evangelical student group. Recent graduates spend two years working as part-time staff, visiting campuses and discipling students, while being mentored and trained by KGK staff, including MTS graduates, Grahame Smith and Phil Miles.

Despite the great need for increased gospel outreach on campuses and through local churches there is little training of leaders.

Grahame hopes that through GAP, KGK will develop a training mind-set, which will strengthen student work

and build God's church in Japan. He is excited at the opportunity to work with Tetsuya, who has a great passion for evangelism and is keen to grow in godliness and service.

"As missionaries we cannot expect to be here indefinitely, but GAP has created a stimulus for a self-perpetuating gospel work as more Christians are trained who can then train others."

It is a privilege to now see graduates of the program continuing in gospel ministry or preparing for formal theological training. Pray that there would be many more suitable candidates to be trained, and for growth of GAP to other areas of Japan.

# Donation Form

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I would like to commence/change my regular giving to MTS:

I would like to give:

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My completed **direct debit** form is enclosed (this can be downloaded from [www.mts.com.au/partner/finance](http://www.mts.com.au/partner/finance))

Please debit my **credit card** (details completed opposite)

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