



Caroline and Dick Seed

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Location: South Africa



What we do: Training Bible teachers in key theological institutions across the African continent and beyond

Dear friends

Have you noticed how our understanding of familiar Scriptures can deepen as we follow the Lord's calling? The Great Commission command to "Go... and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 18:19) took on a new meaning for us in September as we flew across the world to Papua New Guinea, Australia, Indonesia and South Korea. We begin this letter by reflecting on what it meant for us to "go" to other parts of the world, and end it with a call to pray for the Lord to open doors to further the possibilities for training.



Christian Leaders' Training College, Banz

Going to Papua New Guinea

It took 49 hours, four flights and a minibus ride to get from Cape Town to Banz in the Mt Hagen highlands region of Papua New Guinea at the beginning of September. Our Australian partner agency, Local Leaders International, had asked us to run Phase 1 of our basic teacher training certificate at the Christian Leaders' Training College. We were expecting to work with 12 faculty members but were surprised to be met by 35 keen participants



comprising faculty, all the Master's students and the leaders of the women's programmes. Although we did not know what to expect in a new country, we found the cultural background similar to many of our African cultures. Most of the students are Bible teachers from colleges in the Pacific Islands where traditional values are still prevalent in the churches.

Initially, we noticed a confidence gap between the regular faculty and the postgraduate students and women's leaders but by the end of the week, that had changed and we were pleased by the growth in all the participants. They are now implementing what they have learned as they teach this term (Phase 2). We hope to go back in 2025 to run the final phase with them. However, it was obvious that more work is needed to assist the churches in the Pacific with theological education. We are therefore investigating the possibility of TEDS/Local Leaders raising up trainers and consultants for the region.

Time in Australia

After PNG, we flew to Australia for the Local Leaders conference, meetings in Sydney and time in Melbourne. Caroline then went on to Indonesia and Dick flew to South Korea for the Lausanne Congress.

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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**

Going to Indonesia

You may remember that we went to Bandung (Indonesia) in February 2023 to run a workshop on theological research for the PASTI group of evangelical colleges. As that workshop could only accommodate half of the member colleges, another was planned for Surakarta (Solo) in Central Java in September 2024.



Indonesian theological colleges operate under government regulations on research and appointments to faculty. They struggle to find enough highly trained Bible scholars and theologians to meet the criteria and sometimes appoint lecturers from other academic disciplines who have not studied the Bible. All lecturers are required to engage in research for journals, but those from other disciplines have little idea of how to do theological

research. During the workshop, participants did a lot of practical work and writing, which they said was helpful for them. It was a privilege to assist these Christians as they struggle to be salt and light in difficult circumstances.

Going to all the world – South Korea

While Caroline was in Indonesia, Dick flew to Seoul in South Korea for the Fourth Lausanne Congress on world evangelism. This was a large gathering of mission practitioners from all over the world, including some from the CMS family. It was good to hear the stories of God's faithfulness coming from countries where it is difficult to be a Christian. The Congress stressed the centrality of the Church and the need for creativity in evangelism to address different world contexts. Dick was struck by the number of requests for help with theological education coming from the Indian sub-continent. This is something we need to pray about.

Prayer for the future of Theological Education Development Services (TEDS)

Despite these encouragements, TEDS experienced a setback when our training facilitator, Karen Roe from CMS Australia, had to return home unexpectedly. She will be back for two weeks in November, but will need to raise new personal support if she is to continue with the TEDS work from Australia in 2025. As requests for training come in from all over the world, please pray that the Lord will provide for Karen's needs and also raise up new trainers.

Prayer points

- ▶ Training for theological colleges in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the Indian sub-continent
- ▶ Preparations for the new online Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Theological Education at GWC
- ▶ Karen's support needs in Australia
- ▶ Plans for training of trainers workshops for Chile in December and for Africa in 2025.

With our love in Christ

Caroline and Dick



Photos from top to bottom: CMS-Africa participants at the Fourth Lausanne Congress; Phase 1 training Papua New Guinea; theological research workshop Indonesia



Going further with Church Mission Society

Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/jesus-never-gives-up

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