

# GLO'S CHURCH PLANTING CONNECTIONS



Early Crusade in South Australia



Church Plant in Mongolia



Church Plant in Indonesia

## Local Church Connections

Over time these historical and missional considerations have resulted in GLO developing a church planting emphasis. Like the apostle Paul, GLO's mission strategy is "church based" and "church orientated". Every church planting venture that GLO is involved in starts from a local church and, with God's help,

results in the establishment of new local churches. GLO's role in this process is simply to assist the local church in any way we can to "fulfil the Great Commission, both in Australia and abroad, by evangelising, discipling and planting New Testament churches".

**By Andrew Cowell**



Riverstone Church Plant - Building Half Way Built



Church Plant in Guiuan, Philippines



Andrew Cowell

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with a church leader and share about GLO Ministries' commitment to church planting in Australia and abroad. As I explained GLO's vision and mission I could see a quizzical expression slowly spread across his face. Finally he blurted out, "Doesn't G.L.O stand for 'Gospel Literature Outreach'? Wasn't the original vision to focus on utilising short term mission teams to evangelise through the distribution of gospel literature? What then is the connection between G.L.O and church planting?"

## Historical Connections

This church leader was correct in understanding that the initial passion of G.L.O was in fact to facilitate the formation of short term mission teams committed to evangelising the nations through the distribution of gospel literature. As this witnessing

ministry developed, however, over a period of time GLO's mission naturally widened from pure evangelism to include discipleship and church planting as well.

## Missional Connections

Over the years GLO's "Historical Connection" with Church Planting has been reinforced by a number of "Missiological considerations". It has become GLO's heartfelt conviction that the primary way to fulfil the Great Commission is through Church Planting. This conviction is reinforced by the fact that when Jesus wanted to kick start the Great Commission He not only supernaturally

enabled His disciples to "make disciples" of all nations (Acts 2:37-41), He also divinely guided them to plant a church (Acts 2:42-47). Later, on his missionary journeys, Paul followed the same pattern of fulfilling the Great Commission through evangelism, discipleship and planting new churches (Acts 14:21-26). The reason Paul did this was because he understood that during this age the church would be the primary vehicle through which God would work to fulfil the Great Commission (Eph. 3:10).

## CONNECTING WITH GLO CHURCH PLANTS

At this time, in partnership with local churches, GLO is involved in a number of church planting ventures that are at varying stages of development.

- Some, like the work in Pakistan, are in the initial pioneering phase of building bridges into the community, finding contacts, evangelising to individuals and groups plus discipling new believers (see pp. 14-15 for more details).
- Others, like the work in the Philippines and Indonesia are in the establishing phase, where bridge building, evangelism, discipleship and worship all continue under the shepherding of a team of elders (see pp. 16-17 and 20-21 respectively for more details).
- Other church planting ventures, like those in Zambia, are moving towards the reproducing phase, where established local churches are endeavouring to plant churches locally and/or cross culturally (see the pp. 18-19 for more details).
- From an Australian perspective, GLO assisted Church Plants, such as "Riverstone Community Church" and "Faith Community Church," have progressed through the pioneering, establishing and reproduction phases (see pp. 10-11 and pp. 12-13 respectively for further details).



St Clair Church Plant