

December 2009



**As a recipient of this letter I invite you to pray for this very strategic mission over the summer.**

#### **SUFM and Theos**

**Directors:** protection from discouragement, temptation, illness

**Mission teams:** to have a big picture of God's mission; unity in working together; faith to see God at work

#### **Children, families & young people**

contacted through SU missions; an openness to God; lives changed

#### **SU Family Missions in**

Apollo Bay, Balnarring, Barwon Heads, , Cowes, Inverloch, Mallacoota, McCrae, Portarlington, Port Fairy, Portland, Queenscliff, Rosebud, Tidal River, Torquay, Warrnambool.

#### **Theos Missions in**

Cowes, Lorne, Mallacoota, Queenscliff, & plants at Barwon Heads & Ocean Grove, Tidal River, Torquay, Warrnambool

A strong **financial base** for SU so we can continue this mission

**Godly leadership** for me

## **From the Missions Coordinator**

**Unless the Lord builds the house ...**

Advent ... waiting with anticipation ... is my focus during December, as mission teams prepare to **use the training and resources** we have provided for them over the year. I am now **meeting with all the Mission Directors** to ensure their teams are healthy, prepared and focused. The joy for me is seeing how the Biblical Principles of Mission are shaping the Directors' thinking about their mission programs. (The Mission Principles are featured in the latest edition of Outreach.)

One SUFM team's aim is to give the children and families they connect with the **resources to continue connecting with Jesus** throughout the year. The *Question Mark* CD which the families will take home after mission contains the eight stories from Mark which form the content of the SUFM program.

I am encouraged by the strength and development of the Theos teams which are committed to **connecting with unchurched youth in their spaces**. The Queenscliff team is exploring planting a new mission this summer, with a four day program in both Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove.

Over December Sophie and I process the 700 volunteer applications and team safety forms. In the midst of this necessary paperwork, I am reminded of the commitment of the volunteers as they put themselves **in a position to be used by God in His mission** to grow His kingdom. The volunteers are part of extending the mission of about 200 local sending churches across Victoria.

Over January I will be **visiting** as many of the 24 **missions** as possible. It is a great privilege to witness the leadership of the Directors, the passion, energy and faith of the team members, and to hear stories of how they are seeing God at work. Thousands of people will experience something of God's character as they come in contact with team members this summer. For many people who holiday in our mission locations, the program content and conversations with SUFM and Theos members is their only contact with Christians all year.

Please join me in praying for **fruitful contact and conversations** to occur through the missions this summer, so that God's kingdom will be extended.

**Personally** I am encouraged by the snippets of news from the Barwon Heads and Apollo Bay SUFM teams, where Emma and Iain are serving. Preparation for mission in our household keeps us focused on Jesus in the midst of the end of year pressures which Christmas can become. I pray that you will find renewed hope in your Advent celebrations as we are **reminded to eagerly await the return of Christ**.

**Thank you** for your partnership in this ministry; for your prayer, financial support and friendship. I look forward to continuing this partnership with you next year.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mavis Payne".

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