

# Kingdom thoughts

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Hebrews 12:28

**BMI Devotional** October 2014

## The Church in diversity

Travelling to other nations has its unsettling side — a side of life that brings challenge to our Australian status quo.

I quite like the status quo. It is comfortable and I find it very convenient and easy to relax in what is my comfortable lot in life! It is much more effort and inconvenience to press on into that for which God has apprehended us. Paul writes:

*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*  
*Philippians 3:13–14.*

It seems one must get out of one's comfortable arm chair to press toward the goal! Of course, this does not necessarily mean one must leave home to live in a tent, but it does mean pressing in to that for which God has, and is, preparing us.

But what about the diversity? I spent an afternoon with a group of church leaders in Ndengelwa, Kenya — about ten men and women who had met for planning and to hear an update on BMI. These people knew what they were about in serving the Lord with their brand new church overhead — no ceiling, of course and a dirt floor. There was provision for windows at some time! In some ways it was just like at home, people meeting to plan their church's function, but the circumstances were vastly different: one family had a car, the others just appeared on foot or some other way. They went home to houses much less well

equipped than my garage, dinner was going to be cooked on a fire in the corner of the room, or perhaps just outside the door (bit like a barbeque really), and their dirt-floored home had two rooms. 'What about the bathroom?' you ask. What bathroom?

The people in Kenya have issues in life — but a little different to most of ours. I get annoyed about important things like my dinner being late (or early) or a dripping tap in the bathroom heralding an earth shattering crisis. My brothers, however, wait til most folk arrive before beginning their service — imagine waiting two hours for some inconsiderate people to arrive! My brothers and sisters dress for church as though they were meeting royalty — we dress as though we were going to a barbeque.

Their generous church offerings for the week may approach \$20. Is it any wonder the pastor treasures and wants to show off his new motorcycle given by some generous church in Australia? He can now attend BMI meetings and get around to visit his people. For us, \$20 is hardly a coffee allowance, is it?

Is it worth helping such people to fulfil their call in God? Life is so different in other places, yet we each serve the same God and serve His people regardless of their circumstances. It is all a bit sobering really! Is it worth taking the plight of others a little more seriously? Most of us have enough 'coffee money' sitting around to make a real difference to a faithful family on the other side of the world. Have you embarked on the blessing of blessing others in our BMI family?

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