

## **Golden Beach Mission Report 2004-5**

### **Overview**

The success of the Golden Beach mission can be measured on three main fronts.

1. The training opportunity presented by the mission was excellent. The small teams of people from Sale and Traralgon were greatly impacted and inspired during the event. The experience of being on mission has given rise to great enthusiasm among the team from Traralgon. Flowing on from this a children's holiday outreach is already being planned for this year. It's great to note that the source of this idea and offer of involvement did not come from a paid professional!
2. The number of people who attended or were impacted by the mission was proportionate to the number of those on team. Two teams of approx 6 people, one from Sale and the other from Traralgon, ran the mission. Attendance at events ranged between 6 – 30 people and the majority of those who attended gave positive feedback.
3. The third and most encouraging success is that the Church took steps to engage in mission in a very real and tangible way. The small scale of the mission should not be a disappointment, nor should it cause the event to fall short of people's expectations. The mission was planned and carried out by people from within our own diocese working with our available resources. To this end the venture must be considered a success.

### **Reflections**

#### **Advertising**

The promotion and advertising of the mission needed to be better than it was. The area in which this was most apparent was throughout the community of Golden Beach itself. Feedback from both tourists and locals indicated that very few knew about the particular events of the mission with some being unaware there was a mission running at all. The planning process made mention of preliminary advertising but this was left until too late or not carried out at all in the case of a letter box drop. Greater attention to this area will be necessary in the future.

#### **Golden Beach Community Involvement**

The ratepayers association, real estate agent, and VMMR people were very cooperative and supportive to the mission. In fact they made up the bulk of local attendance at mission events. They are keen to know if we will be running a similar event next year. However there was the sense that we were running a mission in their town. In future steps toward helping the town take ownership of the mission will need to be taken.

The Golden Beach congregation attended the Sunday service and supported us by providing scrumptious scones with jam and cream. However if the congregation is to benefit from such a mission it must become more involved in both the planning and running where able. While small in number and great in years, a large part of the mission included cooking and serving tea and coffee. The congregation would benefit greatly by becoming more involved in the planning and process.

#### **Diocesan Involvement**

We made our best effort toward contacting every parish in the diocese twice by email and following up by phone. Each was presented with the option of taking part in the activities surrounding the Beach Marquee and to experience being on mission. From this came 3 small teams of day workers from Bairnsdale, Maffra, and Morwell. Russell McQueen accompanied the people from Maffra.

The timing of the mission presented difficulties toward peoples involvement as did being simply too busy with normal parish responsibilities. A diocesan mission sounds great but in reality is unmanageable unless better strategies toward seeking and managing involvement are found.

## **Sale Parish Involvement**

A team of approx 6-8 highly committed people from Sale parish made up the mission planning team who then become the backbone of the mission itself. Without these people the mission would not have been possible. The scale of the mission was not adversely effected by the small number involved however many people missed out on a great experience. The commitment and enthusiasm of Brian Turner was exceptional yet new strategies to help the congregation catch the vision will be needed. The short lead-time for the mission and Brian's massive workload are issues that made this already difficult process more difficult.

## **The Role Of Coordinator**

The coordinators role was challenging yet made easier by the quality and support of those who made up the mission planning team. The time dedicated to the mission totals approx 1-1.5 days per week for 6 months and of course 6 full days over the outreach itself. Coming from outside the parish made it difficult to conduct impromptu mission business and placed great importance on people's attendance at fortnightly mission meetings. Recruitment for the mission from within the parish was delegated, as the coordinator was unaware of what was available. Promotion and vision selling was also delegated, often without as much information as was necessary. In future a greater level of parish involvement from the coordinator would be beneficial, and even better if the coordinator was a member of the same parish.

## **Conclusion**

The Golden Beach mission presented us with a significant learning and training opportunity. Those attending found it to be a very positive and faith building experience. It would make good sense for the parish to begin planning its next mission where and whenever that may be.

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