

1st December 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1



From the Course Coordinator

The 14th Intermed Summer School was held from 2 to 21 January 2011 with the optional 4th week from 22 to 27 January. This was the largest class size for many years with 28 participants, and certainly one of the most diverse groups: 12 nurses, 3 doctors, 3 occupational therapists, 3 physiotherapists, 2 nurse-midwives, 2 dentists, and one medical student, pharmacist and optometrist!

The 4th week continues to attract a high proportion of participants with 21 doing this in 2011. Participants, as usual, came from a variety of locations: Thailand, USA, Germany, UK, Netherlands, New Zealand and most Australian States. Marine Reach in NZ sent 7 participants (from various countries)!

A record 9 Scholarships were awarded for participants: 6 for Marine Reach participants, one for a participant working with YWAM in Australia, one for a participant with Interserve NZ and one for a participant working with a Christian NGO in Thailand.

The Intermed website (www.intermed.org.au) has been updated for the 2012 Summer School. There is potential to expand the website in the future and we are looking for a volunteer to manage the website!

During the year, and in accordance with our recently updated Constitution, we invited all those who have had links with Intermed in the past (for whom we had contact details) to become a Member or Friend of Intermed. If you didn't receive an invitation please download one from our website, and if you know of other Intermeders who didn't receive this invitation, please refer them to the website - and ask them to provide us with their current contact details.

We are delighted that Michaela Wauchope has accepted the position of Administrative Officer through to April 2012, when details about the administrative arrangements for the proposed Post-Graduate Diploma in International Health and Development with Tabor Adelaide will be clearer.

Douglas Shaw

From the Course Founder

Dear INTERMEDers,

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR YEARS!!!

At our last AGM it was decided

- i) to create positions of **Membership**,
- ii) to expand the size of the Committee, and
- iii) to re-introduce the newsletter.

*"...we are looking for
a volunteer to
manage the website!"*

*"We invite you to
become a Member or
Friend of Intermed."*

“Intermed started with a class of only three.”

“Total registrations have now passed the 300 mark!”

With the new registrations for 2012 now rolling in, total registrations have now passed the 300 mark!

If we combine those who attended the initial prototype summer school at Flinders University between 1985-94, the two programmes developed with YWAM in the USA and the UK, the ones conducted in Brazil and Taiwan, and the undergraduate Global Health programme initially developed from **Intermed** by Owen Lewis, about a thousand health professionals on five continents have now participated in one or other of the programmes!

INTERMED started with a class of only three (3) in 1997 giving us cause to wonder whether we had been hearing God aright, but after a one year break we set out once more and have averaged 20-25 participants for the past ten years, with last year's Summer School being the largest (28) for some time.

Participants have come from all parts of the globe (well not quite, no one from Antarctica yet!) and this year there are two Indonesian health workers coming.

Apart from the handful, more or less, each year from across the Tasman, folk have come from countries as diverse as Canada, the USA, PNG, Ecuador, the Philippines, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the UK, Norway, Zambia, Kenya and Nigeria and have gone out to many, many more.

While many from abroad are seeking a refresher course relevant to their work in countries abroad, most are seeking preparation and training for a new venture in response to God's call on their lives. Several have come from non- less resourced countries and we have welcomed nationals from the Philippines, Fiji, Korea, Singapore and now Indonesia. Such a diversity of backgrounds of health professions - over ten - and years of experience – from nil to over 20 - makes for exciting classes.

The Course has developed and adapted to keep up-to date with student expectations. Since we introduced the option of doing the Course for Credit, that is, doing a formal assessment, more and more have taken up this offer and gained credit points in over half a dozen universities and colleges towards degrees and diplomas. No one applying for such credit has been refused.

Adelaide is awash with health professionals with a lot of developing, Third World or less resourced country experience. The politically correct term seems to change from time to time. There must be few courses where eight of the teachers are of professorial standing.

An early development was the addition of the fourth week to the basic 3-week programme and then some years ago, in response to participant request, we added a 2-3 week practicum component to East Timor, Indonesia or Vanuatu. This year the Intermed Practicum went to East Timor for 2 weeks. The team consisted of 10 members. The leadership included the regulars - Dr Sace Buma and Dr Sneha Kirubakaran.

We are now exploring the possibility of the Course being incorporated into Tabor's formal academic programme to enable those who wish to extend their learning into a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma.

For those of you just joining us,

WELCOME TO INTERMED 2012

Anthony Radford, Emeritus Professor, Course Founder



Practicum Report- Team Leader Kate Boon, RN/RM

It was my first time leading a team but my third practicum. It was great to be under Sneha's wing in learning the intricacies of the pre organising, to the running of the practicum once we were in Timor. It was a wonderful experience and one that I was very grateful to have.

First time practicum members were Tibor, a doctor from SA, Cassie, an Enrolled Nurse from country NSW, Carly, an OT from Qld, Jeanette, an RN from NSW, and Tina, an RN from NSW. Repeat Practicum participants were Lorraine, an RN from northern Qld and Annette, an RN from Wagga.

The practicum took place in two locations in East Timor, Hera – a ¾ hour drive out of Dili, located on the north coast – and Weberek, a 7-8 hour drive from Dili located near the South Coast.

In Hera our hosts were Nurse Branca, Soraya & Carol (both long term Brazilian Missionaries) and Carol (Kiwi Missionary). In Weberek our host was Anne, a Norwegian nurse working with YWAM. Anne had also attended Intermed Summer School.

It was great to have Sace and Sneha giving us teaching on the first day in East Timor. The teaching really gave us a good grounding for the time we were there. The teaching included basic assessment skills, how to structure your consultation, abdominal palpations and listening to chest sounds. It was great to be reminded of these things prior to starting our clinics.

One of the memorable lessons was about how it is God's work we are doing there and whatever we do, God will use us and work through us, despite us! It helped to take the pressure off when consulting – that we just need to be obedient and open to God's wisdom.

We specifically had arranged to have the village health assessment early in the practicum. This was so that we were able to get to know the people in the community prior to starting the clinic. From the Community assessment we could hypothesise on health problems we were likely to encounter.

The clinics were a great way to learn how to diagnose and treat a health problem. The main complaints we saw in Timor were respiratory and musculoskeletal problems. We also saw cases of Malaria and TB. Twice in the second week we opportunistically had suturing to attend to.

Another part of the Practicum is to experience Government Hospitals as well as Non-Government Organisations, and to gain a cross-cultural understanding.

“The teaching really gave us a good grounding for the time we were there.”

“They're showing his love in practical ways...”

“We are now exploring... into a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma.”

“Through the practicum we were able to gain an understanding of what it looks like to be a fulltime Missionary”

Intermed SA

PO Box 36
Crafers,
South Australia
5152
Australia

PHONE:
61 0408 679 347

E-MAIL:
intermed@adam.
com.au

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.intermed.org.au

We visited Dr Dan's clinic, which is always a place of encouragement and wonder! How one man runs that place is incredible. We were also able to visit the Alola foundation that runs support programs for the women and children of Timor.

The last NGO in Timor we visited was the hospital for malnourished babies in the western end of Dili, "Hiam Health". This was a valuable experience as the team got to see and examine severely malnourished infants, and understand first-hand some of the issues that contribute to the problem of malnutrition in rural East Timor.

A visit to the museum of East Timor's recent history and independence struggle "Chega!" is also a must do when in Dili. This was a very moving experience, and well worth doing as it provided a good background for understanding the current plight and issues facing the East Timorese.

In the second week we had made a 4wd trek over the mountains to Weberek. This was such a wonderful experience for us all. It took approximately 8 hours to travel 250kms! This was such a fabulous way to see the country.

We spent 3 days in Weberek with Anne Berit and consulted at her clinics. Personally my favourite clinic was one where we turned up unannounced and with the help of our interpreters told the village elder we were nurses and doctors and would they like to bring us their sick?

There was a welcomed response and they quickly set about getting chairs and tables for us to use. It was a good time spent with the villagers where we were able to play with their beautiful children and have a laugh.

Anne, Branca, Soraya and Carol are all inspiring women that are doing wonderful work through Christ. They're showing his love in practical ways, from teaching the disabled, to enabling a community to have clean water and toilets, to running bible studies and building up leaders in their church.

Through the practicum we were able to gain an understanding of what it looks like to be a fulltime Missionary – not just running health clinics, but getting involved in the community and encouraging them in their faith.

The Intermed Practicum is a great way to get your feet wet and find out where God will have YOU serve!

About Our Organization...

Intermed is a Summer Intensive in International Health and Development, for Christian healthcare professionals who wish to work in the developing world.

Intermed is unique in Australasia, as it provides training in tropical medicine with

practical tools and development theory in order to equip health professionals for the developing world.

Intermed prides itself on its quality of teaching and breadth of education, as well as the strong community focus and relationships formed during the course.