

# Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Paul & Helen Douglas Visit – Sunday 21 September



Firstly, spend time reading the article 'Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century', (the Briefing, September 2008, Issue 360). It will take a little while, but it's worth it – it will raise issues about world-wide mission that you may not have thought about before. You could read it as a big group, or read it by yourselves. After reading the article, discuss in the group the following questions:

- i) Did the explanation of how overseas mission works today, surprise you in any way?
- li) What were one or two big points you got out of reading the article?

The article poses changes and challenges for 'world-mission'. But then the natural question for us is, 'What can I do about it?' Paul's letter to the Philippians gives us some direction on this issue. And it all has to do with a key word, 'partnership'. In English versions of the bible, the greek word 'koinonia' is translated 'fellowship' or 'partnership' or 'sharing'.

We won't read all of the letter now, but read the following sections from Philippians and note how many times the words for 'partnership' appears.

**Philippians 1:1-11**

**Philippians 2:1-4**

**Philippians 4:10-19**

1. How can we be partners with Christians who are living in different parts of the world to us?  
1v5,7, 2v1
2. What stops us thinking of other Christians leading different lives and doing different things eg. overseas missionaries, as partners with us?
3. From these passages, how would you say 'partnership in the gospel' can be expressed to overseas missionaries ?
4. For Australian Christians to properly partner overseas missionaries, what do we require from them?

Paul & Helen Douglas and their children will be at Freshchurch this coming Sunday, 21 September. They will be talking about their experience in China. The Douglas' are sponsored by Church Missionary Society (CMS). Amongst many things, Paul's role includes using his medial training.