

Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Partnership



**PARTNERSHIP AND
CO-RESPONSIBILITY FOR
MISSION**

Table of Contents

Responsibility for Mission	1
Foreword	2-3
Partnership and Co-Responsibility for Good Shepherd Mission	4
Good Shepherd Mission in Asia Pacific	5
Reflection on Mission in Asia Pacific	6
The Story So Far	7
Guiding Principles for Partnership and Co-Responsibility	8-9
Partnership Theme	10
Co-Responsibility for Mission	11
Reflection on Co-responsibility for Mission	12
Congregational Statements	13
2003	13
2009	14
2015	15
Partnership from the Beginning	16
Where are you in the call to Partnership & Co-responsibility now?	17

'Co-responsibility for Mission'



Painting commissioned by Good Shepherd
Australia New Zealand in May 2010
from the artist Sabine Amos

The core of the painting is a rich vibrant spiral representing the essence of who we are in Good Shepherd. The core is about our spirituality, philosophy, values, ethos, spirit and passion for mission. We emanate from this central spiral to live mission and we return to the rich center.

The spirals coming forth from the core are an expression representing each of us doing our own part in mission, as individuals or agency groups. We are immersed in our various parts of Good Shepherd Mission, but all have the same focus and purpose and are co-responsible for the Mission.

We are co-inspirators of Mission.

The multiple colors and design represent the different expressions of living mission.

Foreword

We welcome everyone to the session on Formation and Partnership at the Asia Pacific Formators Session 2015. This is a significant milestone in the development of partnership for mission in Asia Pacific as we recognise the importance of joint formation for sisters and lay partners into Good Shepherd Mission.

We acknowledge that *"our experience of Good Shepherd draws us together; the strength of our partnership propels us out for mission."* We are therefore parts of the same body, complementing each other with our gifts and talents, enriching and encouraging each other forward in mission.

This booklet is about the Asia Pacific partnership for mission story. Each section is interspersed with questions for reflection to help us in our discernment and planning process.

It begins with mapping significant milestones in our collective journey and the Guiding Principles of Partnership and Co-responsibility. We are inspired by the wisdom of our founders, St John Eudes and St Mary Euphrasia, who collaborated with lay partners during their time. We are led by the Congregational Direction Statements of 2003 and 2009 which encouraged the development of partnership between sisters and lay.

The recently concluded 2015 Congregational Chapter enlarged the definition of Mission Partners to encompass both lay and sisters.

The Direction Statement called Mission Partners to risk together to address global issues and the most pressing needs of today.

The Chapter underscored the urgency of developing mission partnership by issuing a directive to the Leadership Team to establish an international working group to pursue the full engagement of partners.

This Formation and Partnership session is therefore very timely and appropriate. It paves the way for further collaboration between the Asia Pacific Formators Core Team and the Partnership Core Team. We envisage our collective discernment to result in a formation module for the development of Mission Partners in Asia Pacific and beyond.

One in partnership

**THIS BOOKLET WAS PREPARED BY THE GOOD SHEPHERD
ASIA PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP CORE TEAM:**

- ❖ Sr. Noelene White
- ❖ Ms Theresa Symons
- ❖ Sr. Rasangi Fernando
- ❖ Ms Gendrie Klein-Breteler
 - ❖ Sr. Kevin Yin
- ❖ Mrs Sashirekha Natarajan

July 2015

PARTNERSHIP AND CO-RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION

A recommendation of the Good Shepherd International Congregation's Chapter Meeting (in 2003) encouraged us to explore new partnerships for mission within our regions and networks.

An increasing number of lay people are identifying with the mission of Good Shepherd. This attraction to Good Shepherd Mission is experienced and embraced by both Catholics and those of other traditions and beliefs.

Good Shepherd Mission needs to be constantly given new meaning for the culture that exists in any particular time and place. There is a growing recognition among the Good Shepherd Sisters of the important role of lay people who are called to be co-responsible for the Mission. Lay leadership, in partnership with the Sisters, now has a vital role in the interpretation and living of Good Shepherd Mission in today's world.

“On our part, we need to take the initiative to weave a more co-ordinated approach so as ‘to see a future in which the Good Shepherd charism that we share will continue to develop new forms of services.’”

(COR Commission Statement - International Good Shepherd
Congregational Chapter 2003)

GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION IN ASIA PACIFIC

Where we work:

- ❖ Australia-Aotearoa/New Zealand
- ❖ Central East India-Nepal
- ❖ East Asia: Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia
- ❖ Indonesia
- ❖ Japan
- ❖ North East Asia: South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan
- ❖ Philippines
- ❖ Singapore-Malaysia
- ❖ South-West India
- ❖ Sri Lanka - Pakistan



For information on our Mission in
Asia Pacific please visit:
www.goodshepherd-asiapacific.org.au/



For information on the
Development of Partnership in Asia Pacific please visit:
www.goodshepherd-asiapacific.org.au/project/117

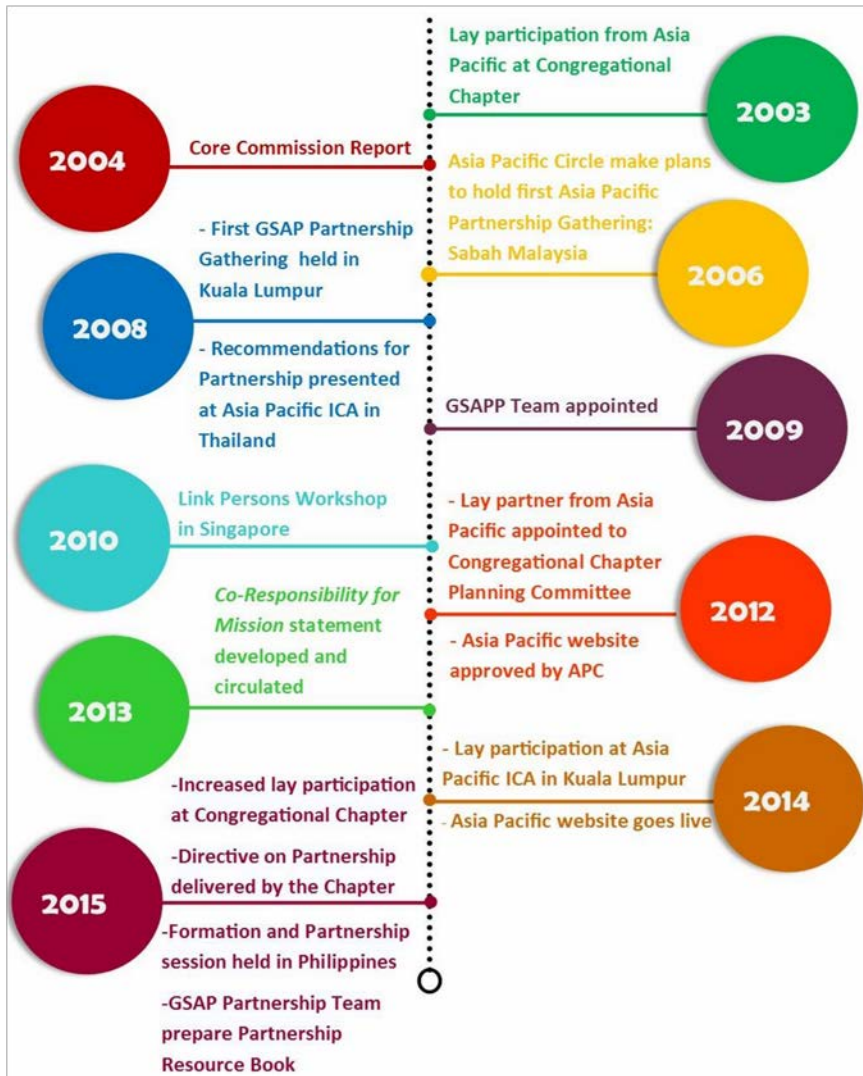
Reflection on Mission in Asia Pacific:

- ❖ What is the main focus of mission in each of the 10 Units/Provinces?
 - ❖ What are the links between what is happening in your Unit and other Units in Asia Pacific?
 - ❖ What are the opportunities for further interaction between Units within Asia Pacific?
-



The story so far: "A Journey to Partnership"

The timeline shows the key steps taken by Mission Partners, in the development of Partnership for Mission in Asia Pacific Region since 2003



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PARTNERSHIP AND CO-RESPONSIBILITY

Partnership and co-responsibility includes both Good Shepherd Sisters and Lay people - together, known as Mission Partners. The focus of partnership and co-responsibility is the development of Good Shepherd Mission.

*Effective Partnerships operate with Equality,
Collegiality and Shared Responsibility.*

Quotes to aid reflection:

"How happy are we, who are co-workers with Christ in his Mission of love and friendship for each person."

Mary Euphrasia

"The pathways for partnership that will 'propel us out for mission'require direction setting, strategic planning, resource allocation, personnel development, on-going formation programs and regular reviews."

Sr Susan Chia: First Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Partnership
Gathering -Kuala Lumpur 2008

Co-responsibility in action means that more people are thinking about issues, worrying about problems, finding solutions, sharing ideas, participating in decision making together. And new pathways for the Mission will be created."

Sr Pam Molony: Link Persons for Partnership Workshop 2011

"We welcome volunteers and staff at Good Shepherd who will share responsibility for continuing the mission and for passing it onto the next generation.

Mary Euphrasia and the sisters who started Good Shepherd, those who followed and those who now work in 73 countries around the world, have shown us over the decades how to be and who to become."

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand Credo 2014

Reflection:

Can you see co-responsibility for mission in action in your workplace? If not, how can things get started?



"Do this work. Do what seems best and get things started"

-Mary Euphrasia

PARTNERSHIP THEME

“Our experience of Good Shepherd draws us together. The strength of our partnership propels us out for mission.

In partnership we identify with Good Shepherd Spirit from whichever place we come and we recognise it in each other.

The strength of our partnership lies in equality and inclusiveness in our relationships. Partnership enriches us personally and communally.”

(Good Shepherd Asia Pacific Partnership Gathering - Kuala Lumpur 2008)

Reflection:

- ❖ What do we mean when we say ‘we recognise the Good Shepherd spirit in each other’?
- ❖ How are equality and inclusiveness experienced in your workplace?
- ❖ What highlights do you have of your experience of working in partnership for mission?

CO-RESPONSIBILITY FOR MISSION

*Mission Partners (sisters and lay people)
accept responsibility together for effective
and sustainable Good Shepherd Mission into
the future.*

Together we work towards:

- ❖ Ensuring that the Good Shepherd charism, values and heritage remain at the heart of mission.
- ❖ Designing governance structures and systems to enable participation at all levels of mission.
- ❖ Developing formation, education and leadership programmes which equip people to work in a partnership model for mission.

(GSAPP TEAM STRATEGIC PLAN 2012)



Reflection on Co-Responsibility for Mission:



- ❖ How do your current Formation /leadership /orientation programs build co-responsibility for our Mission?
- ❖ What are the key ingredients required in a program to develop the co-responsibility model?
- ❖ What opportunities for leadership development for mission are available for Mission Partners in your Unit?

CONGREGATIONAL STATEMENTS

2003

Life-bearers with and for the poor of our world...



- ❖ Recognize that the laity who live the Good Shepherd charism are a gift for the Congregation, the Church and the world. In partnership with them, find new paths; with reciprocal confidence find the means to share information and mutually enrich each other.

General Chapter Direction Statement 2003

- ❖ We have made progress in this area but feel that we need to continue to strengthen relationships and communion, i.e. to create networks, associations and more prophetic ministries. This commitment to share our mission with the laity allows us to see a future in which the Good Shepherd charism that we share will continue to develop new forms of service.

Core Commission Document 2004

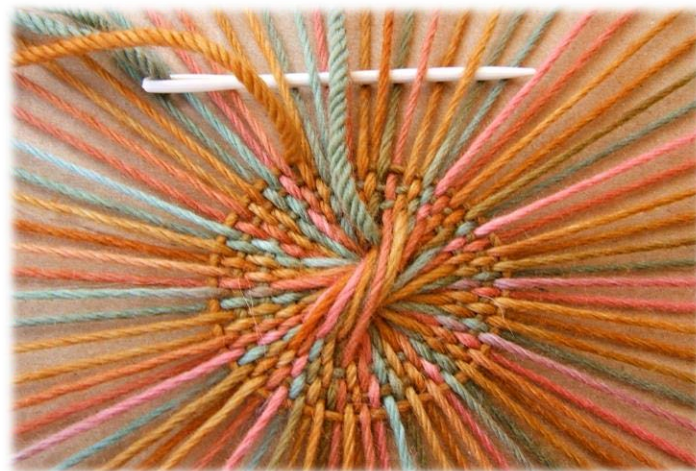


2009

- ✦ Sr. Sabina Pathrose, 2009 CLT Member, in her report "Threads of Good Shepherd Partnership", quoted Pope Benedict:

The Laity must no longer be viewed as 'collaborators' but truly recognized as "co-responsible" for the church's being and action."

- ✦ Sisters and lay partners are co-responsible for the development of Good Shepherd Mission.





2015

For the first time, the Chapter was attended by nine lay partners for two weeks. Their passion for mission enriched and called the delegates to deeper fidelity.

The Congregational Chapter enlarged the definition of mission partners to encompass both lay and sisters. The Direction Statement called for mission partners to risk together to address global issues and the most pressing needs of today.

A directive was issued to the Leadership Team to establish an international working group to pursue the full engagement of partners.

Reflection:

- ✦ What are these Congregational statements asking us to consider and act upon?
- ✦ How are we living out these statements in our Units/provinces?

Partnership from the beginning

Lay partners were involved from the beginning

There were significant partners in:

- ❖ the founding vision
- ❖ the growth of the mission in Angers and then internationally,
- ❖ the development of the Generalate

Saint John Eudes and Madame Lamy

Madame Lamy worked with John Eudes, as a supporter of the work with women in prostitution.

Initially she cared for them in her own home. She then challenged him to do more to address the needs of these women.

This led to the establishment of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge.

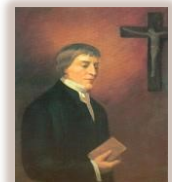
Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

From the very beginning Mary Euphrasia worked in partnership for Mission.

With the support of partners she began by setting up a refuge for girls in an old cotton factory in Angers and spread the work internationally.

She creatively established various levels of partnership to support our mission at that time.

Count Augustine de Neuville and Countess Genevieve D'Andigne were instrumental in the growth of Good Shepherd through their financial support, their friendship, their wisdom and commitment to the vision of Mary Euphrasia.



Where are you in the call to Partnership and Co-Responsibility now?

Some prompts for personal reflection and/or group discussion:-

The Past

- ✦ How did Mary Euphrasia develop partnership and co-responsibility for mission in her time? What did these partnerships achieve? Why was this important to her?

The Present

- ✦ What is your understanding of co-responsibility for mission?
- ✦ How do you implement co-responsibility for mission today? Why do you do this?
- ✦ Who is in partnership and co-responsibility with you in the mission?

The Future

- ✦ How can you develop partnership and co-responsibility for mission in your current Good Shepherd environment?
- ✦ What would help you expand co-responsibility in your area?
- ✦ What resources would help you educate/develop mission partners (lay and Sisters), to understand and participate in Good Shepherd co-responsibility for mission?
- ✦ How do we acknowledge that whilst there is a common identity with the mission, the different lifestyles of mission partners (religious and lay life) need to be considered within the expectations of the co-responsibility model?



Asia Pacific Link Persons Workshop 2010

**GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION
PARTNERS ARE CO-RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE MISSION
2015**