

Nambawan!

Global Mission's Vanuatu Newsletter



GlobalMission
Vanuatu

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Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu Mission Consultation

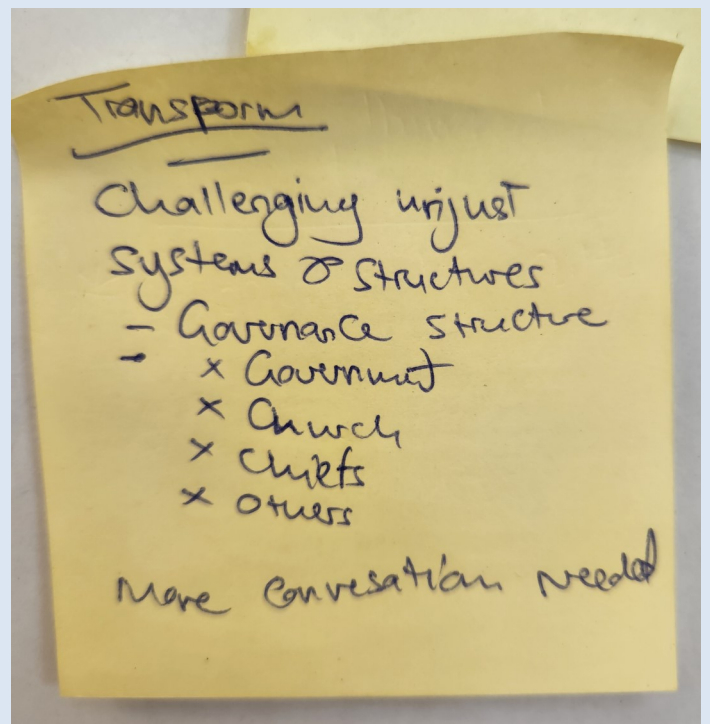
The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu recently held a four-day mission consultation in Port Vila entitled Re-envisioning Mission. This was led by the Council for World Mission (CWM) and was part of a process of developing a Capacity Development Plan, a step the PCV needed to take now that they are members of the CWM. The development plan is intended to serve as a guide for their mission focus over the next few years. Membership in CWM will benefit the PCV in multiple ways including the support of leadership development, women's and youth empowerment, and academic scholarships, to name a few. Global Mission Director Phil King was invited to attend the consultation in recognition of the PCANZ's multi-faceted partnership with the PCV. In the photo above, participants gather outside Paton Memorial Church in Port Vila for a group photo. Read more inside ...

PCV Mission Consultation

The mission consultation involved leaders from eleven presbyteries from throughout Vanuatu with a healthy balance of men, women and youth leaders. They wrestled with questions like “What are the biggest challenges facing Vanuatu today?” and “What issues should the church be addressing?” Several recurring mission challenges were identified, including

- Land disputes, injustice, domestic violence, broken homes, and related social pressures
- Youth challenges, including drugs, peer pressure, unemployment, low confidence, and weak links between ministries.
- Cultural pressures, including the need to preserve language and identity while responding to modern issues.
- Communication, transport, and accessibility barriers that make visitation and ministry difficult.

Participants reported several important learnings from the workshop. These included a deeper understanding that mission belongs to God, that creation reflects God’s order and purpose, and that Christian mission must be holistic and transformational.



Revisoning Education – Mission and Ministry with Children

In May the PCANZ hosted a programme for children’s educators and ministry leaders from Council for World Mission (CWM) member churches around the world. Entitled “Revisoning Education – Mission and Ministry with Children,” their programme included learning about models of childrens ministry including Messy Church and Godly play, and they also had a full day hosted at Saint Kentigern Schools and College. This was followed by a few days at Te Maungarongo marae in Ohope before concluding their programme back in Auckland. Global Mission Director Phil King said, “I’m grateful for the ministry exposure and hospitality offered by so many of our PCANZ congregations and members throughout this programme, helping to resource partner churches in their ministry.” Participants included the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu’s Christian Education director, Albea Nalisa, pictured with the group on their visit to Saint Kentigern Boys and Girls Schools.



Chaplains Training Programme Plans, Eton Village

Global Mission will support a chaplains training programme in Vanuatu in August following an inaugural programme in 2024. The first event was well received and we have been asked to return and build on what was achieved two years ago. Revs Paula Levy, Geoff Skilton, Steve Millward and David Jackson will comprise the PCANZ team, which we hope will be complemented by input from local chaplains, school principals and ministry leaders. Preparations are underway and we look forward to successful outcomes as we partner with the PCV in helping to equip and support their ministries. This will take place at Eton village on Efate island. Members of the organising team at the Eton church are pictured, left, with photos of Eton, a typical village in Vanuatu, below.



Bislama Lessons— If you’re visiting Vanuatu it’s good to try speaking some Bislama:

Olsem wanem? - How are you?

Nem blong mi ... - My name is ...

Tank yu tumas - Thank you very much

Lukim yu bakagen - See you later

Mi lanem plante samting - I have learned a lot

Hamas pem dis? - How much does this cost?

Funding Research Project

In early June a two-person team of Global Mission volunteers met with Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu leaders to discern options for distributing a fund of \$90,000 received from Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand after their dissolution in 2023. Nicola Young and Rebecca Dudley met with PCV womens ministry (PWMU), PCV Health and other leaders to assess the best options for the use of this fund. Final decisions are yet to be made but projects being recommended for funding will focus on supporting leadership training for women and promoting dental care for children. We thank Rebecca and Nicola for their commitment to this project and for their respectful and professional approach to their task.



Above: Rebecca and Nicola with PCV Health staff Morinda Kalmar and Serafina Alasia.

Left: Observing a dental care programme at Vila Central primary school.

Below: Rebecca learns about PCV Health's dental care programme in schools.





Above and Left: Nicola with Elder Jara Bani, director of Korvan Community Health School; Morinda Kalmar demonstrating tooth care at Vila Central School.

Below: Rebecca and Nicola at the bustling Mama's market in Port Vila, always a colourful place to buy fresh, healthy produce and meet local people.



PCV Health has an eyecare outreach. Staff member Dick's t-shirt shares a message about why eyecare is so important.



Gray Memorial Chapel Project, Onesua College

For years the chapel at Onesua Presbyterian College has been in need of repairs. The college's chapel committee initially considered refurbishing the existing chapel but are currently working on a plan to build a new one that would also function as a safe space for the community during cyclones. They have agreed to name the chapel the Gray Memorial Chapel honouring the founding principal Ian Gray, his wife Lesley, and daughter Shirley who died while the Grays were serving at Onesua. The plans are in their early stages but if anyone would like to make a contribution towards this project, donations will be welcomed.

Phil King with members of the Onesua College Chapel Committee.





Port Vila's Earthquake Recovery Progress

The impact of December 2024's devastating earthquake is still very evident in Port Vila. Many buildings in the CBD have been demolished with others still awaiting their fate. Some are being repaired but it is a long and slow process. People are getting on with life as best they can but it will be long time before Port Vila is back to its best. In the evening it's a good idea to look out to sea as the sunset will invariably fill the sky with a riot of colour as you give thanks for the day that has been, and look forward to what tomorrow will bring.



What's Coming Up Next in our Partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu?

Saint Kentigern Schools and College Service Programmes in Vanuatu Continue in 2026

Saint Kentigern Schools and College will continue with their service programmes supporting education in Vanuatu this year. In July a group of college students will be visiting Onesua Presbyterian College. They will sleep in nearby accommodation and share in a varied programme of activities with College students for a week. In September teams from the boys and girls schools, with teachers and parents, will return to work on projects at PCV primary schools near Port Vila. These service programmes are very popular with the Saint Kentigern community, and are greatly appreciated in Vanuatu.



PCV General Assembly on Epi Island in July

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu will take place on Epi Island in July this year. Epi is in the Shepherd Islands group, north of Efate and south of Malekula and Ambrym—see left. A team of four will be attending from the PCANZ – Moderator the Right Rev. Peter Dunn with his wife Helen, Global Mission volunteer Neville Jones, and Global Mission Director Phil King.

Recognised Seasonal Employment (RSE) Conversations

Many congregations around the country welcome RSE workers into their midst for several months each year. Members of these congregations have often wondered how they could strengthen their hospitality and connections with these temporary visitors to NZ, many of whom stay for months at a time, and sometimes return year after year. Similarly, the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu has long been pondering how they can ensure pastoral care and support for the thousands of RSE workers who come here. This is an area of work we hope to keep developing. A Methodist congregation in the Bay of Plenty has led the way and employed a pastoral worker to the RSE community. The story of how this came about and its impact can be read in this article, [Church in the Orchards](https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/gmo/Church%20in%20the%20Orchards.pdf) or on the Global Mission website <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/gmo/Church%20in%20the%20Orchards.pdf>



Wanaka Team Visit to Talua

A team from Wanaka Presbyterian is hoping to return to Talua Theological training Institute on Santo Island later this year. They first visited two years ago and have plans to build on the relationships that began during their first visit. These are some photos of their programme in the Talua community from their visit in 2024.



CWM Pacific Regional Secretary Rev. Amelia Koh-Butler demonstrates the power of storytelling at the recent mission consultation with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu in Port Vila.



Vanuatu snapshots: Above, a common sight. Right, Vanuatu is Football World Cup crazy right now with flags being flown everywhere. This household is proudly supporting Portugal. Below, typical road travel around Efate, and two young boys trying a spot of fishing at sunset in Port Vila harbour



Thank you to everyone who financially supports our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Donations are always welcome and allow us to achieve more. Online donations can be made to 02 0500 0086963 10. If making a new donation please send an email with contact details for receipts to katrina@presbyterian.org.nz

Nambawan! is dedicated to the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand's partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. "Nambawan" is Bislama (one of the three official languages of Vanuatu) and means "Number One" or as we might say today, "Awesome!" If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or would prefer email, please advise by return mail to Global Mission, P.O. Box 9049 Wellington 6141, or email Phil King at phil@presbyterian.org.nz.