



August 2021

Before



After



### Tata Presbyterian School Rebuild

Tata Presbyterian School on Santo Island is undertaking an extensive rebuilding programme as a result of damage caused by Cyclone Harold in 2020. Global Mission has contributed funds for this, and this is also being supported by the Village Church in Christchurch. The first staff house has been repaired, with these before and after photos telling the story. This programme is ongoing, with donations welcomed if other congregations or individuals would like to support it.

Read inside about other news in our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, including more cyclone rebuilding projects and the sad loss of key figures, past and present, in the history of the mission partnership between our two churches.



## Season of Loss

It has been a season of loss among those who have served in our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. After reporting the loss of Pastor Fiama Rakau in the last issue, these pages share news of the latest losses.

**The Rev Neal Whimp** died on April 27 in Tauranga. Neal was a key figure in mission with the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) in the 1970's. He is remembered with great respect there. A letter of condolence giving appreciation for Neal's ministry was received from the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu — see the comments below.

Neal served as the last ex-patriate General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides and concluded his term in Vanuatu as the country embraced independence. He remained a faithful and prayerful supporter of Vanuatu long after his return to New Zealand. Global Mission has extended condolences to Neal's widow Jill and her family.

*"We remember and value the critical time the Rev. Neal Whimp served throughout the 1970's as the country was moving towards the 1980 Independence. He was serious in what he believed was right for the people of the New Hebrides at the time. As such, he played a big role in helping the country with education and leadership development that took place during that transition, and we share with you that he was proud of being part of the initial preparation of the birth of the Republic of Vanuatu. He was still supportive even after the Independence and we recall a time when he ran a short course at Talua for the pastors already in the fields. He remained a devoted supporter in providing wisdom, knowledge and insight to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu in his retirement. He will be sadly missed by all of us and so we share with you our deepest sympathy." - **Pastor Nippy Aiong, Acting Clerk***

And the **Rev. John Patrick** also died in April. He was the founding principal of Ulei Secondary School on Efate and is still fondly remembered. The photo on the right shows John at the official opening of the school in 1962.

The members of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu hold great respect for the missionaries who served among them, and memorial services were held for the Rev. Neal Whimp, and the Rev. John Patrick. Members of North Efate Presbytery are pictured at the memorial service for John Patrick, below. We thank them for their thoughtfulness and for sharing this photo with us.





## We Pay Tribute to the Life and Service of PCV General Secretary Pastor Allen Nafuki

It was with great sadness that Global Mission received the news from Vanuatu that the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, Pastor Allen Nafuki, died on Sunday, June 13th in Port Vila. His funeral service was held on Monday June 14th, before his body was flown to his home island of Erromango for burial. He was a great leader and will be deeply missed.

Pacific Conference of Churches General Secretary James Bhagwan said this of him:

“In Vanuatu and throughout the region, he was a fearless and outspoken advocate for self-determination. The freedom of West Papua, Kanaky (New Caledonia) and Maohi (Tahiti) were close to his heart and he spoke passionately on these issues at every opportunity. Also of concern to Pastor Nafuki was reparation for the victims of nuclear testing in Maohi, Kiribati and the Northern Pacific. While he has not lived to see the completion of this important regional work, Pastor Nafuki leaves us with a legacy. We are called to continue to work zealously for the needs of others in order to show a practical love for God, neighbour and creation. His lifelong commitment to Vanuatu and God's Pacific household is a lesson to us all.

On the issue of violence against women and children, Pastor Nafuki was unequivocal and called it out as a sin. He was fearless in this regard and challenged male leaders in the church to stand for the rights of women and children. We will remember him as a humble servant of God, dignified and respectful towards all, with a wonderful sense of humour. Our sincere condolences go to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu and Pastor Allen's family. ”

On behalf of the PCANZ, our Moderator Rt. Rev. Fakaofu Kaio sent condolences to the family of Pastor Allen, and the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

Pastor Allen Nafuki with Moderator Rev. Richard Dawson at the PCANZ General Assembly in Dunedin, 2016



Pastor Allen with Neville and Gloria Jones, PCV Moderator Katorongo Ova and Rose Ova at the PCV Assembly in 2015



Pastor Allen with PCANZ Moderator Rev. Fakaofu and Mrs. Ruth Kaio in Vanuatu, 2019, below right; and Pastor Peter Namuli wearing a shirt paying tribute to Pastor Allen



PCANZ members donated generously for the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu's recovery programme after Cyclone Harold last year. The nature of the environment, and communication and logistical challenges have made this a long and slow process. We recently received this report from Edward Lui giving an update on the progress of Laurua Presbytery on Santo island. See some photos on the next page.

## Laurua Santo Presbytery Recovery Report Number 2

### Introduction

This report will cover the second fund for the church building. The fund was sent for three buildings within Laurua Santo Presbytery. These sessions were Harua (Penmol pastor's house) Langelau (Wailapa church building) and Tawearu Session (Linduri church building).

### Harua Session (Penmol Village/Lovenu)

Harua session is located in the southwest of Santo within Laurua Santo Presbytery. The recovery fund that was used in this session went towards the pastor's house. They are building a permanent house for their pastor after the cyclone and requested iron roofing. The clerk of the Presbytery handed over the iron roofing to the parish. The work is in progress but there are no photographs yet.

### Tawearu Session (Linduri Village)

Tawearu session is located on the western part of Santo, within Laurua Presbytery. As one of the cyclone victims, the church was destroyed during Cyclone Harold. The church committee made a plan to rebuild the church, so the recovery fund helped with the iron roofing. They also planned to build a permanent church house which will be an evacuation centre in cyclone seasons. So we bought the iron roofing and the Presbytery Clerk and others made the delivery.

So far, they raised other funds to help them meet the cost for the materials. They are located far away from Luganville town, so the transportation is quite expensive. The table below shows the cost of the materials and transportation for the recovery.

### Langelau Session (Wailapa Village)

Langelau Session is in the southern part of Santo and the fund was used to buy hardboard, strapping and nails for the church building. This work is still in progress.

Expenditure (in Vatu)					
Churches	Session	Materials	Cost	Transport	Total
Wailapa	Langelau	Masonite	49,775	6,000	55,775
Penmol	Harua	Iron roofing	137,700	15,000	152,700
Linduri	Tawearu	Iron roofing	106,596	30,000	136,596
Totals:			294,071	51,000	345,071

### Challenges

A major challenge in reporting is to give feedback on the developments funded. The materials that were distributed take time for the sessions and in particular the congregations to work on them, since the fund just covers some of the materials and the rest is for the congregation to work on. Some churches have plans to build permanent buildings once the recovery work is completed but this will take even more time.

I want to thank the sponsors for the great support and contributions made to support the church in Laurua Presbytery.

Edward Lui, Laurua Presbytery



A photograph showing two men in a small, blue and white motorboat on the open ocean. The man on the left is wearing a light blue t-shirt and dark shorts, sitting cross-legged. The man on the right is wearing a green t-shirt, a yellow cap, and dark shorts, also sitting cross-legged. The boat is filled with various supplies, including yellow and white plastic jerrycans, a blue bag, and other gear. A wooden plank is laid across the boat's floor. The background features a large, steep, green mountain under a clear blue sky. The boat's wake is visible in the water.



A photograph of a church building with a damaged roof and a blue cross on its white facade. The church has a white upper section and a red lower section. The roof is partially collapsed, showing the wooden framework. A small bell tower is visible on the left. In the foreground, there is a wooden signpost and some greenery.





### News From Talua Theological Training Institute

Talua Principal Pastor Philip Baniuri recently sent a message with news of the College, which reopened in May after being closed for more than a year as they rebuilt after the damage caused by Cyclone Harold in April 2020. He said:

“We are all well and went through the term at Talua after re-opening on May 16. We ended the twelve-week term yesterday, our closing worship is tomorrow and then students will be going for their three weeks break while staff and some final year students travel to the PCV General Assembly on Efate. The major recovery works at Talua have been completed, however there are many minor works still to be done and Jenery (Talua’s resident builder) is slowly working on them - for instance furniture, some bush kitchens, shutters etc.

One sad thing we went through when the school re-opened was the absence of 15 students and 2 staff members. Most of the students who did not come back found other schools to go to while others found work in the Government and private companies. Our Academic Dean Pastor Shem Tamara was accepted as RE teacher at the Onesua Presbyterian College so we have appointed Pastor Christopher for the position of Academic Dean. Pastor John Maite was also invited to join us to replace Pastor Shem.”

Pastor Philip said that the upcoming PCV Assembly will see lots of changes in the leadership of the PCV – with the following positions all being decided: Moderator, Assembly Clerk, Secretary of Mission, Evangelism Coordinator, PCVEA Director (Education Authority), Christian Education Director and Talua Theological Training Institute Principal. He asked us to pray for all these important decisions.

Pastor Philip also thanked PCANZ for our support with finances and prayer, and said they look forward to seeing visitors from New Zealand when Vanuatu’s borders reopen.

### Seaside Books

Graeme and Maebry Reid of St. Margaret’s Church in Christchurch have spent about three years collecting books for school libraries in Vanuatu. These will go to Seaside School in Port Vila, where Graeme and Maebry helped establish the library in 2015; and a school on Pentecost Island where they have personal contacts. Pentecost was seriously affected by Cyclone Harold last year. They have spent a lot of time cataloguing the books making them easier to use. The books include fiction, non-fiction, and reference books such as atlases and dictionaries. They also added Bibles, some to be kept in the libraries and some for children who may not have them at home. They will be shipped to Vanuatu in late August. Congratulations to Graeme and Maebry who have persisted with this project despite numerous obstacles. The schools are looking forward to receiving these additions to their libraries.

Maebry Reid with the books ready for shipping to schools on Efate and Pentecost Islands in Vanuatu.



New Seaside school Principal Sophie Wilson (pictured with Phil King in 2019) is looking forward to receiving more books for their library.



**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](mailto:phil@presbyterian.org.nz).