

Nambawan!

Global
Mission's
Vanuatu
newsletter



Pacific Vision
Vanuatu

Edition 5

September 2017



Global mission Coordinator Phil King is pictured here with Bush Santo Bush Mission team members at the recent Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu General Assembly at Tasiriki Village, on the Island of Espiritu Santo. Bush Missioners are trained and equipped to serve in villages in the remote areas of Santo and other islands.

This is the fifth edition of Nambawan! – Global Mission's newsletter dedicated to our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV). It has been another very full year in the partnership between PCANZ and the PCV. We have four personnel serving for the full year in Vanuatu, two of whom are in their third year. The newsletter includes articles from them as well as bringing you up to date with other news. We have had a host of church teams and individuals working on short term projects. On one of the most recent team visits, PCANZ Moderator Rev. Richard Dawson spent some time with a small work party on a renovation project, while also meeting Vanuatu's new president, who is a Presbyterian minister and former Moderator of the PCV. See more inside.

Presbyterian Minister Elected President of Vanuatu



From left to right: Rev. Dr. Steve Taylor, Martyn Vincent, John Speirs, PCANZ Moderator the Right Rev. Richard Dawson, His Excellency President Obed Moses, Global Mission Coordinator Phil King, Simon Niblock.

It's not every day you get to meet the President of an independent nation. But six members of the PCANZ did that just recently when they visited Vanuatu. Former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, Pastor Obed Moses, was elected President in July; and our PCANZ visitors were given afforded a Presidential welcome when they were in Port Vila in August. Now addressed as His Excellency, the local newspaper reported that Pastor Obed was elected due to "his reputation as a man of impeccable moral character." He will most likely be President for a term of five years, after which he said he wants to return to pastoral ministry.



Our Moderator Richard Dawson presented President Moses with a gift on behalf of the PCANZ



Rebuild of the William Gray Church, Tanna Island

Fundraising for the rebuilding of this church (very blue here under their temporary roof) is going well, with \$21,250 raised at the time of writing. Estimates are that another \$15,000 is needed. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu will be held at Waisisi next year, so it will be a source of pride for the community to see their church being rebuilt. This project is being led by Rev. Jaco Reyneke at St. Paul's Papamoa, and is supported by the Kaimai Presbytery. Donations for this can be made to Global Mission 02 0500 0086963 10.

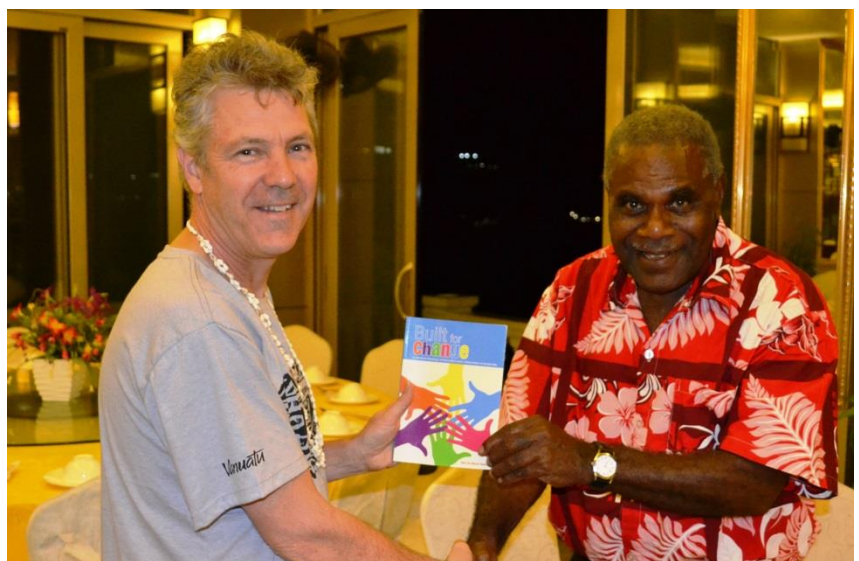
Knox Centre Developing Talua Partnership

KCML is working to further develop the relationship with Talua Theological Training Institute. In February, KCML hosted two lecturers from Talua. Pastor Shem and Pastor Philip provided a tangible reminder to the incoming KCML ministry interns of the partner relationships with churches that the PCANZ enjoys.

In August, Talua hosted Rev. Dr. Steve Taylor, KCML Principal to deliver the 2017 Talua memorial lecture. Steve was asked to speak on the theme of Transforming Leadership to staff, students and student spouses. In order to contextualise the learning, the final lecture was titled Transforming Leadership in Vanuatu and was designed to encourage local agency and group application of the lecture material to local context. For Steve "this was nambawan (the best) lecture. It was a class essentially taught entirely by the Ni-Van students, as they grounded the material in their context."

Over the week, students worked on two case studies – either how to chair a leadership meeting in conflict or how to respond to news that a foreign fishing company wants to work near a local village. (Steve had workshopped his notes and the case studies with Paula Levy). Twelve presentations were made, with each group able to clearly work between Biblical text and local context, and offer clear and practical next steps in leadership. The lecturing staff at Talua gave verbal feedback on each of the group presentations, providing encouragements and suggesting improvements.

Returning to Port Vila, Steve met with Global Mission Coordinator Phil King and PCV General Secretary Pastor Allen Nafuki to discuss further ways the partnership could enhance the theological communities of both Talua and KCML.



Knox Centre Principal Rev. Dr. Steve Taylor presents PCV General Secretary Allen Nafuki with a copy of his recently published book, "Built for Change."



Abi Fern is all smiles at Southwest Bay

Brockville Church Going Global Programme to Southwest Bay, Malekula Island

We left Dunedin on 4 July 2017 - a team of 11 ranging in ages from 10 to 52. We had little experience or knowledge regarding what we may encounter in Malekula, but we knew we would work with Southwest Bay School and the church communities within the surrounding areas. Having first been blessed with advice in Port Vila by Neville and Gloria Jones, we were set to go.

From the moment we landed in Southwest Bay, we were treated with incredible care and acceptance. They did everything they could for us. We got to experience the abundance of energy the Nivan children have – their sporting abilities put our youth to shame - perhaps even challenged them on their perceptions of how fit they were! Our conversations and workshops with the teachers and elders alike were considered a blessing by all involved. There was a longing expressed by the communities to develop an ongoing partnership, and the team were encouraged by the sharing of hearts for God to move in their communities. This, for us, is the start of a partnership that God brought together. Team Vanuatu 2017 (written by Julie Fern).

Wakatipu Presbyterian Church Vanuatu trip 2017

A team of eight people from Wakatipu Presbyterian Church went to Vanuatu to partner with Santo Bush Mission in June and July this year. Minister Carlton Johnstone writes about their trip:



This was an exploratory trip to see the work of Santo Bush Mission and how Wakatipu Church and future teams can support this ministry. Most of our time was spent up in one of the mission stations, Urulu, just below the large village of Morakauri. Here we built relationships, learned some ni-Van cooking, helped making seats for the new church, played with the kids and lived with the rhythms of village life. (Our church raised money before we left to contribute to the rebuilding costs of some pre-schools and school classrooms that had been damaged in one of the cyclones. Cromwell Presbyterian joined us in giving to this cause. It was great to see these classrooms and meet some of the teachers and the important role the literacy ministry plays in the villages. Parents from Holly's pre-school in Arrowtown donated books and toys for us to take.



There were certainly challenges (sleeping conditions, food) as was expected. The team met these with great resolve and maintained enthusiasm throughout our time there. It was challenging and formative for the team, used to full and busy lives back home, learning to simply "be." Many conversations happened simply because we were present and available. The team shared stories of their faith journeying with God, and the ni-Vans shared their stories with us. Paul's words to the Romans reflects our experience when he writes about wanting to see them to

encourage their faith, as well as to be encouraged by them. The generosity and kindness of the people in the villages and the mission workers was a great blessing and encouragement to us. We will be taking back a team next year to develop the partnership further and deepen relationships and friendships.

Using our Gifts in Vanuatu – Gloria Jones

This is our third year working in mission for the PCANZ and the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV). It has been a very busy year for me as I have had three roles:

1. Teacher Aide at a school, working in a class of 35 students.
2. Helping at the Hospital Dental Clinic
3. Running English reading classes after school.

Neville and Gloria Jones have been serving in Vanuatu since 2015. Gloria shares some reflections on their journey

Modern life in Vanuatu is a world apart from today's western society. Vanuatu's rich diversity across the islands is one of its greatest attractions, with its history, languages, culture, customs and ceremonies making it a rich and exciting experience to see and feel. It is a unique experience for any mission teams wanting to help with projects or just to visit. Both Neville and I love hosting and helping these groups who come on their mission trips, and love to hear the stories and the changes in them on their return. I have been able to get to some of these islands on outreaches with dental teams, doing dental work, and helping the communities manage tooth pain and improve their oral health.

It is quite primitive out there, living as the locals do – listening to their stories (stories) and their struggles, eating the local food, no power, no flushing toilets and collecting water each day. We also have to cook the old fashioned way with rods on open fires, and washing at a river by hand, much like my great-grandparents did.

Living with another culture means that it takes time to earn trust, and to be accepted as part of the family. There are always frustrations, such as island time, cyclones, broken stuff, hot weather, wet season, creatures, bugs and barking dogs; this can be overwhelming, challenging, but also rewarding. My highlight this year has been running an after-school reading class. It has been very exciting watching these students progress, gain confidence, develop a love for books, and just wanting to hang out and read. Relying on God for direction and daily needs has been very inspiring and seeing his hand at work is a real blessing.



Gloria in the dental clinic at Lamap on Malekula Island, ready for the next dental outreach programme

Using Your Gifts

Last year a door opened for me to help the struggling dental department at the main hospital in Port Vila. Working with a team of 12 Ni-Vanuatu staff, together we were able to make changes and get the clinic running effectively with sterilisation procedures, cross-contamination policies, clinic patient organisation, training and set-ups. In six months it has turned around, and is now an effective unit seeing thirty to fifty patients a day.

In summary, lending a helping hand in Vanuatu, learning and living together, using our gifts and making it a better place has been a rich experience.

What are things I miss? A hot shower, a nice couch or lazyboy to sit on, friends and family.



Eager students at the after-school reading programme

Vincents in Vanuatu

Martyn and Annette Vincent are a couple from New Zealand, volunteering in Vanuatu through Global Mission. Martyn is an accountant; Annette is a quantity surveyor with adult teaching experience.

Martyn: I am here for a specific project: to assist and enable the PCV finance team to produce audited accounts from the years ending 31 May 2013 to the 31 May 2017. The project also includes setting up financial procedures and making recommendations on the financial practices within the PCV. I was unaware just how much of a mission this project would be until I had been working on it for some time and got below the surface of the problem. I was a bit frustrated by some delays and missing records, but that is part of working in Vanuatu and you just have to get used to it if you want to serve here.

Basic accounting practice has not been well implemented here for several years now so there has been a lot of work sorting out of what has actually happened before any clear picture can be drawn of the PCV's current financial position. There is still quite some way to go on this untangling process. There is more work in this project than I anticipated and may need to extend to next year. We are uncertain of God's plans for us at this stage, so we may be back next year to continue to work on the project. If not there will be an opportunity for someone to continue the project: if you are interested contact Rev Phil King at Global Mission. If you are considering working on the project and a long-term commitment doesn't appeal to you, it can be broken down to smaller parts.



We go to the International Christian Church (ICC), mostly expats or visitors attend, and some Ni-Vanuatu, so a very multi-national church with many different denominations. We are getting to know the longer-term members of the church. I have joined the men's fellowship group, we meet weekly on Wednesdays. This is a great encouragement to me as we adjust to life in Vanuatu.

Annette: My role has not been so clearly defined. I have found work assisting the PCV Health team on the National Oral Health Survey as a recorder for the dentists doing the oral assessments. I enjoy working as part of a team much more than working on my own. So far I have only been at various locations around Port Vila, but I will be helping on the next mission to go around villages on the north side of Efate and across



to some of the small islands not far offshore. The survey is to provide information to the Vanuatu Government so they can formulate a plan to address the very poor oral health of their people long-term. Volunteer teams of dentists come from NZ and Australia to provide free treatment, but there are so many people who need it that this is only a short-term fix. Western-style food and lack of oral hygiene education are causing widespread decay of teeth and gums. PCV Health is the coordinating agency for the survey as approved by the Ministry of Health, and Dr Barry Stewart (retired Australian dentist pictured here with Annette) is the instigator, through Medical Sailing Ministries (MSM).



Martyn and Annette look out over Tasiriki Village, venue for the PCV General Assembly

MSM's yacht Chimere is sailing to some of the outer islands to carry out the survey there and I will be sailing on one of these, to the Banks islands, in September.

I also help Gloria Jones whenever I can with the after-school reading and maths class she runs two afternoons a week at Korvan. Gloria has a wonderful way with the children, and has a really good reading room set up,

and I just help out from time to time as my other work allows. The children are delightful and so keen, but some are a long way behind where they should be for their age. Large class sizes and insufficient teacher training are contributing factors, as is lack of education among the parents so the children don't get the practice and encouragement they need at home.

Both Martyn and Annette: We struggled with the heat when we arrived in March, but we are much more comfortable now the weather is cooler. We have settled in and adjusted to life in Vanuatu. We have relaxed a lot about things that bothered us in the first few weeks, like all the rubbish lying around, things not being as clean or well finished as in NZ, things not happening straight away. We have moments when we are homesick, like when we receive news from close friends and family, and having to say goodbye to our youngest daughter and her boyfriend who came to visit, but generally we are fine. Being here as a couple is good as we can lift each other (we think it would be much harder for a single person), and we are fortunate to have the support of Neville and Gloria Jones who we have an R&R day with now and then, doing something that feels much more "Kiwi" than our every-day. And we have some days when we have to pinch ourselves to make sure we aren't dreaming because it's just so incredibly beautiful in places and so amazing to be living on a tropical island.

The staff at the PCV office are very welcoming and friendly, in fact all the Ni-Vanuatu people we have met are so friendly. We specially want to thank Pastor Allen Nafuki and Elder Meto Nganga for their support and encouragement. We have made our accommodation pretty comfortable, working with our landlord to improve a few things. We are very grateful that God has blessed us and provided all our needs so that we can serve Him here even in a small way. We are privileged to be a part of the wonderful things He is doing in Vanuatu. There is still a lot of need here but there are also many good things happening here.

We rejoice with the members of PCV in the election of Obed Moses Tallis as the new President of Vanuatu, and look forward to the name of Jesus continuing to be glorified in national spheres of influence, and the national motto "Long God Yumi Stanap" (In God We Stand) being upheld -

Alle Tata, lukem yu.



Martyn and Annette at the opening of the PCV Assembly in August



Leinamau Completes Her Degree

Sponsored student Leinamau Manrogoana (on the right in this photo) will complete her Bachelor of Divinity at Pacific Theological College (PTC) in Fiji in November. Leinamau is considering her options for ministry or further study.

Other Projects

- Rev. Geoff Skilton of Highgate Church, Dunedin, is going to Vanuatu for three weeks in September with a plan to develop his Bislama language skills. He will spend a week in Port Vila, and then two weeks on Paama Island where he hopes to go “cold turkey” – Bislama only, no English!
- Hibiscus Coast and Mairangi/Castor Bay churches are working together supporting the PWMU (Presbyterian Women) in Port Vila. They are nearing the completion of their project at the PWMU Project House; a team will visit Port Vila in October.
- Garth Stevenson’s team did a fantastic job rebuilding the church in Lamnatu, Middle Bush on Tanna in June. Congratulations on a great effort. There is a story about this in the spring edition of Spanz (however, the photo in Spanz is actually of a different church on Tanna, at Loukoulua!)
- Shirley Anton, who with her husband Don served with the PCV for two years, is producing literacy resources for PCV Schools. The first one, called “Linking lives,” involved interviews with Ni-Van seasonal workers here in New Zealand. This will be a wonderful resource for Vanuatu schools in the future. Congratulations to Shirley on a great project.
- A team from Leith Valley congregation in Dunedin completed some repairs on a PCV property in Port Vila in August (Jansen House). They hope to keep developing their support for the PCV as a result of this visit.
- Teams from Brockville and Mt. Maunganui churches have completed successful Going Global programmes this year. East Taieri youth group is planning to return to Lenakel College on Tanna Island next year.

If your church or youth group is interested in exploring a Going Global programme, or any kind of project in Vanuatu, contact Global Mission Coordinator Phil King

WHAT IS NAMBAWAN! NEWSLETTER?

Nambawan! is Global Mission’s newsletter specifically 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!”

WHY AM I RECEIVING NAMBAWAN!

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