Global Mission Newsletter

GlobalMission Update

November 2026

This newsletter summarises recent news with our Global Mission partners in Vanuatu and Myanmar and so combines the two regular Global Mission newsletters, Nambawan and Mingalaba, into one combined Global Mission Update. Some information about a recent visit to India is also included, as well as important notices from the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees.



The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu's opening ceremony at Lamen Bay, Epi Island in July was a colourful occasion.

The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV) General Assembly was held in Lamen Bay on Epi Island, Vanuatu in July. Global Mission Director Phil King attended this with the PCANZ Moderator Rev. Peter Dunn, Peter's wife Helen, and Global Mission volunteer Neville Jones. Phil said, "Former PCANZ missionaries including Graham and Margaret Horwell and Neal and Jill Whimp had a long association with Epi so it was gratifying to spend time in the area where they served so faithfully and are still held in high regard. It was great to have a team at the assembly as it allowed for wider engagement with the delegates and helped to strengthen our partnership. Being here is important for confirming our commitment to this partnership and also for networking, reviewing progress on various projects and discussing plans for the future." Read more inside ...

Chaplains Training Programme

One of our programme plans with the PCV bore fruit in August when a PCANZ team led a chaplains training programme at Eton village on Efate Island. This followed an initial programme in 2024 and came at the invitation of the PCV. Members of the PCANZ training team were Revs Paula Levy, NZDF Army Chaplain; Geoff Skilton, PCANZ minister and former Chaplain at Columba College, Dunedin; David Jackson, Chaplain at Scots College, Wellington; and Steve Millward, PCANZ Minister, Crossroads Church, Mangatangi.

Topics covered included:

- School Chaplaincy
- Religious education
- Safe Practices
- Defence Force Chaplaincy
- Chaplaincy in Times of Disaster
- Leadership
- Chaplain, not Pastor
- Communicating the gospel in a secular culture









Here are some summary comments from the PCANZ presenters:

Geoff:
He believed this training was very successful. Each of the presenters had a different approach and he enjoyed the mix of presentations. His question is, what happens next for the PCV? Is it time for something different to build on these chaplains training programmes?

David:
It was an enjoyable teaching experience. He felt the participants had an enthusiasm for learning as well as a depth of knowledge about their subject. He appreciated that participants responded well to the image of an outrigger canoe as a metaphor for chaplaincy.

Paula:
It was good to see that most of their material was new to the majority who attended the conference. She felt there was good discipleship and leadership content in the presentations and hopes that there was something there for everyone.

Steve:
He enjoyed getting to know people and learning about Vanuatu. He felt that many of the issues facing the church and society in Vanuatu are similar to those in New Zealand, but that in Vanuatu there are fewer resources to manage these issues.

Saint Kentigern College and Boys and Girls Schools Service Programmes

Global Mission volunteer Neville Jones was also at the PCV assembly, having just concluded his supporting role with the Saint Kentigern College service programme at PCV schools (Onesua College and two PCV primary schools – Popowoh and Efate MACSES) the week prior. His experience is invaluable in ensuring the success of these programmes. Further teams returned to Vanuatu in the September/October holiday break to continue with these service programmes. The accompanying photos give an indication of their efforts. Once again, we thank the Saint Kentigern staff, parents and students for their commitment to supporting education in Vanuatu.





Projects at the schools included constructing a principal's office (above) and constructing and installing long-drop toilets (below). These photos show the various stages through to completion. Great work!







Left and Right: An innovative and successful project in these schools has been installing playgrounds. These are relocated from Auckland, shipped in a container and re-purposed. A great recycling project!






Two teams from Saint Kentigern Boys and Girls schools for a week each in the September/October school holidays. These photos show both teams being thanked for their service by staff and students.

Some Photos From the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu General Assembly









Clockwise from Top: Air travel in Vanuatu often involves small aircraft and grass landing strips; PCANZ Moderator Peter Dunn with former PCV Moderator Obed Moses; Neville Jones catching up with former PCV Moderator Kalorongo Ova and his wife Rose; the picturesque Assembly venue, Lamen Bay.





Rev. Peter exchanging gifts and greetings with PCV Moderator Pastor Firiam Kalmara; Commissioners in the assembly venue, made from local materials and constructed specifically for the assembly.







Above: Helen Dunn addressing the PWMU Conference and delegates paying close attention; Left: Pastor Tueni Won concludes his service as Director of Santo Bush Mission at the end of this year and was honoured at the assembly for his service; Right: Rain was a constant theme at the assembly.



More News From Vanuatu

Talua Theological Training Institute (TTTI)

A team from Upper Clutha Presbyterian Church, Wanaka visited Talua Theological Training Institute in September to develop and strengthen their partnership. Rev. Ian Hyslop gave some lectures on 1st and 2nd Timothy on the topic "Keeping the Faith." Ian is pictured here with the Bachelor of Ministry students.



Talua English Teacher Returning in 2027

Global Mission has provided the personnel and funds for the English teaching programme at Talua for many years, and this year we are supporting Brianna Snowdon from Australia. Brianna previously taught there in 2023 and returned mid-way through this year. She has recently confirmed her availability for 2027, which is great news for all concerned. We thank Brianna for her commitment to the role. Donations are welcomed from anyone who would like to financially support this position.



Think ahead for 2028

It has become challenging to find suitably qualified personnel who are willing and available to teach English at Talua. Brianna's commitment for 2027 gives us time to plan ahead for 2028. The role comes with accommodation on campus, return airfares, travel and medical insurance, and a living allowance. It would suit a couple, or mature single person with a qualification in teaching (or TESOL) and an interest in cross-cultural mission. If your interest is piqued, you could visit in 2027, meet the staff and students and discern whether it might be for you. If this could be an option for you in 2028, contact Global Mission Director Phil King for a no-obligation discussion.





Donation from St. Cuthberts College

A donation of $6,600 was received from St. Cuthbert's College in Auckland for the support of PCV Schools in September. This donation will contribute towards the construction of a kindergarten at MACSES School on the outskirts of Port Vila. Population growth in this area in recent years has seen a demand for school and kindy facilities which the PCV has been responding to. We thank the St. Cuthberts community for this generous donation.

News From Myanmar

In early October we received messages from church contacts in Myanmar describing an airstrike on a Presbyterian church and school in Mindat in the Chin State. PCANZ donors contributed significant funds to the construction of this church, and it was the location of a Presbyterian Church of Myanmar General Assembly that Global Mission Director Phil King and PCANZ members Andrew and Karen Murch attended in 2018, when the newly built church was officially opened. One of our young adults, Petra Malcolm taught here at the church's Victoria Boarding School for several months in 2018.

Mindat has been largely abandoned due to the civil war and there were no reports of casualties but the loss of the church and school are a devastating blow to the morale of church members.

A former resident of Mindat wrote, "The church was one of the iconic buildings in our small town, recently built by the local community of grassroots faith, consisting mostly of poor farmers who shared what they had to make this dream a reality.

In Myanmar, a church is more than a building for worship. Since the 2021 military coup, churches have also served as shelters for displaced people of different faiths and as spaces for education. Sadly, the military regime has repeatedly targeted churches in ethnic minority regions, where Christians make up the majority of the population."

Please continue to uphold them in prayer. Information about this attack can be read online here.



The Presbyterian Church in Mindat after it suffered an airstrike; when it was dedicated in February 2018 (right).

Sexual Harassment Awareness Campaign

One of the projects Global Mission has funded this year is a Sexual Harassment Awareness campaign being delivered throughout various synods of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. This has been led by the Presbyterian Womens General Council with workshops being well attended. With the ongoing civil war creating social instability, church leaders agreed this was an important way they could resource their communities by supporting womens empowerment. Below are photos from two of the workshops in and around Tahan and Kalaymyo, where many of the PCM members live. If conditions allow, the programme will continue next year with workshops in locations further afield. Due to the unstable conditions it is currently unsafe to travel very far.





Tahan Theological College Classroom Extension Project

The Presbyterian Church of Myanmar's Tahan Theological College is seeking funds to build a classroom extension in order to meet the growing need for classroom space. As the civil war has disrupted Government educational institutions, young people are flocking to private institutions and TTC is an example of this. However, the increasing student roll is creating pressure on their current facilities. Global Mission has agreed to support this project and is inviting donations towards it. The following information from their General Secretary Rev. Pek Muan Cuang summarises the project.

Tahan Theological College (TTC) is the theological training institution of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM) and has served the Church for many decades by preparing pastors, church leaders, and lay people for Christian ministry. Despite the ongoing crisis and many challenges facing the Church in Myanmar, the need for theological education has not diminished. On the contrary, the present situation has increased the need for well-trained and spiritually grounded ministers and leaders who can serve churches and communities experiencing displacement, conflict, trauma, poverty, and uncertainty.

TTC currently accommodates a growing number of students through its residential, day and distance-learning programmes. However, the College's existing classroom facilities are increasingly inadequate for the number of students and the variety of programmes and activities that need to be conducted. For this reason, the College has identified classroom expansion as one of its most urgent institutional priorities

PCM is currently facing many urgent needs as a result of the continuing crisis in Myanmar. Humanitarian assistance, pastoral care, rebuilding, education, and support for displaced communities all remain important. However, we believe that theological education must also be maintained and strengthened during this difficult period.

Investing in TTC therefore means investing in the future leadership and ministry capacity of the Church.

Donations towards this project can be made to Global Mission
Account Name: Presbyterian
Account Number: 02 0500 0086963 10
Reference: TTC Extension
Email Katrina Graham, katrina@presbyterian.org.nz for a donation receipt.
For more information: Global Mission Director Phil King, phil@presbyterian.org.nz







Rev Pek Muan Cuang, General Secretary, Presbyterian Church of Myanmar



In July, The General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM) the Rev. Pek Muan Cuang visited New Zealand. While he was here he preached in two PCANZ congregations, St. Columba at Botany in Auckland, and Leith Valley in Dunedin. He wanted to express his appreciation to the members of the PCANZ for the support we have given to the PCM over many years. Excerpts from the sermon he preached during his visit are below.

Today, I come not as a stranger, but as family.

For more than two decades, the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand has faithfully walked alongside the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. Through your prayers, generosity, visits, and friendship, you have become a source of strength and encouragement to us.

We remember with joy the visits of youth groups and church members from New Zealand. Those were precious times of fellowship and friendship that we still cherish.

We are especially grateful for your faithful support to Tahan Theological College (TTC). Because of your partnership, TTC has continued to grow and prepare leaders for ministry across Myanmar.

We are also deeply thankful for your care and concern for Agape Hospital. PCANZ has been one of our main supporters in helping the hospital continue its ministry.

But today, I want to say something very important.
We have experienced God's presence not only spiritually.
We have experienced God's presence through faithful friends.
Through churches like St Columba and Leith Valley in the PCANZ.

Dear brothers and sisters, during difficult years, you did not forget us.

You prayed for us.
You encouraged us.
You stood in solidarity with us.
You shared our burdens.

In many ways, you became part of God's comforting presence to us.

Romans 12:15 says:

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

You have lived out this scripture with us.
This is true Christian friendship.
And for this, we remain deeply grateful.
Let me simply say from the depths of my heart:

Thank you.

Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for standing with us.
Thank you for walking alongside us in both joyful and difficult times.
Your friendship has become part of our story.
You have shown us what true Christian partnership looks like.



Rev. Pek with members of St. Columba at Botany, Auckland; and Leith Valley, Dunedin.



Dedication of the Riddell Block, St. Thomas School, Jagadhri, India

In September a team of ten members of the PCANZ attended the dedication of the three-storey Riddell Block at St. Thomas School, Jagadhri, named after the founding principal and PCANZ missionary the Rev. Doreen Riddell. This coincided with the 60th anniversary of the school. It was a special occasion, especially so for the four members of the Riddell family in the delegation. The event management was astounding and the hospitality overwhelming. It was an indication of the esteem in which Doreen Riddell and indeed the PCANZ is held because of what has been achieved since the school was established. The photos tell the story.











Things are much changed in India now, but volunteer opportunities could exist for those with an interest in cross-cultural mission and something to offer in the field of education. This might suit someone on a gap year, is recently retired, or looking for a chance to offer voluntary service for a short period of time. Contact Global Mission Director Phil King if you are interested.

Left: PCANZ team member Keryn King sharing with the Special Needs Unit at St. Thomas School.

Below: Phil King and PCANZ Moderator the Right Rev. Peter Dunn also had meetings with the Church of North India leadership in Delhi, reconnecting and discussing challenges related to historic property issues. The problems are complex but there is hope that a resolution can eventually be found.





Message from the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees - Schemes of Disposal

The following information from the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees is required to be included in a Global Mission Newsletter. Please read and if appropriate, respond accordingly:

MANSON BEQUEST TRUST

Take notice that on the 6th day of October 2026 a Scheme prepared under section 6 of the Presbyterian Church Property Amendment Act 1996 was submitted to a Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand in relation to the Donald Manson Estate Trust, a charitable trust created by bequest from Donald Manson to The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees.

The purpose of the charitable trust is to invest the capital of the trust and apply the income for scholarships for theological students training to be medical missionaries and missionaries.

Given that the Church no longer trains medical missionaries nor provides theological training for missionaries, and given the changing nature of global mission activities, the Trustees have determined that it is impossible to carry out the object of purpose of the trust. Moreover, the Trustees have also determined that the amount of trust property, being $8,811, is inadequate to carry out the objects or purposes on which the trust property is held.

The Scheme proposes to amend the terms of the trust so that the purposes on which the trust property is held becomes as follows:

To apply half the capital and income for the purpose of providing financial support to those undertaking global mission projects on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand as the Global Mission Office shall from time to time determine.

To apply half the capital and income of the trust for the purpose of supporting ministry training and formation (both lay and ordained) within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa as the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (or any successor) shall from time to time determine.

In the event that the Scheme is approved, once the funds are transferred to a Ministry Training and Formation Fund and a Global Mission Fund, the Donald Manson Estate Trust will be wound up.

This notice is given by The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees pursuant to section 10 of the Presbyterian Church Property Amendment Act 1996 and is dated and published on the 30th day of October 2026.

Any person who wants to oppose the Scheme may, no later than 60 days after the date of publication, lodge with the Commission written objections to the Scheme or make written representations concerning the Scheme to the Commission.

Written objections or representations must be sent to the Assembly Executive Secretary at erin@presbyterian.org.nz or PO Box 9049, Te Aro, Wellington 6141.

Further particulars may be obtained from the office of The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees at trustees@presbyterian.org.nz.

The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees

Building up the Presbyterian Church for God's Mission

Message from the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees - Schemes of Disposal

The following information from the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees is required to be included in a Global Mission Newsletter. Please read and if appropriate, respond accordingly:

DOREEN LANGMUIR TRUST

Take notice that on the 6th day of October 2026 a Scheme prepared under section 6 of the Presbyterian Church Property Amendment Act 1996 was submitted to a Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand in relation to a trust created by bequest from Doreen Isobel Langmuir to The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees.

The purpose of the trust was to help retired Medical Missionaries in time of sickness or want.

The Trustees have determined that it has become inexpedient (and will soon become impossible) to carry out the purpose of the trust. The Church no longer sends Medical Missionaries offshore and there are only a few remaining beneficiaries. As a result, despite some granting, the value of the Trust has grown substantially and will continue to grow.

The scheme proposes to amend that purpose so that the fund can be used by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand Global Mission Office (and its successor) to provide financial assistance for global mission projects, including but not limited to:

a) Supporting NZ personnel involved in offshore mission projects overseas, including on their return home, and

b) Supporting partner churches with their medical mission work, including developing and improving medical institutions and facilities, and training personnel,

with the priority being support for retired Medical Missionaries in time of sickness or want.

This notice is given by The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees pursuant to section 10 of the Presbyterian Church Property Amendment Act 1996 and is dated and published on the 30th day of October 2026.

Any person who wants to oppose the Scheme may, no later than 60 days after the date of publication, lodge with the Commission written objections to the Scheme or make written representations concerning the Scheme to the Commission.

Written objections or representations must be sent to the Assembly Executive Secretary at erin@presbyterian.org.nz or PO Box 9049, Te Aro, Wellington 6141.

Further particulars may be obtained from the office of The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees at trustees@presbyterian.org.nz.

The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees

Building up the Presbyterian Church for God's Mission

The Last Word

Plans For 2027:

Professional development for PCV Pastors:

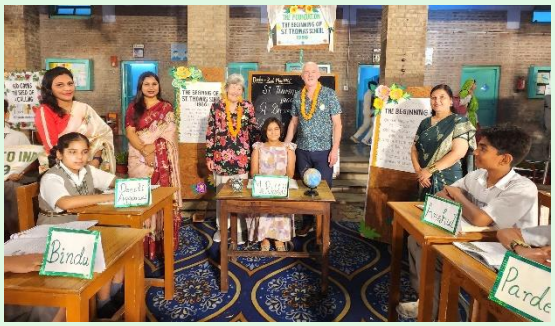
Plans for our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu in 2027 include a new programme supporting leadership development for PCV pastors in partnership with Laidlaw College. This programme will see a team of pastors come for a week of lectures at Laidlaw College in September. Their programme will include a mix of existing lectures and specifically designed content related to their ministry context in Vanuatu.

Chaplaincy Support for RSE Workers

The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu is hoping to develop pastoral care for ni-Vanuatu Recognised Seasonal Employment (RSE) workers in New Zealand, and are working on plans to bring pastors from Vanuatu to serve as chaplains here. Despite the positive economic impact the scheme can bring, there are also many concerns with social disruption and relationship break-ups, and these are the issues they would like to try and address. There is a lot of detail to be worked out but we are in discussions with the PCV leadership in this exploratory stage to discern the needs and assess what support we may be able to provide.

Some more photos from the PCANZ team's visit to Jagadhri for the dedication of the Riddell Block

Below: Reenacting the five students who attended the first day at St. Thomas, and some St. Thomas angels.





Below: St. Thomas students demonstrate the many colours and cultures of India with a dance to begin the celebrations.



Left: Elaine Riddell with Rina Stears, a teacher at St. Thomas. Elaine was delighted to learn that Rina benefitted from a Friends of Jagadhri scholarship many years ago and returned to St. Thomas as a teacher.





Left: Rev. Dugald Wilson has a prayerful moment. Right: Rev. Peter Dunn and Phil King cutting the celebratory cake with the Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup, Bishop of Delhi; the Rev. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator of the Church of North India; and St. Thomas School principal Dr. Chandana Lall.



Thank you to everyone who financially supports our Global Mission partnerships. Donations are always welcome and allow us to achieve more. Online banking donations can be made to Global Mission - Account name: Presbyterian; Account Number: 02 0500 0086963 10. If making a donation please send an email with your contact details for donation receipts to Katrina Graham, katrina@presbyterian.org.nz.

For more information contact Global Mission Director Phil King, phil@presbyterian.org.nz