

Lamnatu Community, Middle Bush, Tanna, Vanuatu

By John Nicole

I was part of a team of eight that was organised by Garth Stevenson from Wanganui, including five from St Andrews in Whangarei who were gathered together by Dave Roke, which rebuilt the church building in Lamnatu at the end of June 2017, that had been destroyed in Cyclone Pam.



The completed church at the end of June

While there, I was so inspired by the Lamnatu community, not only their singing and the way they genuinely worship our Lord in their daily lives, but also their enthusiasm to participate in the rebuild and their eagerness to be trained, that I decided to return there with my wife at the end of September. They were so pleased to welcome my wife, Maree, and I, and had made a matching dress and shirt for the two of us. We so enjoyed worshipping with them on the last Sunday in September. We had taken with us 38 T-shirts for the Lamnatu Youth group as well as some other items such as tennis balls and skittles for the children to play with. Pastor Tino Sope and his wife Minnie are doing great work there.



The Lamnatu Youth group in their new T-shirts with Pastor Sope in the background (with tie)

While in Port Vila, we had the chance to catch-up with Neville & Gloria Jones while we were hosted to dinner in their humble abode in Sutherland House, and it was wonderful to hear of the vital work that they are doing for our Lord in Vanuatu. Maree had the opportunity to join Gloria in the work she is doing to help Ni-Van children read English. I was pleased to be able to find Alice, the wife of Lamnatu's chief, selling the cabbages and carrots that had been grown in Lamnatu in the central market in Port Vila. We also had the opportunity to visit the containers that had just had rooves erected over them by the team from the Hibiscus Coast Presbyterian Church.



The English reading group at Korvan house



John with Alice at the Port Vila market

Before leaving we had the opportunity to make a donation towards the evacuation of the people from Ambae threatened by the Manaro volcano.

May our Lord continue to bless all the wonderful work that is being done by Global Mission in Vanuatu.

John Nicole – St Andrews church, Whangarei.