



Pacific Vision
Vanuatu

August 2018



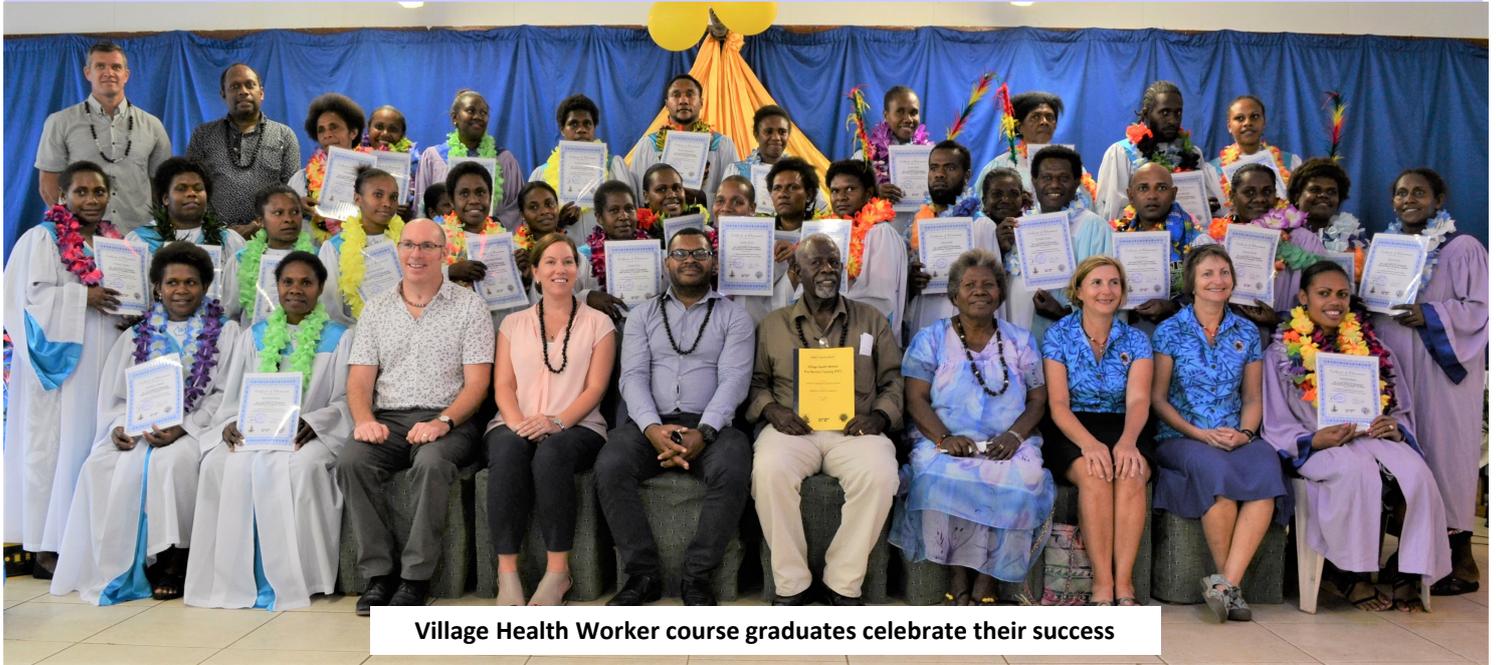
Global Mission Personnel To Return Home After Outstanding Contribution to Mission Partnership

Two couples who have been serving with Global Mission for the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu will soon be returning home. Neville and Gloria Jones have served since 2015, arriving just before Cyclone Pam caused widespread destruction throughout Vanuatu. Neville has made an outstanding contribution to the PCV's recovery and ongoing development through his work as a project manager, and Gloria has made a significant impact serving in health and education.

Martyn and Annette Vincent have served since 2017, with Martyn completing the challenging task of helping to prepare several years of financial accounts for audit. Annette has served in a variety of roles including healthcare, training and administration. Many teams and individuals who have visited Vanuatu on projects over the past four years have benefited from the Jones and Vincents selfless dedication to their work. Our partnership with the PCV has been greatly strengthened as a result of their efforts. Their service has been deeply appreciated by the members of the PCV, who will be very sorry to see them leave Vanuatu. Neville and Gloria were thanked for their service at the recent PCV Assembly, with many members of the Assembly offering heartfelt thanks. PCANZ Moderator the Rev. Richard Dawson was also present. Martyn and Annette, who were unable to attend the Assembly, have already had a farewell reception at the PCV office. Global Mission gives thanks to God for the wonderful contribution made by Neville, Gloria, Martyn and Annette and wishes them well as they return home. At this stage it is unclear if we will have anyone serving in similar roles in Port Vila next year. Rev. Dawn Daunauda also returns home from teaching English at Talua Theological Training Institute in November. Nicola Young will remain in her role as a healthcare educator at the Korvan Community Health School.

Interested in serving in Vanuatu? Contact Global Mission Coordinator Phil King, phil@presbyterian.org.nz

New Village Health Worker Pre-Service Training Course a Success for the PCV and Vanuatu Healthcare



Village Health Worker course graduates celebrate their success

A major work stream involving Global Mission in Vanuatu this year has been the new Village Health Workers Pre-service training course, delivered by the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu's Korvan Community Health School. Two of our volunteers have had significant involvement in this; Nicola Young has helped to develop the teaching plans from the curriculum and teach the course with fellow tutor Judy Huri. Korvan manager Jara Bani has provided excellent oversight and Annette Vincent has been a vital cog in the machine providing administrative support.



Global Mission volunteers Nicola Young and Annette Vincent with Village Health Worker tutor Judy Huri at the Graduation ceremony

The course was developed in partnership with the Vanuatu Ministry of Health and the Australian DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade). It is an example of how important the PCV has become in helping to provide key social services throughout Vanuatu. After an impressive graduation ceremony including emotional farewells, these Village Health workers have all returned to their villages and will be providers and educators of primary health care in some remote settings.

Korvan is now preparing to deliver a second training course for Nurse Aides who work in Vanuatu's hospitals and rural dispensaries and health centres. Nicola is helping to develop the curriculum and get the course accredited with the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority. Skilled personnel are vital in helping to build capacity as Vanuatu transitions to greater ownership and management of their health services. Are you a health professional or educator with an interest in serving in Vanuatu? If so, contact Global Mission Coordinator Phil King to discuss.



Talua Theological Training Institute 30th Anniversary Celebrations



The PCV's Talua Theological Training Institute celebrated its 30th Anniversary in August. The PCANZ has supported theological education at Talua for many years, through the provision of an English teacher, visiting lecturers from Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, hosting of Talua staff in New Zealand, student scholarships, financial and administrative assistance, and various projects including support for pre-school education and building programmes. This year's English teacher is the Rev. Dawn Daunauda, who represented PCANZ Global Mission at the celebrations and brought greetings on our behalf. Photos (clockwise): Dawn with the anniversary cake (she didn't eat it all); Talua Principal Pastor Philip Baniuri with his daughter and friend planting one of 30 new Sandalwood trees; the PCV Moderator Pastor John Vimoli leads staff and guests through the entrance gates at the beginning of their celebrations; the Talua students re-enacting the arrival of the Dayspring, the ship which carried the first missionaries to Vanuatu.



Supporting the Mission and Ministry of the PCV

There have been several groups from throughout the PCANZ who have contributed to projects in Vanuatu this year. The following pages share news about some of these.

Rev. Jaco Reyneke of St. Pauls Church Papamoa has been leading the project rebuilding the William Gray Memorial Church on Tanna island. But this has been much more than just a building project. Jaco spent some time there in July with his son and a member of the Afrikaans Church in Mt. Maunganui and in his report he said, "It was a great privilege to spend the first week of July with the community of Waisisi. The generosity and warmth with which we were welcomed into the community was inspirational. The way in which everybody engages with the build blew me away!" The church was formally opened at the beginning of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu General Assembly in August.



Top: Good progress as the roof goes on the church
Right: Bernard Reyneke and Minette Soekoe enjoy some time with the local children at Waisisi
Below: A team works on the interior of the church
Right: Jaco and Bernard with the local builders at Waisisi



The leader of the community at Waisisi wrote to Jaco after his visit, thanking him and saying, "On behalf of Moderator and the Congregation of Waisisi Presbyterian Church, we greet you with the Master's greetings. We want to share our deepest heart of appreciation, for what you have done for us. We thank God Almighty for the seeds planted in your heart and also extended to other hearts, for the financial assistance to supporting the new church building. We have nothing to give in return but our sincere prayer that God will double portion you his blessing from heaven above. Once again, a million thanks for supporting us. Before we end, we also want to continue our relationship between both of us, strong in the future to come."

Jaco acknowledges the work of Global Mission personnel in Port Vila, Neville and Gloria Jones in supporting this project, and extends deep gratitude to all who have contributed to it.

In July a team from St. John's Church in Hawera returned to Jerivu Village in Big Bay, on the island of Santo. They have been working with the community there for several years, supporting their ministry and providing finance, technical advice and labour in the building of the new church. It has been a massive project, faithfully led by Andrew and Karen Murch, supported by members of their congregation. During this visit the team worked with local labour to attach the roof. The church is now nearing completion and will become a valuable asset to both church and community life for many years to come.

Jerivu Church, Big Bay, Santo



St. Kentigern's students making friends in Vanuatu

St. Kentigerns projects

In the July school holidays a team of 44 comprising students, parents and staff from St. Kentigerns Boys and Girls School in Auckland spent a week in Port Vila working on projects for the PCV. A team of this size was quite a logistical undertaking, made possible with the support provided by our Port Vila-based team including Neville Jones and Martyn Vincent. Their team was divided into three groups spread over three locations; two schools on the outskirts of Port Vila, and the container café at the PCV headquarters beside Paton Memorial Church. The team had sent over a container full of equipment, the contents of which were distributed to the schools, including new playground equipment. The team was officially thanked for their contribution by the PCV General Secretary Pastor Allen Nafuki. St. Kentigern chaplain and team leader Rev. Reuben Hardie was thrilled with how well everything came together, and was excited to see how deeply the members of their team had been impacted by their visit, and by the meaningful relationships formed with PCV staff and members of the communities they served in.

The St. Kentigern's team shared playground equipment and footwear with the schools they visited.



New developments with Williams Bay School, Erromango

In July Bronwyn Croxford from Howick Presbyterian in Auckland responded to an invitation to visit Williams Bay School on the island of Erromango. This was an information gathering visit with a view to establishing a partnership between the Howick congregation and the Williams Bay School. Bron travelled to Williams Bay (also known as Dillons Bay) with Annette Vincent, a Global Mission volunteer in Port Vila. They spent a brief few days meeting people in the community and getting to know staff and students at the school. Bron is hoping to return next year with a team from the Howick congregation, to take the next step and begin a mission partnership with the school. Erromango is a more remote island and despite its size, has a small population and few resources – so the school will appreciate the support that can be offered as they serve their community. Williams Bay is one of the schools that the PCV was recently given responsibility to manage on behalf of the Government.

Below: Bronwyn Croxford and Annette Vincent with students at Williams Bay School.



Later in July Global Mission Coordinator Phil King also visited Williams Bay with his wife Keryn. Phil was researching a reconciliation ceremony that had taken place on the island in 2009. Keryn is a school teacher and was soon invited to contribute to the school, sharing with both staff and students. She observed in the classroom and taught alongside the teacher, who asked her to lead a session after school for all the teachers. She talked about reading development and some teaching methods to include struggling learners. Keryn observed that providing coaching and support and helping to understand how resources can be used is a valuable contribution to schools in Vanuatu. She reflected that we cannot come with preconceived ideas about what will be useful (e.g. well-meaning donations of old book resources). The greatest contribution is in being alongside and understanding what is valued by their community first, and then working together on what they identify as a need. Keryn is pictured here with the staff and students she shared classes with.



To Think About ...



If you are interested in contributing to education in Vanuatu, contact Phil King to discuss options. Schools are open to receiving teachers and trainers who can offer support. Some teachers in Vanuatu schools are untrained, so assistance with on-site training is one way New Zealand-trained educators can help. These could be short-term assignments combined with a holiday. Vanuatu follows the Australian schools calendar year and so schools are usually in session during NZ school holidays.

Rev. Geoffrey Skilton of Highgate Church in Dunedin writes about his team's project on Paama Island and shares about an exciting new development with involvement from the Otago Polytechnic

Last chapel of the year for 2010 at Columba College (Dunedin) and two year nine girls ask a question, 'What is Columba College doing for mission in the Pacific? We have trips to other parts of the world.' It is amazing what God can do with questions and possibilities. Eight years on, one Columba College visit and two from Highgate Presbyterian Church Dunedin ... and there is more to come.

The 2018 project team (10 adults and 8 youth) from Highgate responded to a request from the Liro community to continue helping with maintenance work at Vaum Presbyterian Junior Secondary. This year's project was cleaning, preparation and painting of a classroom. This request was not the primary



Members of the Highgate team renovating a classroom at Vaum Junior Secondary School

focus of the team's work in July. The priority was beginning delayed maintenance on the medical centre which is about forty years old and is showing its age, the effects of climate and nature. This year's tasks were repairs and redecoration of the maternity rooms and adjacent general medical room, erecting small verandas to protect the back doors from the weather. We had hoped to complete associated work on the showers and toilets. This did not happen for several reasons; the showers and toilets needed more than replacement doors and painting, we over-estimated what could be achieved, and the boat with our gear arrived the night before we left! This did not hold up redecorating the maternity rooms – we 'borrowed' school paint which was 'returned' when the boat arrived.

We did however make the maternity area fresh and welcoming. The work on the shower and toilet which is entered from the maternity rooms will be picked up by a team of engineering students and staff from Otago Polytechnic College of Engineering.

New Developments

This introduces a second, encouraging chapter to the story. Mike and Cindy Mullen, two of our team and members of Highgate are staff of Otago Polytechnic (Engineering and Nursing respectively) with a heart for hands-on mission service. They have been preparing the way for some of the students they teach to experience what it is like to work in



Vaum Students in their renovated classroom

partnership with not-for-profit organisations as part of their course. Mike and Cindy used their time on Paama, and fleeting time in Port Vila, to build relationships to advance this opportunity. Mike's planning is well advanced for a group of engineering students to go to Paama (September 2018) to complete some sustainable water and energy, and sanitation projects. The visit is very much a pilot, a testing of the waters, by the Otago Polytechnic College of Engineering. The College is keen in partnership with Highgate and others to fund one or two young students from Paama into its programme – possibly as soon as July 2019.

Yes, it is true, our God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!" (Ephesians 3:20)

- Geoffrey Skilton

Max and Holly Johnstone with Roberto Santos and children from a custom village on Espiritu Santo Island



Rev. Carlton Johnstone of Wakatipu Parish led a return visit to the Bush Mission outreach on Santo Island in July

Carlton writes, "For the second year running a team from the Wakatipu Presbyterian Church went back to work with the Santo Bush Mission. It was encouraging going back and seeing the difference that can occur in a year. The first year we went, the school and pre-school in the custom villages had been destroyed by a cyclone, and there were only a handful of children. This year these had been rebuilt and the walls were lined with colourful pictures and learning posters. There were 25 children to work with and play games with in the afternoon. The team received invitations to stay and visit other villages when we go back next year. There is certainly value in developing an on-going relationship in overseas mission."



Things got a little damp at the PCV Assembly in August. Our PCANZ Moderator Richard Dawson captured this unique moment!

There is so much more content that could have been shared in this newsletter, due to the high levels of interest and range of projects and programmes taking place. You are invited to make contact with Global Mission Coordinator Phil King if you are interested in learning how you, your congregation or youth group can participate in our global mission partnership in Vanuatu.

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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