

Nambawan!

Pacific Vision Vanuatu newsletter



Pacific Vision Vanuatu

In March 2015 a powerful cyclone hit the Pacific region and caused widespread devastation in many island nations, including Vanuatu. Through the Moderator the Rev. Andrew Norton, the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand launched an appeal to support the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV). Members responded generously with donations reaching \$172,900 to date. This newsletter gives you an update on where these funds have been spent, and other news about our partnership with the PCV. So far, funds of \$52,000 have been spent on the following:

The appointment of PCANZ Global Mission worker Neville Jones as Cyclone rebuild Project Manager is being jointly funded by PCANZ and Uniting Church of Australia. Neville is overseeing the rebuilding of staff houses and a dormitory at PCV educational institutions Onesua College and adjacent Epule Technical College, which is also managed by Onesua; this has included the purchase of a much-needed vehicle for this project.

Neville has been doing a fantastic job managing this project. Work at Onesua has been progressing really well, as you can see by these photographs. Onesua is rebuilding three staff houses and a boys dormitory, in a cyclone resistant design used elsewhere in tropical areas. Nearby Epule Technical College is having two staff houses built. The repairs at Onesua College included the early repair of a classroom roof, which was replaced soon after the cyclone with some funds donated directly from St. Andrew's College, Christchurch, and the Moderators Appeal.

Funds have also been spent on the repair of pastors houses, churches and church halls on Efate Island; and a donation to the PWMU – the womens union – to support widows in their communities. We are still awaiting a report on this.



Neville Jones, project manager - rebuild at Onesua College, with Global Mission Coordinator Phil King.

El Nino Impact – the Pacific is experiencing very dry conditions, exacerbating the effects of Cyclone Pam. Please keep the people of Vanuatu in your prayers as they face this added challenge.



Presbyterian Church
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OTHER PROJECTS BEING SUPPORTED WITH GLOBAL MISSION FUNDS:

The PWMU have a house in Port Vila, which serves as a hostel for young women and a venue for a range of vocational skills training courses. This was badly damaged and has been repaired with labour supplied by members of PCANZ congregations Hibiscus Coast and Mairangi/Castor Bays, and other PCANZ volunteers. Funds for this have come from cyclone appeal donations to the Act Alliance, which included funds donated to Christian World Service. PWMU Secretary Cyrilline Bani has sent a letter of thanks saying,; "I am very glad for the partnership we have with the Hibiscus Coast and Mairangi/Castor Bays Presbyterian Churches, as the PWMU House is nearly finished. Local builders are completing the walls and the PWMU Office will thank them. We sincerely thank you, the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa for your heart in this partnership. We give Praise, Glory and Honour to our God."

**ASSIE BIBLE SCHOOL,
SOUTH AMBRYM** – while not a cyclone rebuilding project, it will encourage the community in this area to see a new building going ahead. Neville Jones is also managing this project, which is funded through Global Mission funds and donations. Builders and labourers are invited to offer their help on this project.



Children at Megamone School on Ambrym Island are excited about their new school. Good thing we bought a strong truck!

MEGAMONE SCHOOL, NORTH AMBRYM – this has been a joint project between Global Mission and Build Aid Missions from Australia. The school has been relocated to a safer area and built in permanent materials. Good progress has been made but **volunteers are invited to help finish the project.**
Contact Jack Brinkman, jackobi566@gmail.com.

JERIVU VILLAGE, BIG BAY, SANTO – this is being led by the congregation from Hawera Presbyterian Church. They have already sent a team to explore the request for a new church building, and will continue their relationship with the church and village at Jerivu over the next few years. They hope this will include pastoral outreach ministry as well as project work.



The new kitchen in the PWMU project house in Port Vila

PCANZ PEOPLE IN VANUATU

It has been a fantastic year in terms of PCANZ personnel serving in Global Mission this year. Here are our three amazing couples in Vanuatu.

Neville and Gloria Jones from St. Ninian's Church, Blenheim, are currently serving as Global Mission workers in Vanuatu for a two-year term. As well as project managing the rebuilding programme at Onesua College, Neville assists the PCV in a wide range of other ways. Gloria works as a volunteer on the PCV dental programme. This provides dental care to many schools and communities throughout Vanuatu, and also involves outreaches to the outer islands. Gloria has recently been very busy on two outreaches around the islands off the coast of Efate, and another on Malekula.



Graeme and Maeby Reid from St. Margaret's Church, Christchurch, have been working in the Seaside community in Port Vila, after having been forced out of Onesua College by Cyclone Pam. They have been doing a great job developing a library and learning centre at Seaside School, which has been a catalyst for many other volunteers to go over and help. This project is growing as the Principal keeps asking them for more assistance, which they are happy to give. Opportunities exist to follow up on their work once they return home at the end of the year. This includes (but is not limited to) librarian training, help with reading (adults and children), cooking classes, woodwork, sewing, art, teacher aid work, computing classes. As Graeme said, "Volunteers are needed to run workshops in all these areas." Community and Church involvement grows out of this.

Don and Shirley Anton from Titirangi Presbyterian have been based at Talua Ministry Training Centre on Santo throughout 2016. Shirley has taught English to theology students and Don has provided valuable expertise on a range of administrative tasks, including a new fee structure which was adopted at the PCV General Assembly in August. The Antons have made an excellent contribution at Talua but will be returning home at the end of the year. The English teaching position will therefore be vacant and Phil King would love to hear from anyone interested in filling this role in 2016. Short term stints will be encouraged while we seek to fill the vacancy longer term.



PCV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The PCV 2015 General Assembly was held in Erakor Village, on the outskirts of Port Vila, in August. Given the devastating impact of Cyclone Pam earlier in the year, hosting the assembly was a great achievement, signalling the strong heart of the host community, who were determined the assembly should go ahead as planned. They did a fantastic job. Five Global Mission staff and volunteers joined Phil King for the assembly, so it was very encouraging to have such good PCANZ representation there. Phil was asked to host the church partners consultation and this was a good experience. The idea for the consultation came from the PCV General Secretary Allen Nafuki who attended our General Assembly in Auckland in 2014. The partners presented a report to the assembly at the conclusion of the consultation which included some ideas and suggestions for improving our working relationships.



Delegates at the PCV Assembly read about the many impressive mission activities of the church



Some of the superb food served up at the PCV Assembly by the dedicated team from Erakor Village



The Going Global programme at Lenakel College, Tanna Island, in 2014

KORVAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Korvan is based on a vision to train Christian healthcare workers to provide healthcare in their communities throughout Vanuatu. This is a partnership between the Presbyterian Churches of Korea and Vanuatu, with assistance from PCANZ congregations, including Korean congregations within PCANZ. Interested health professionals are invited to volunteer their services in tutoring. Free accommodation is available.



Korvan Health Centre

OTHER NEWS ...GOING GLOBAL

The Going Global cross cultural exchange programme is proving extremely popular with three Presbyterian Church youth groups planning visits to Vanuatu in the next few months. St. Andrew's Mt Maunganui (November 2015), St. Columba at Botany (April 2016) and East Taieri (July 2016) will be taking teams to three different locations on Santo Island, Efate Island, and Tanna Island. Phil King will lead training and orientation programmes for each group, who will spend up to ten days being hosted by a local church and youth group, taking part in a wide variety of cultural and ministry experiences. Having groups visit after the cyclone will be an encouragement to these communities and will strengthen the bonds between our two churches. In the future it would be good to see more young adults from Vanuatu having the opportunity to be hosted by churches in New Zealand. Perhaps some youth groups would consider doing a Going Global programme in reverse, funding the travel of a NiVan youth group and hosting them here?

NAVOTA FARM – Navota has a long established history with the PCANZ. It provides food and income for Talua Ministry Training Centre but has suffered from a lack of skilled management over the years. At the request of the Navota Chairman (who is also Principal at Talua) a team from PCANZ visited in 2015 to assess the current state of the farm. **Opportunities exist for ready and willing farmers from NZ to offer their services either as trainers or as short term managers, or a mixture of both. If anyone has some interest in finding out what this would involve, contact Phil King.**

BUSH MISSION – a Bush Mission Training School is based at Navota Farm where they train and equip students for ministry in the inland high country of Santo Island, where conditions are still very basic. This is supported by Korean congregations as well as donors from PCANZ.

KNOX COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMME

Six Otago University students from Knox College will be visiting Vanuatu on community service placements in November. The students will be hosted by our PCANZ personnel in Vanuatu and volunteer their time and talents at PCV schools and community projects. This is a new programme initiated between Knox College and Global Mission, which, if successful, may become a regular addition to the Knox College community service scheme.

SASA YOSEF

Sasa Yosef is the kindergarten teacher at Talua College. In 2013 Global Mission and St. Alban's Church in Hamilton sponsored Sasa to come to New Zealand to observe in a pre-school. She has now received a scholarship for a six month Government early childhood training course in Port Vila. Sasa credits her time in New Zealand as a key factor in receiving the scholarship. This is great news for Sasa—well done to all who have supported her.



Sasa Yosef (right) with her early childhood tutor

FORTHCOMING PROJECTS

Cyclone recovery throughout Vanuatu will take a long time due to the extensive nature of the damage and the logistical challenges involved in the repairs. The PCV have identified the following projects that our appeal funds will be directed to. These include:

- **Napangasale School, Tongoa Island - The reroofing of a dormitory and the dining hall**
- **Lenakel School, Tanna Island - Rebuilding a dormitory and reroofing of staff houses**
- **Epule Technical College, Efate Island— reroofing a dining Hall**
- **Replacement of waters tanks for several schools**
- **Repairs to PCV office and staff quarters, Port Vila**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Some of our church schools have good relationships with schools in Vanuatu. St. Orans, St. Andrew's and St. Kentigerns Colleges are some of those who have generously supported Onesua Presbyterian College following the devastation caused by Cyclone Pam. St. Orans is planning a visit to Onesua in 2016, having postponed their visit this year as a result of the cyclone. Columba College in Dunedin is beginning a new relationship with Hog Harbour school on Santo island, and will be visiting in April 2016. It is encouraging to see such strong support between these church schools.

WHAT IS NAMBAWAN! NEWSLETTER?

This is the first edition of Nambawan! - Global Mission's newsletter specifically dedicated to the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand's partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. We have named this partnership Pacific Vision Vanuatu. Nambawan is Bislama (one of the three official languages of Vanuatu) and means Number One, or as we might say today, "Awesome!" We hope the newsletter will be printed two or three times a year.

WHY AM I RECEIVING NAMBAWAN!

You are receiving this because you donated to the Moderator's Pacific Vision Vanuatu cyclone appeal. Please advise if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, or if you would prefer to receive it by email. Inform us by return mail to Global Mission, P.O. Box 9049 Wellington 6141; or email, phil@presbyterian.org.nz.