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news & prayer letter from the Connors, issue 6, May 2005

partner church missionaries with *mission partners*, the Australian Presbyterian World Mission

First Term Completed

First term is over, exams have been sat and papers have been marked. Glen has been encouraged by his students' progress and now begins preparing programmes for next term. He will teach 'God's Solution to Sin' to certificate students; 'Knowledge of God' to certificate and diploma students and 'Synoptic Gospels (focus on Matthew)' to diploma students. Next term also includes an intensive course from SIL (Wycliffe translators), which should be interesting, and we are looking forward to Glen's parents visiting later this month.

Please pray:

- *giving thanks for all that Glen's students have learnt;*
- *for Glen's preparations for next term;*
- *for safe travel and a lovely time with Glen's parents.*

Visitors from the West

Rachael's parents (Don and Glenyss), and her sister and brother-in-law (Bronwyn and David) came to visit us in April. Although the total three weeks of their visit was undoubtedly the wettest three weeks we have yet had, we enjoyed their stay very much.



Please pray:

- *with thanks for a great time with family and for safe travel;*
- *for us and for our families as we continue to miss each other.*

Pastor Shem goes to Manila

Pastor Shem and his family, (Mama Mercy, Jennifer & Jemesh), left Talua last month to go to Manila. They were very kind and helpful to us on our arrival here and we will miss their friendship very much. Sophie particularly misses Jemesh and talks about him often. Pastor Shem will be studying a Masters in Theology at the International School of Theology. They will live on campus with the other students.



Please pray:

- *for them as they arrive in a large city so different to the small community at Talua;*
- *for Pastor Shem as he returns to study, that God would strengthen him as he begins the difficult task of study in a second language, and that this study would deepen his knowledge and love of God.*

Sophie's world...

Sophie has started going to the Kindergarten at Talua that runs each morning from 8 am to 11 am. Although she seems aware of and confused by the language everyone speaks, and the poking and prodding from the other children, she enjoys herself and bursts through the door to show us what she has made when she gets home. We expect her to pick up Bislama very quickly now. She has been a little sick this last month, with 'bomit' and 'dia-roo' but is generally quite happy and settled. This is a picture of her at a small beach nearby.



Please pray:

- *that she would return to full health soon;*
- *that with God's help, we would teach her to be kind and godly as she plays and learns at kindergarten and at home.*

A typical day for Rachael.

I am usually up quite early with one or other of the girls and try to spend some time reading my bible. A 'hausgel' comes each morning; a real blessing! She does all our housework, is happy to spend time playing with the girls and has helped me a great deal with Bislama. Thus I am able to spend a few hours on 'desk-work'. I look after our correspondence. I had begun translating Sophie's children's bible into Bislama with which the girls in our pastoral care group were helping (we have stopped now as the translation rights have been allocated already). I might read some Bislama, or some Greek, or even some Theology. My afternoons are spent sleeping, bringing in the washing, chatting with neighbours and preparing dinner. A favourite part of my week is the women's handcraft class: a chance to get to know the "mama" s, improve my Bislama and indulge a hobby! I try to remember my goals for this year: to grow in my faith; to love my husband and children, and to learn Bislama. With these in mind, I am learning not to be quite so frazzled by slow progress and inactivity, and am praying that God would show me how to love and serve his people here.

Please pray:

- *that I would grow in my faith, love my husband and children and learn Bislama;*
- *that I would love and serve God's people here;*
- *that I would have enough sleep so as not to be grumpy and cantankerous.*

Our Betty Boo!



Bethany is a very happy baby. She loves music, and clapping and bouncing whenever she hears it. She makes friends wherever she goes (here she is with some women at the markets in town), plays well with Sophie, and likes to muck about in the bathroom.

Please pray:

- *that God would continue to keep her in good health;*
- *with thanks for the joy that she brings us.*