



toktok!

Issue 18, September 2006

news & prayer letter from the Connors, partner church missionaries with *mission partners*, the Australian Presbyterian World Mission

No news is good news?

It has been a long time since our last *toktok!* It is not because nothing has been happening, but because too much was happening! Nor was it because we don't value your prayers and support, we do! We are particularly thankful for those who contacted us to ask how things were going and how they could pray for us.

We are all well and in good spirits, and are expecting another baby in March next year. Rachael has been very tired (perhaps the real reason for no *toktok!*) but is feeling better now.

We asked you to pray for Glen as he prepared and gave Bible Talks at the General Assembly. These were on Ephesians and seemed helpful for those there. Glen also enjoyed talking with the Third Year students (on field experience) who were there.

Please Pray:

- *praising God for this new child and pray that the pregnancy will go well, especially as medical care is minimal here.*

Mentoring

Glen has taken shared responsibility for mentoring second year Diploma students, and is looking after Elder Abraham Kintor (see photo) and James Anga (see next issue!). During term three, Glen will meet with them to read and reflect on 2 Timothy. We'd like you to join with us in praying for them. Elder Abraham is from Ambrym. He is married to Salome and they have three children, Rosila, Linda and Tomas. Abraham was schooled only to year six and finds classes difficult but he works hard both in his studies and to raise a godly family.



Please Pray:

- *that Glen would be a godly and faithful mentor;*
- *that Abraham would be disciplined in his study, be able to concentrate through lectures in English and would grow to be a wise and mature leader.*

Rachael's Classes (Term Two)

Last term Rachael taught two classes in the women's program; 'How to Write and Lead Bible Studies' and 'the Gospel of Mark'. This was very challenging. Although some have said they appreciated her classes, Rachael thinks that she learnt the most, about teaching in a cross-cultural context, particularly to those for whom reading and writing is very difficult.



Rachael helps Roslyn prepare a Bible Study.

Please Pray:

- *that through their classes the women will grow in their understanding of God's Word.*

Visitors in Term Two

During Term Two many visitors came to Talua. APWM sent a **Tradesman's Workparty** to continue work on the new library, providing professional skill and advice. A team also came from **Donvale Presbyterian Church** in Victoria to help in this work. Everyone was billeted with students or staff and this helped forge a deep sense of partnership in the gospel. A mission team came from **CREDO at UTS**. They ran helpful seminars on ministry to men, women and children and on how to lead small groups. **Pastor Fayek Iskander** came to deliver the Talua Memorial Lectures on the topic of Islam, which is growing in Vanuatu, particularly on Tanna and Efate. His expertise and wisdom were much appreciated. We enjoyed spending time with **David Pilgrim** (from the Presbyterian Church of Australia) and his wife **Devona** when they visited Talua after Assembly.

Please Pray:

- *thanking God for many friends in Christ and for their work;*
- *that Christ's church here would be strong and joyful, and so not turn from Him to other gods.*

Term Three

The term opened on a particularly sad note as we mourned the passing of a first year Diploma student, Bridely Toa. Bridely was a Church of Melanesia student from Pentecost. He died at his parent's home in Luganville on Tuesday 5th September. Glen was acting Principal when Bridely died and so was responsible for leading the college through the first part of this difficult time. It has raised many culturally-related issues for us, particularly kava-drinking (which caused his death) and fear of evil spirits.



Please Pray:

- *that God would give Glen discipline, patience and endurance to sustain him through this term;*
- *that God would comfort the students as they grieve their friend; and that they would not fear death or evil spirits.*

This term, Glen is teaching Wisdom Literature to the Diploma 2/4 class and to the Certificate 2 class, Hebrews to D2/D4 (a half course) and Acts to D1 (also a half course). It is a heavy load, as he continues in the role of Dean of Studies. Rachael is planning to help Glen with his work rather than teaching separate classes. Glen will also begin organising the Correspondence Certificate Course, the first subject to be offered next year.

We will be returning to Australia in the middle of December, but have applied to come back to Talua for a further two year appointment.

A Delegation from Petersham Baptist Church



We greatly rejoiced in our fellowship with friends from Petersham Baptist Church who visited us recently. Tim and Susan Blencowe and their children, (Stephanie & Austin), Ross, Paul, Lee, Victoria and Katie visited us after spending some time in Efate. We were reminded of Paul's joy in his partnership with the Philippian church, especially when they sent Epaphroditus to visit him. He rejoiced in their concern for him and their support of him. We too rejoice in our partnership and we too have been amply supplied with every good gift! Our hearts have been encouraged and our spirits uplifted.

Please Pray:

- *praising God for an encouraging and nourishing time with our friends from Petersham Baptist Church.*