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a news & prayer letter from the Connors
partner church missionaries with *mission partners*,
the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (9792 1374)



Farewell to 2007

The year has drawn to a close with many a feast, many a speech and many a presentation (see pictures below). Our friends, John and Vivienne Parkes have finished their term here and have returned to New Zealand. The graduating students (see next page) have been sent out and other students returned home for Christmas. Although emptied of students, Talua has still been a hive of activity. We moved into a 'new' house and are almost all unpacked and settled. There has been a *mission partners* youth work-party finishing work on the new library and a team from *Samaritan's Purse* distributing Christmas shoe-boxes to children in South Santo.

It has been a full and rewarding year and we have seen God at work in many ways. We are looking forward to a short, refreshing break with family over Christmas in Australia.

Please Pray:

- for John and Vivienne as they consider taking up a new position;
- thanking God for those who have funded and built the library;
- that we be hospitable, particularly to the many children who visit us.



Glen's mentoring group says thank-you; the women's group farewells a graduate from the Women's Program, Daisy John; the single students present Talua with a decorative tam-tam, carved by students; and John and Vivienne Parkes are farewelled.

Next Year

There will be a lot of changes in 2008, both at Talua and personally.

- The degree course has been postponed until 2009. There may be no diploma intake in 2008 as the applicants were not suitable, and there may also be no certificate intake (as this course was being phased out). However, the Santo Presbytery is trying to begin a lay training course based at the farm up the road, with help from Talua staff.
- Glen will be doing the College accounts in 2008. He will keep the books but not do the other jobs that normally go along with this.
- Sophie will begin school next year. She is enrolled in the NSW correspondence school and Rachael will supervise. Rachael will not do any teaching in Talua programs, but hopes to still be involved in mentoring.
- The demand from students and public for books from the 'Talua bookroom' keeps growing and Glen is considering obtaining a license to operate as a business next year.
- One of Glen's main goals for next year is to be involved in ministry in surrounding villages. We have discussed village ministry a lot with students, and it would be good to go out and do it. The plan is for this to link with mentoring, so we train and encourage our students by working with them in ministry in the surrounding villages. This has not been possible so far because of class preparation time and language barriers, but after three years we pray that God will enable us now to take this step.

Please Pray:

- for wisdom and insight for the Principal and Dean of Studies as they set direction and make decisions about Talua;
- that Glen will manage the accounts diligently;
- that the supply of good books would help change hearts & lives;
- that God would bless these plans to work in surrounding villages & that this work will bear much fruit.

Graduation

Graduation marks not just an end, but also a beginning. Our thirteen graduates from the Diploma program go out to begin their work of preaching and teaching; of nurturing and growing; of prayer and praise. Please pray with us for them.

Those working with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

Paul Morris will be working on Malekula.

John Isaac Fai will be working with the Southern Islands Presbytery.

Johnson Iauko (with wife, Janet, and children; Freddy, Lyndell and Samlua) will work on Tanna. He has been appointed to teach in a Bible College run by the Southern Islands Presbytery. Part of his work will involve teaching and discipling those who have been converted to Christ from the John Frum Cargo Cult.

Philip Joses may join Andy and Rosemary Williamson and their team who are writing the Vanuatu Bible Commentary.

Mansen John (with wife, Daisy, and daughter, Esther) will be working in the Central Islands.

Daniel and Margaret Boe (with son, Dylan) have been appointed to work with Santo Presbytery, probably in Hog Harbour or Kole.

Those working with the Church of Melanesia (Anglican)

Wilson Siro (with wife, Charity, and children; Devina and Steve) will work in Turtle Bay on Santo.

Rody Boe (with wife, Wendy) will work at Sarakata Church which is in Luganville, Santo.

Johnny Ralph will work on the island of Mota Lava, one of the Banks Islands.

Jacob Ute (with wife, Shrimpton, and sons; Louis and Nato) will work on Pentecost.

Those working with the Church of Christ

Semi Rasu will work on Ambae.

Steward Wari will work on Pentecost.

Please Pray:

- *praising God for these men and women;*
- *that they would hold firmly to true doctrine, proclaiming Christ and seeking to reconcile others to God through Him;*
- *that they would discern and reject what is false;*
- *that they set the believers an example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity;*
- *that they will toil in this work; labouring with all his energy which will powerfully work in them;*
- *that they will work not for the glory of self but for the glory of Christ.*



back: Paul Morris, Wilson Siro, Johnson Iauko, Semi Rasu, Rody Boe, Johnny Ralph, Philip Joses, Mansen John, Jacob Ute, Daniel Boe;

front: Charity Siro; Wendy Boe; Janet Iauko; Margaret Boe; Shrimpton Ute

(Steward Wari & John Isaac Fai not pictured)