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Issue 30, April 2009

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



## In Brief



*Rachael, Penny and Betty*

Another full and exciting month has passed. Teaching D4 has been a joy for Glen since for most students it is the first time that they have looked carefully at the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Betty Murray & Penny Wright came to teach English and Tony Barnes came to do some handyman work. The

second Langham Preaching Conference was held and the first two books in the Vanuatu Bible Commentary series were launched! We also enjoyed a visit from Rachael's Mum.

### **Please Pray:**

- *That the D4 students will trust in Christ for forgiveness and give thanks and praise to God for what he has done for us, and that God would transform their lives in holiness by his Spirit.*
- *that the BTh students will develop the level of English required for BTh studies.*

## Rachael writes about Field Experience at Sarete

Our weekend in the village was a tiring one! Late nights, not much sleep, early mornings and constantly working at communicating in a different language and culture is tiring. None-the-less it was a wonderful opportunity to get to know people, to work side by side with the students and to talk about the Lord Jesus.

The student wives and I met with the women in the Presbyterian women's group. One of the student wives shared her testimony and we did a bible study together, on Matthew 5:8: "*Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.*"

The women as a whole were shocked to hear me suggest that I was not pure in heart and that neither were they and were *surprised by the grace* that means we can be sure we will see God.

### **Please Pray:**

- *that the women will really know how high, deep and wide is the love of Christ for them;*
- *that Rachael would communicate clearly and accurately in Bislama;*
- *for Susan and Liness as they learn to lead, teach and encourage women in their faith.*

## A Trip to Australia (continued over page)

Late last year, Glen accompanied a small group from Talua to Australia for a trip to attend the South Pacific Regional Training Event in Canberra and to visit various pastors to see how they have established bible-based training and ministries in different contexts.

The group included Alan Walter, in his final year of Diploma at Talua; Philip Joses and John Maite, now in their first year of the BTh; Pastor Daniel Boe who is the Principal of Santo Presbytery Bible College; and Pastor Sophia Joses (nee Silas) who is working on the Vanuatu Bible Commentary project.

To all those that were visited, thank you for your time and for sharing your wisdom and experience with us, and a special thank-you to those who helped with accommodation, travel, phones and other expenses.



### **Please Pray:**

- *thanking God for this opportunity;*
- *that those who visited Australia will teach the Bible and proclaim Christ in Vanuatu, and that they will find ways to help train others for this work.*

**The Talua group prepares to sing at Valley Heights Community Church (in Springwood Parish) where they were involved in a mission as part of the SPRTE event.**

## A Trip to Australia (continued)

### Alan Walter writes...

During the conference, we learnt how to read a passage and understand the main argument of the author, how to preach or teach them and apply them to the people. We also learnt how to write a seminar for high school and to answer tough questions. After the conference we did mission with Springwood Anglican Church, which involved door-to-door knocking, engaging in different church activities and for leisure, sightseeing. We spent another week in Sydney mainly visiting churches and asking how they go about their ministry, especially in preparing their series of talks and preaching. We also visited Col Marshal who spoke about Ministry Training Strategy; and Moore College as well as other important places\*. The three weeks were busy and worthwhile.

Actually, the three weeks were like my three years at my Ministry Training Centre. I learned preaching truthfully, faithfully and clearly from the Bible; Mission as part of being a disciple or apostle of Christ and practical pastoral ministry, how to make people grow in their faith in Christ. Not only that, but I also learned about different cultures, the difficulties in it and how different approaches work for mission and pastoral ministry in different contexts. Another helpful thing I've learned is that inward mission is very important, especially to people in my diocese and this I must emphasise strongly in my ministry. In short, I learnt more than I expected!



*Alan Walter, Philip Joses, Ray Galea, Sophia Joses and Daniel Boe after talking with Ray about his multi-cultural ministry in Sydney.*

### John Maite reflects on his experience....

- Australians are busy, using their time well.
- Australians are (according to my culture) confrontational.
- It was difficult to show love and care to strangers and only the older generations seemed hospitable and welcoming.
- I realised about how great the gap is between our countries in standards of Education and Health.
- I found that the driving force behind keeping our things is not need, but greed. This was what hurt me the most; how some parts of the world have nothing and some parts have everything but are not willing to give.
- Christians develop a loving, accepting and sharing environment among themselves.
- Church and ministries have a competitive mentality to challenge and transform Australian society with God's word.
- Churches and different ministries in Australia adjust and shape themselves to fit Australia as a multicultural nation.
- I learnt from the way churches organise themselves for ministry, mission and church programs.
- I was interested in how parents bring their children up, especially in how they discipline their children, time spent together, assessing children's behaviour and creating an environment that is suitable for growing young children.
- My prayer is that the relationship between our partners in Australia will continued to grow strong for the sake of the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



*Daniel Boe, Jenny & Ian Smith, John Maite, Glen Connor and Alan Walter on their visit to PTC in Croydon.*