



# toktok!

news and prayer letter from the Connors, issue 33, Jan 2011  
partner church missionaries with *mission partners* (APWM)  
Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu



## challenges and opportunities...

Hello friends! 2010 for the Connors was a year of great challenges & opportunities as we began to feel more at home in Vanuatu. Living and teaching there is still demanding at times, but we are learning how to encourage our friends to love, trust and obey our Lord Jesus Christ. Home-schooling two young children while looking after a toddler has been absolutely exhausting, but we consider it a privilege to have this time with our children. Challenges and opportunities are two sides of the same coin and we thank God for both.



**Our children eat a farewell meal with their friends, Rosalia and Ashley.**

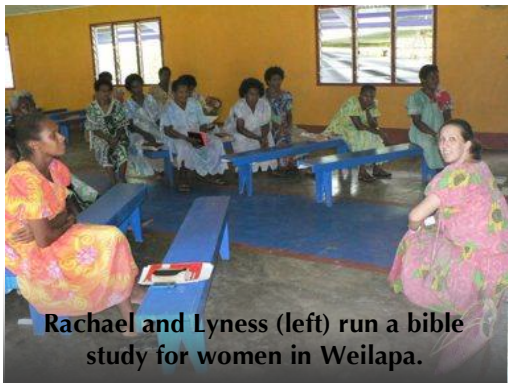
### *Please pray:*

- *thanking God for the many opportunities he gives us to teach people the word of God;*
- *that God will keep opening doors and giving us the strength to walk through them;*
- *that we will continue to love, trust and obey our Lord Jesus.*

## ...in the local language

As we have become more proficient in Bislama (a great challenge), we have been able to be more involved in ministry outside the main Talua programs (a great opportunity).

When the field experience program began in 2008, we struggled to know what to do as we took students into villages one weekend a month. We all have learnt a lot since, and the program is now bearing fruit both in the communities and in the students. Joel, John, Lyness, Dean & Api have all grown in their ministry skills and in their passion for the lost.



**Rachael and Lyness (left) run a bible study for women in Weilapa.**

Rachael also taught in the Talua women's program and Glen preached in villages, spoke at a high school Christian Fellowship, taught a short course at Talua, and taught for a week at the Malekula Presbytery Bible School. We are inspired by people's desire to understand the Bible and what God has done for them. Occasionally we are thanked with tears. What a joy!

### *Please pray:*

- *that the people in Sarete and Weilapa who have understood more about Jesus recently will continue to grow in faith and godliness;*
- *that John, Lyness and Joel, who have now left Talua, will teach and preach with great courage and conviction;*
- *for even better proficiency in Bislama so that we can speak spiritual truth accurately;*
- *that God will use Dean and Api to speak his word to his people this year.*

## ...in the book-room

The book-room ministry has continued to grow. The volume of sales was overwhelming until Scripture Union offered to help sell books if we could provide them. With this arrangement the turnover in 2010 reached almost 5,000 books and is still increasing. As well as this, people keep asking us for material in Bislama (Bible studies, topical teaching, guidance for marriage and family life, information about cults coming into Vanuatu, etc.) This is another challenge and opportunity for Talua as the production and distribution of good Christian material is vital for supporting local Christians.

### *Please pray:*

- *that Talua will produce good Bislama resources that will help local Christians;*
- *thanking God for the arrangement with SU that has seen the distribution of good books increase.*

## ...for 2011 at Talua

After much prayer, thought and discussion last year, we offered to stay for another two-year appointment at Talua. This decision was supported by *mission partners* & Talua and then approved by the Assembly of the PCV.

2011 looks to be a very busy and exciting year for Talua. Student numbers have increased with our second intake of students for the degree program. There is currently an extensive building project going on to provide for their accommodation. The building of the chapel continues and it is hoped that it will be completed in time for the general Assembly of the church that will be held in a nearby village in August. We anticipate that the time before and during Assembly will also be a hectic time for all at Talua.

With all this activity, it could be easy to lose sight of the main task in hand. At this stage we are unclear exactly what the year will involve for us, but we see many people who want to learn about Christ and students who want to learn how to teach and preach well. Over the next two months we will plan how we can best help in this situation. We are excited about the many gospel opportunities at Talua and beyond.

As **we head back to Talua on February 13<sup>th</sup>**, we would like to invite you to continue in partnership with us, and with our Lord, in this exciting work.

### *Please pray:*

- *that we might serve the Lord faithfully and passionately at Talua for another two years;*
- *that the Lord might give us clear direction for the year;*
- *that all at Talua will continue to love and proclaim Christ in the midst of much activity;*
- *that our residency permits will be completed in time for us to return on the 13<sup>th</sup> as planned;*
- *that we find accommodation for all the students before classes start.*

## new additions

This year we will be taking two extra people back with us to Talua. Our son, Lachlan Joel Connor, was born on 1st December 2010 at Nepean Hospital. He is sleeping and feeding well. We are all delighted and thankful to God for him. We also welcome Emily Brooke, a lovely young woman from Dubbo, who will spend part of her gap year helping us by teaching Sophie and Bethany as they continue correspondence school.



### *Please pray:*

- *thanking God for Lachlan's safe arrival;*
- *that Lachlan will know and love his Lord Jesus;*
- *praising God for the provision of Emily to teach Sophie and Bethany;*
- *that Emily may settle in to the Talua community & have great patience & love for our girls.*

## how can you help?

**Pray.** The most important way of helping us is to remember us in your prayers. To help you pray for us, we send out prayer points by email more regularly than these newsletters. If you'd like to receive these emails, please let us know.

**Come and chat.** Find out more about what we've been doing and what we hope to do, on

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February**  
**at 15 Emu Road, Glenbrook.**

Come and go anytime between **9am and 5pm.**

We'll pray together at **10am and 3pm.**

**Give.** If you are able, you can support us financially. Contact APWM (9792 1373) for details or download forms online ([www.talua.org/support\\_the\\_connors.pdf](http://www.talua.org/support_the_connors.pdf)). If you'd like to help with support for Emily, please write; "support for the Connors – Emily".

### *Please pray:*

- *thanking God that he continues to answer the prayers of many;*
- *asking God to continue his good and faithful provision for all our needs.*