

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

April 2017

Prison Reunion

VIA layman Robin Neyato shared this beautiful report from Homu District near Goroka in the Eastern Highlands Province of PNG.



"In October 2016 I had the privilege of joining two elders, three deaconesses and six church members for a one week visit to our local prison. 139 prisoners took part in our programs where we prayed with them, shared the Bible promises, gave Bible studies and distributed literature.

On the Thursday we ran a special program that we called the "Prisoner & Ex-Prisoner Reunion". We invited some ex-prisoners who are now serving as pastors, elders and leaders in the local mission and churches. They each testified and challenged all the prisoners to know and experience Jesus Christ.

We also launched a Christian Library in the prison. The prison camp Commander said in his speech that every other denomination that visits only stays for one day but the Seventh-day Adventists stayed for a week.

On the Sabbath six prisoners were baptized and eighteen made their stand for Jesus. Praise God!"

Health & Evangelism Team Up for Souls

VIA layman Nezoi Peter Ghele has spent one year in an unentered area of the Guadalcanal Province in the Solomon Islands. He shares the results of his first 12 months in the field.



"As this is my first year I have been focused on making good friendships with the Anglican and Catholic community members. In the middle of

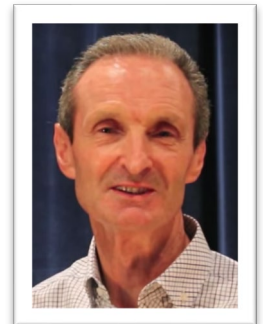
the year we conducted a two-week evangelistic campaign and were greatly blessed to have the Atoifi health team working alongside us. The health work really added to our evangelistic efforts.

Only one person was baptized during my first six months here but nine were baptized in the last six months and another seven have joined my baptismal classes. Praise God for His goodness.

I am also doing house-to-house visitation and training and nurturing our new members. Please pray for us as we continue to enter these unreached areas before Jesus returns. There is much work to be done."

Dr Neil Watts Joins VIA Team

Semi-retired former Conference and Union Mission president, Dr Neil Watts has recently accepted the volunteer role as Field Officer for Volunteers in Action. His territory will include much of the Pacific island region including PNG, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. Dr Watts will be the frontline ambassador for VIA in those island fields where your generosity provides financial support and resources to more than 400 lay men and women. We are most grateful for Dr Watts' passion for mission and his desire to ensure proper training and resourcing of the VIA workers as they care for churches and take the everlasting gospel to remote communities.



"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Jesus Christ - Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)

Step by Step for the Lord

by VIA, Clifton Bakale Luda



The Adventist message first reached Kwailabesi in the East Malaita District of the Solomon Islands in 1932. From there it spread into other regions of Malaita. Kwailabesi

became a lighthouse in the dark isles of Malaita but the regions to its north, south and west never accepted the Adventist faith and practices.

The local people send their children to Kwailabesi for education and they come to the Adventist clinic for medicine but their own livelihoods depend on farming pigs, chewing beetle nut and smoking home grown tobacco known as *safsafu*.

Several attempts have been made during the past 80 years to reach these people but only a handful have accepted the Adventist faith. Most joined the Anglicans, South Sea Evangelicals (SSEC), Assembly of God (AOG), Christian Outreach Centre (COC) and Roman Catholic Church. They became strong opposers of the Adventist church.

In August 2016 the home of a single mother was burnt down at Anonbata, Luma'alu community—just one kilometre from Kwailabesi. This gave us the opportunity to enter the area once more.

Our Dorcas ladies helped the mother and her five children by giving them comfort, clothes, plates, cutlery, soap and other necessities and also a gift of SB\$500 cash. The woman just stood there speechless with tears running down her face. All we could see was a smile of hope and a sense of relief on her tearful, beaming face.

When she finally managed to speak she said a very challenging thing, “Today Jesus comes to my home. Today it is not the SDA’s who give me these things. The SDA’s have been here for almost one hundred years, but today Jesus is here with them.”

Through our Dorcas ladies’ showing practical Christ-likeness the Christian Outreach Centre has now invited them to meetings and we have reciprocated. The COC pastor has asked us to run a two-week campaign at Luma'alu in 2017. Please pray for the people of Luma'alu in their search for truth, and pray that God will use us in these last days to proclaim his truth to others.”

New VIA Postcard Available

Does your church have any VIA promotional materials for members? The new VIA postcards can be placed in your brochures rack, inserted into church pigeon holes or handed out to encourage others to support VIA lay workers. If you would like to receive some cards please contact Vic Trosky (details below), or Julian Archer at julianwarcher@gmail.com or phone 07 4697 5151.



From Anger to Baptisms by VIA, Ben Joe, Ghombua SDA Church, Solomon Islands

Our church recently did outreach visits and I joined a team of Dorcas ladies to help in the homes of a United Church village. After visiting a few houses the local pastor was furious and he called me to him. With a closed fist and his finger pointed in my face he told me, “Who has authorized you to visit this village? This is my village. I have chased the Muslims away and now you.” I told him about Jesus’ Great Commission and how the gospel has no boundaries, then I called the Dorcas ladies and we left. The villagers were very angry at their pastor. Later a message came that the pastor wanted to reconcile with us and allow us to run any programs in the village. As a result, fourteen people are now baptized in the village. Please continue to pray for us.



For more information about VIA please contact: Victor & Marilyn Trosky, 452 Lake Moogerah Rd, Charlwood QLD 4309

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