

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

April 2018

Yowo Island Land Donated for New Church

by Wilfred Nangu, Sepik Mission, PNG

On an isolated island in the already remote Sepik region of Papua New Guinea, a one week VIA-led evangelistic program has resulted in big changes. Getting to Yowo Island requires two hours travel by outboard dinghy. After many years of following human traditions and false practices and beliefs, the residents are excited to hear bible truth for themselves. We praise God that the village leaders of this Catholic dominated island have now donated land for a new SDA Church. The local people are already gathering nearby for worship and Bible studies, excitedly preparing themselves for the new church and for biblical baptism. VIA layman Clyde Laloi from Makobin SDA Church wishes to show his huge appreciation to his sponsors.



Evangelism team welcoming villagers on opening night.



A beautiful beach baptism. God provided the backdrop scene!



Village leaders discuss the donation of land for the church.

Lightning Strike Tragedy Leads to Revival

by Jeffery Tangea, New Britain New Ireland Mission, PNG

New Ireland is a long, narrow, mountainous island in Papua New Guinea's beautiful north-east seas. VIA lay workers Seth Kanau Warubu and Joshua August are based there in Cavaman village.

In a tragic accident, villager Clement Toiwat was killed by a lightning strike during a 'Sabbath and Law' evangelistic revival meeting in a new work area. The adult population is about one thousand plus five hundred children. The deceased man left behind five children and their mother.



During and after the funeral, the people shared their willingness to give Jesus an opportunity. Now we have interests of three hundred people pledged to support the Sabbath initiative and build a new Seventh-day Adventist church.

At the funeral, VIA's Seth and Joshua shared that we shouldn't strive to be successful but rather to be of value. "Like Clement was, we need a lot of people to be of value and add value to family, community and our nation."

The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few. Please pray that more labourers will join the work. God and his people are working around the clock to save men and women. Thank you for your support and prayers for God's courage.

Jesus said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you ..." Luke 10:2-3a (NKJV)

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD: Spotlight on the Solomon Islands

God has used VIA workers to make a huge contribution to the work of the everlasting gospel in the Solomon Islands. Let's pray for the 72 VIA's who are serving there today and ask God to provide, through our donations, more lay workers for the beautiful people of this nation.



Albert Sekesai (Left) converted from Roman Catholicism when he learned the Sabbath message. He now serves as a VIA layman in the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal. He enters new areas of the Moro Movement and many of his relatives have come out of the Moro Movement through his loving work.



VIA worker Rauka Manoqaki handing a Godpod to one of the Anglican women leaders. Godpods are an effective tool for entering new areas in the Solomon Islands. Rauka entered Gela district through the Godpod and clothing ministries.



Francis Sai (Left) is a former militant of the Guadalcanal Revolutionary Army (GRA). He served as a soldier for the GRA leader, Harold Keke. Francis is the only survivor of the eight key leaders and is now a VIA worker on the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal where he works to save those who are victims of ethnic tension.



Hanky Jelson specializes in cottage meetings. One of his Bible study groups led to these nine new converts and he has many more in study classes. Jelson always trusts and depends on God for the success of his ministry.

Jack Nane is a VIA layman near Mendi in PNG. In the recent six month period he led seven people to baptism and has another 25 in his baptismal class. One of the recent converts was a Methodist minister who has since decided to close his Methodist church. The 20 Methodist members are now asking Jack lots of doctrinal questions to better understand their ex-pastor's change of life.



VIA layman **Eugene Agma** of Madang Manus Mission in PNG got a surprise recently. He and 31 youths fasted and prayed for three days then went out doing Bible studies, prayers, surveys and practical help. Some people they visited told them that they knew they were coming because angels had told them two days earlier! The outreach resulted in three villages asking for evangelistic programs.



Three Clan Tribes Offer Land to 'God's Church'

by Wilfred Nangu, Sepik Mission, PNG



It started out like any other evangelistic program but by the series' end three clan leaders wanted to donate land! Here they are pointing to the three plots of land.

Baimuru church minister Cyril Kulanawi, VIA layman Raphael Simon and members of Yangoru Kubalia in the Sepik Mission recently held an evangelistic meeting in Hambuke village. It resulted in three clan tribes offering a large amount of land to the Adventist Church to establish a church to worship in, a health post for basic medical care and a school for their children.

The spokesperson for the three clans made their position clear, "We were approached by other Sunday worship denominations to use this portion of land but we said no. We told them that we are waiting for God to bring His church here and we will give the land to them. Today is the day fulfilled and we will give it to the Seventh-day Adventists to take ownership and build the facilities for the people."

"The village people face many lawless activities that threaten their lives in their daily routines. We need God's church's presences here to minimize lawlessness like homebrew alcohol, gambling, womanizing, sorcery, murder, and more. As we accept Jesus as our Saviour many unwanted problems will be reduced."

The church minister Cyril Kulanawi, thanked the landlords and responded with, "We will return for a two week evangelistic program here with a ground breaking ceremony before the year ends."

During the first week's meeting an AOG Pastor with his wife admitted the truth and apologized for misleading their congregation, "We will be baptized and join the Adventists in your next program." A young widower who is an AOG musician and Revival church member started attending Sabbath worship at the nearest SDA church five kilometres away.

Amazing things are happening on the front lines. Please support the Hambuke project with your prayers and donations as they work in faith.

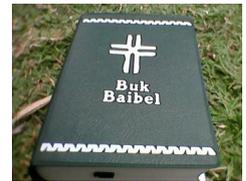
Devil Priest Ready for Baptism

by VIA Layman Patrick Bilisi, Solomon Islands

2017 was one of the most exciting for me as a VIA volunteer. The village of Kwaloabe is located high in the Malaitan mountains, 18 kilometres inland. It is a purely heathen culture and the devil priest's name is Hare Kwaikalia. God has given me many opportunities to talk with Hare's family and we have become good friends. We started to study the Bible together then came their request for vespers, Sabbath School and church services every second weekend. The family have requested a church building and recently Hare asked me to pray over his shrine and sacrificial area as he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour! The family plan to be baptized as soon as the church is completed. Please pray for all VIA workers as we bring God's light into these dark places.

Two Brothers Fight over Bibles

VIA laymen Ricky and Bernard felt inspired to carry two cartons of Bibles and a bale of clothes for two days into the bush to give them to a remote village in the Madang Manus area of PNG. On arrival, the local pastor of another denomination announced that the people must not accept any Bibles from the laymen. The pastor's brother disagreed and they got into a brawl. That night everyone went home sad but Ricky and Bernard prayed earnestly for God to intervene.



The next morning they approached the pastor and asked for him to be reconciled with his brother. He agreed and a reconciliation ceremony occurred. There was much joy in the village as the VIA's shared the Bibles, preached a sermon and started Bible studies with the villagers. Other missionaries are now also doing studies in the village, and neighbouring villages have opened their doors. What a God we serve! His word breaks down walls.



The two brothers (L & R) plant a reconciliation coconut palm with the two VIA's as witnesses.

Since 2015, 90 new congregations have been formed in the Solomon Islands alone. Many worship under tarps and trees. If you can help to buy roofing iron please contact Cliff Morgan on morgancliffval@gmail.com or phone 07 3820 6492.

How a Church Grows from the Ground Up!

by Elder Raymond G, Attat Church Plant, Solomon Islands



1. It doesn't look much like a church at this stage! The huge logs are cut from the forest and moved with log levers and chains into place for milling.



2. A portable Lucas mill is carried to the tree site in pieces and assembled to cut the timbers for the church.



3. The timbers are stacked flat to dry and cure ready for construction.

While all of this is occurring, groups of women and children spend their days clearing the building site of small trees, rocks and scrub.



4. Now it's starting to look like a church. All ladders and scaffolding are made from the original tree and are later dismantled and used to make tables and seating.



5. On goes the VIA donated roofing iron—an expensive but essential part of the project. Thank you donors!



6. A very happy church family with their newly-roofed place of worship.



7. The church members immediately run evangelistic programs and new souls are won for eternity.

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