

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

September 2018

Two Former Pastors amongst 64 Baptized

by Jim Wagi (VIA Coordinator, Western Highlands Mission, PNG)



On Sabbath August 25, 2018, a total of 64 souls were baptised at Askom village in PNG. Two former pastors of other denominations, Amos Tins and David Meger, were amongst the group. They left their former roles following a successful outreach program presented in their village by the local SDA Church members engaged in Total Member Involvement (TMI) and a weeklong crusade.

Amos served the Covenant denomination for 32 years. Nine members of his former Church left with him and six of these were also baptised with him.



David Meger (smiling at right) said "I have served the Christian Union denomination for 28 years without knowing the real purpose of worshipping God". Six members of his former Church followed him with three baptised along with him. His wife however chose to remain.

Most of the candidates baptised were youth from both primary and high schools revealing a positive future for the local church.



VIA Johnson Hep (left) has been the man behind these beautiful heart conversions. He was the second man in the District to start adopting, implementing and achieving results for Total member Involvement and has the highest number of baptisms.

When asked as to how he ended up with this result Johnson, in a soft tone of voice, shared three contributing factors. "First, with the support of the church board we formed small groups. These groups were assigned with two primary tasks. They were asked to focus on Inreach and Outreach."

They concentrated on nurturing the church members for inreach. This was done by weekly visitation to each member's home. Along with that they focused on evangelism as outreach. They've visited people at funerals with food, firewood and a few other essential things, preaching at the local market and providing religious instruction at the local primary and high schools within their community for seven consecutive months.

The humble gathering at this remote village was full of excitement and enjoyment for the celebrating party. Most of the community was there from the beginning to the end. This indicates the witnessing opportunity the event presented itself was well received. This was further consolidated when 224 people bravely stepped forward exhibiting their intention to join the church at a later date!

This Spirit-led outcome stems from a tireless combined effort from a few stakeholders. The VIA is the front liner. His sponsor, the administration at the Mission headquarters, the Provincial, District and local Church administration and the ever-present but invisible Lord of the work have been behind the scenes right through.

In addition to the baptisms, Johnson and the church members have built two new company churches with thatched roofs. These were dedicated during the week leading up to the baptism. They've asked the VIA supervisor for roofing iron for these two new churches.

Finally Johnson is planning to continue working much harder for greater results. Let's double our prayers, our mental and physical efforts to assist Johnson and the rest of the volunteers, and their sponsors, to reach their full height for God.

Solomon Islands VIA Highlights by Pr. George Auna, Ministerial Secretary/V.I.A./Global Mission Director, Solomon Islands Mission

The Solomon Islands Mission has been blessed by VIA's ministry in the mission fields. VIA workers open up new areas, nurture new believers and even care for churches. There are 72 VIA's sponsored from Australia, 13 from other sources and a few through local church support.

VIA's have been wonderful in the ministry. In all the major islands of the Solomons, VIAs serve as pastors and ministers to care for the little congregations in the new areas. They serve God with commitment and sacrificial hearts.

During Harvest 2018, a Mission-wide program for all local churches, the VIAs were some of the leading figures in the programs. VIAs have done the best work in their ground preparation, soil sowing and even harvesting. I am very grateful for the commitment that you, individual sponsors, make for the Lord to support the work of VIA in the Solomons. Thank you!



Community service is a ministry that leads believers to Christ. VIA Japheth Kekesaia (centre) with young people preparing to distribute clothing in the unentered areas of Haeparia, Guadalcanal Highlands. Japheth also helped the Haeparia people to build a new temporary shelter (below) for them to worship in.



Japheth (back right) and new baptismal candidates.

The Solomon Islands highlands need more support for VIA workers. There are new areas to enter. Please contact VIA if you can assist.

Newly Entered Areas of Gela, Florida Islands



VIA Stephen Peresini paddles for several hours to do visitation and Bible studies. He enters many new areas by doing community service.



Despite the Gela area being an Anglican dominated region people are making a stand for the Adventist truth. Peresini (at left) works very hard and God has used him to lead five new believers to Christ.

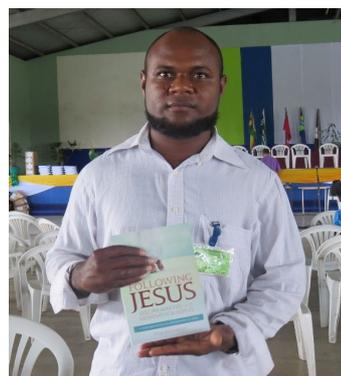
Notorious Criminal Accepts Jesus

Jimmy Andrew was a dishonourable criminal in Aruligo area, West of Honiara. The communities were very unhappy with his behaviour. When drunk he often blocked the road and took money from all the drivers before letting them go.



Jimmy (at right) met VIA Jonathan Galo (centre) and surrendered his life when Jonathan told him of the new life in Jesus.

Jimmy accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour on 28 July, 2018 and was baptized at Aruligo beach.



Newly converted, Jimmy joined the SPD's Discipleship Training & Church Planting program!

Encouraging the Troops in PNG

by Cliff Morgan & Neil Watts

In July 2018 we had the privilege of visiting with many of the VIA lay workers in the Morobe, Madang-Manus and Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. We enjoyed worships, discussed strategies, heard reports, shared resources, ate together and received input from the local Mission administrators. It was a very satisfying time for all.

All in all God's Hand was observed at all the missions we visited. We distributed many resources including four useful books: *Steps to Personal Revival* by Helmut Haubeil on being filled with the Holy Spirit; *Studying Together* by Mark Finley, a very useful book on studying with people of other faiths; *Real Peace Real Answers* including *Steps to Christ* and Bible answers on 18 issues; *What the Bible Says About ...* 31 studies by Lonnie Melashenko.

The Bible workers were greatly encouraged, some challenges were sorted out and the provision of new resources better equips each worker to continue on the front lines. Here are a few photos to report on the visit.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



These 8 VIAs walked up to 5 days through mountainous terrain to attend our meetings in Madang. The sleeping mats were purchased for their homeward journey as part of the resources from VIA.



All 24 VIA Bible Workers from Madang Manus Mission received a AU\$21 solar panel kit. It includes a battery to store the power to operate a light. To us who are accustomed lights in every room it seems almost useless, but the remote VIA

workers said that it would be a very welcome asset to their living.



VIAs were able to select many of their own resources to suit their ministry needs. We observed that Burnard had a chain saw blade. Helping the community with a chainsaw has led to many baptisms throughout VIAs history!

This group below in the cold Eastern Highlands Mission had a liking for warm bedding! Two of the men pictured were so isolated that they got the message late and after two days of walking, arrived just ten minutes before the end of our meetings when this photo was taken.



A Beautiful Mission Team



Steven Pokut has been a faithful Bible worker for thirteen years. They have five children the youngest was with them. Steven and his family walked for five days just to get to the road to catch a bus. The thing that impressed us most was the caring spirit of his wife. She had a mission to be friendly and a bubbly encourager. Her passion for the trip was to raise 300 kina to purchase a bale of second hand clothing for her friends and needy church members at home. Thank God that we were able to assist.

Here was a bush lady, married at 15, but she knew what gave happiness, helping others. What a missionary wife! No wonder her husband and family are long-term soul winners and have such happy relationships. I still wonder how she and her husband got the bale of clothing to her village, five days walk after getting off the bus!

128 in Bible Studies by Jim Wagi (WHM, PNG)



Michael Karl (left) is caring for ten churches. Three of them were erected in his term as a VIA. With support from the elders and other members Michael visits all of the churches once a fortnight. The little band of believers expectantly wait for Michael in their respective locations.

Samuel Walep, an elder of the Evangelical Brotherhood Church, has left that Church and joined the Adventist Church.

Currently Michael is studying with 128 interests. Thirty of these are from other denominations. He wants to baptize them all soon. God has blessed Michael's efforts by leading Dominic Koro, a former pastor of the Evangelical Brotherhood Church to baptism.

Michael and his church members have asked for VIA's Church Roofing assistance as their membership is growing fast!

Andrew 'Ten Church' Jackson



VIA Andrew Jackson serves in Sanma Province, at Malau Big Bay north of Santo in Vanuatu. He cares for five company churches, four family churches and one organised church! Through the financial support of VIA, Andrew is able to travel between the churches to carry out his ministerial duties. In the past six months Andrew has led a discipleship small group ministry, a family violence program, a new church dedication, a seven-week stewardship emphasis series, a two-week evangelistic series, church board and business meetings, a church camp out, outreach programs, visitation and many baptisms. To God be the glory.

A Home for the Homeless by Jim Wagi

Tom and Priscilla and their three sons were Lutherans living in Port Moresby. They owned and operated a taxi. In July 2017 Tom was diagnosed with bone tuberculosis. He was too weak to do any work. The family sold their taxi. Much of the money went for medicines and the rest was used for their travel home to Mt Hagen.

Arriving home they found their thatched roofed house was in disrepair. A kind neighbour offered them accommodation but later needed them to move into his trade store. Soon they needed to move again but had nowhere to go.

Harrison Kont arrived at the door for visitation. Harrison and VIA Philip Mako offered to study the Bible with the family and pray for them. The family mentioned their housing problem and the local church members united to build a little thatch roof house for the family. In three months the house was completed along with some new household items.



VIA Philip Mako (left), his wife beside him, Priscilla (holding baby), her husband Tom (2nd from right) and Elder Harrison Kont (in cap), in front of the new home.

Today Tom and Priscilla and their sons attend the Adventist Church.

When asked what the difference is between their Lutheran background and their new Adventist faith Priscilla said, "We blindly worshipped God because we did not see the needy around us and provide for them like the Adventists did for my family. Their act of kindness was a heart touching one."

Philip has also led the building of a new church in the formerly unentered area of Mueng. Twenty young men from Mueng built the Church and some are hoping to be baptised in September. Philip has been asked to present the Sabbath truth to the John 1:1 denomination (a Sunday keeping church). He is doing that twice a week. Please pray for Philip as well as for all the people involved.

To all our wonderful, dedicated, generous sponsors! THANK YOU! We hope you've been blessed while reading about the amazing ministry that your support makes possible. God is working through YOU!

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

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