

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

September 2019

38 New Church Roofs

by Cliff Morgan
VIA Co-founder & Roofing Manager

Thanks to a huge team effort of God, sponsors and strong support from missions, thirty-eight local church congregations—27 in PNG and 11 in the Solomon Islands—have already had new roofs funded or completed in 2019. This is slightly more than the number roofed in the previous two years! A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED.

One of the churches with a shiny, waterproof roof is at Yombo in the heart of Lake Kutubu in the Western Highlands of PNG. Yombo is only accessible by water transport such as the timber dugout canoe in this photo (centre).

While Lake Kutubu is internationally renowned for its rich oil fields, most of its inhabitants are not Christians. VIA has endeavored to reach these people with four volunteers for more than ten years.



Praise God that today the region has some 300 members worshipping the God of the Universe in nine churches, including Yombo. The local people want to thank VIA's sponsors for a job well done. However, there's still much to be done in those difficult areas so, "Let us not be weary in doing good."

Another excited congregation can be found in Maland village in the, Western Highlands, some 50 km northwest of Mendi township. Maland is a densely populated village but still new to the Adventist faith.

Daniel Mesa, Chairman of the church building board reported, "We started the church four years ago with just four new interests from the community but that has dramatically increased to 150 attendees now. And praise God that most are young people!"

"God is rewarding the efforts of everyone involved. It's an obvious token of God's blessings and presence among His children who are committing their effort, resources and time for the salvation of others. So we'll work until Jesus comes." What a joy it is to hear these wonderful reports of God's leading through VIA.



Yombo Island Church with a new roof.



Hello! from some Yombo Island members.



Some of Maland's members with their new church.

Sincere Thanks from Solomon Islands

by *Silent Tovosia, President, Solomon Islands Mission (SIM)*

Dear VIA Sponsors, I want to gratefully acknowledge once again your kind assistance to the work of God in SIM.



The VIA program has continued to be a great blessing to the Mission because we have a shortage of full-time workers.

Please convey our sincere thanks to our supporters and the kind-hearted donors who contribute faithfully towards this cause.

Our baptisms last Sabbath in the Honiara organized churches and companies is around 150 and reports are still coming in. Many of these baptisms result from the work of our VIA ministers. God's blessings to you, *Silent Tovosia*

An Exciting Sabbath

by *Ericson Restuetune, Director of Ministerial, Evangelism & Global Mission, Vanuatu Mission*

VIA lay worker Andrew Bob recently had a very exciting Sabbath. Due to a shortage of ordained pastors in the Vanuatu Mission, and the isolation of Andrew's ministry location, layman Andrew was authorised by the Vanuatu Mission President, Pastor Nos Terry, to baptise all of his candidates in the Big Bay area.

The baptisms were a Spirit-led culmination of Andrew's ministry and the nationwide evangelistic meetings that were conducted last year.



Andrew Bob (left) with his baptismal candidates.

Devil Priest Chooses the Lord



Solsaia church has now baptized members from Anglican, Catholic and non-believers who are all embracing the Adventist truth with joy. VIA Shenton Max is working prayerfully in Solsaia and God is blessing powerfully. John Bolokonia, now an ex-devil priest was recently baptized, and thanks to VIA donors Solsaia church also

has a shiny new roof. God is good!

VIA Field Director's Report

by *Dr Neil Watts, VIA Field Director*

During this year I have had the opportunity to visit with our VIA workers and Coordinators in the Solomon Islands, the Western Highlands Mission of PNG and in Vanuatu. It has been an inspiring experience to see and hear the dedication of these VIAs from isolated areas and to hear some of the challenges they face on a daily basis as well as stories of how the Lord is using them to bring light and hope to so many people in remote areas.



Your laymen and women really appreciate seeing a VIA representative from Australia and receiving encouragement, training and some resources to help them in their work.

Many of these lay workers have to travel long distances and walk several days just to cover their territories. They often use their own money to pay for road or water transportation to take God's love to remote areas.

It is good to know that the Union and local Mission leaders appreciate the fact that remote churches are being planted and cared for and thousands of new members are joining our church because of the faithful ministry of our VIAs. Most church leaders realise that without the support of VIA, the rapid growth in our island fields would be significantly reduced and they wish to thank all who support VIA. Thank you!



Witnessing the prison inmates' baptism at Black Sand Beach in Port Vila, Vanuatu.



Visiting the VIA's in Vanuatu's Northern Islands.

Eastern Highlands Bible Worker Training

by Joanis Fezamo, President, Eastern Highlands Mission, PNG



111 Bible Workers including VIAs, Mission Volunteers and privately sponsored workers attended a skills upgrading program in July. Pastor Gordon Stafford, a retired mission worker from Western Australia, was the much-appreciated guest speaker. Another highlight was the practical Life Time Skills training sessions taught by local professionals on the subjects of: 1. Basic Solar Connections; 2. Basic Carpentry; 3. Basic Brick Making; 4. Organic Farming; 5. Bee Keeping.

VIA Sponsors are Missionaries – That’s You!

by Pastor Luke Nathan, Secretary, Western Highlands Mission, PNG.

I would like to thank the VIA team for your kindness. Western Highlands Mission has a vast geographical area with almost a third of the country’s population. The Church Membership is well over 92,000 but the total population is around 2.4 million. We have 204 official church workers, but they can’t oversee the whole membership.

The introduction of Volunteers in Action has benefited WHM in a great way, which cannot be over-stated. We are blessed to have more than 110 VIAs supporting our work here in WHM.

On behalf of the Officers and the WHM Executive Committee, I would like to sincerely thank VIA, especially the individuals who sacrifice to sponsor volunteers. In sponsoring someone, you are really relieving the Mission and truly you are missionaries. You might not be physically working here in the mountains of Papua New Guinea, but your contribution speaks on your behalf.

The One who sees the secrets will continue to bless you as you continue to bless many in this part of the world. Thank you all.

VIA Gives 110% and Receives 126%



Brenda Kambao cares for Aipos Church 10km southeast of Wabag town in PNG’s Western Highlands Mission. Aipos only had 34 members when she arrived but through united service and 110% effort, they welcomed 43 new members that year—126% growth! They now have a goal of welcoming 100 more members in May 2020 (see back page).

Solomon Islands Short Reports

by George Auna, Director of Ministerial, Evangelism & Global Mission, Solomon Islands.

Stephen Lenga is a VIA in the newly entered area of Kolotubi. He went around with his pictorial aid and shared Jesus with the community. Pictorial aids have been used by VIAs for many years as they a very effective method of giving Bible studies and presenting sermons. A picture says a thousand words and maybe even two thousand words in communities where illiteracy is high.



Nathan Kaisifa is a former alcoholic and a drug dealer now serving as a VIA in Makira, Santa Ana. After his conversion Nathan returned to his own



Island to serve his people. He uses a little canoe to paddle between the islands, a bucket as his ‘suitcase’ and a piece of plastic to cover his food—usually coconut and fish.



Malaita Island VIAs

Peter Laumanu, Moses Buga, Clifton Bakale and Robert Laukwai have been benefiting from the bicycles provided by their sponsors. The bicycles greatly

reduce the travel time to Bible studies and visitations, some of which used to take a whole day’s walk. Thank you sponsors!

Jenifer Enriko

is the only VIA lady in the Solomon Islands Mission. She serves among the notorious criminal people



in the Guadalcanal plain. Jenifer travels from community to community visiting interested members and new communities. Jenifer always sings her favourite song, ‘Stand like the Brave’. She’s always firm and strong despite the challenges that she goes through.

“Pray ... for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

Ephesians 6:19

SPD President's Report

by Pr Glenn Townend, President, South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

VIA, or in full Volunteers in Action, have certainly lived up to their name. Volunteers from largely Australia and New Zealand act by giving funds and supporting the VIAs who work as frontline Bible workers in remote places, mainly in Papua New Guinea, with currently 227 VIAs and the Trans Pacific Union with 114.



Most of the time when I travel to the countries of the Pacific I attend large meetings in the major centres like Port Moresby, Lae, Mount Hagen, Suva, Port Vila or Honiara. However, each year I try to spend one or two days in a remote place to see what God is doing at the edges. It is here that I meet the VIAs, who are not usually well educated in reading and writing but have a vast education in understanding people and God.

The VIAs are committed to work alongside people—fishing, gardening, building and while doing this developing trust—trust in themselves and ultimately trust in God. VIAs are often pioneering in new areas and eventually they gather other people as disciples of Jesus. It is here that the other major ministry of VIA kicks in—roofing for new churches. Since 2000, VIA has roofed 1,217 churches. They have roofed one church, on average, every 5.7 days, for 19 years!

I thank God for VIAs ministry and ask God to continue to bless it. I also acknowledge the board, the leaders and the donors who serve God in supporting the volunteers and church roofing projects. Thank you. *Blessings as we live our hope in Jesus, Glenn Townend.*

EASY PAYMENT METHODS

Post Cheques to: Volunteers In Action, PO Box 1117, Young, NSW 2594.

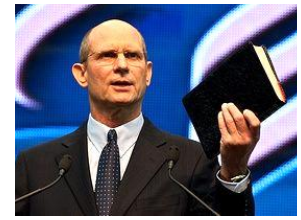
Direct Deposit: Westpac, BSB 034002, Account 482352 (Please use your ID number or name as the reference).

Credit Card: Monthly, quarterly or half-yearly scheduled credit card payments. Please contact Kaylene for a Payment Authorisation Form. *THANK YOU! ☺*

Please Support VIA for PNG in 2020

As you read this, Papua New Guinea is preparing for a major Total Member Involvement Reaping Program from 1-16 May, 2020.

General Conference President Ted Wilson will visit PNG for the TMI programs, and the South Pacific Division and the PNG Union Mission have bold plans in place.



The hope is to have 2,000 evangelistic series running simultaneously across the country. Hundreds of PNG pastors and lay people will do the majority of the local programs and 30 preachers will be provided by the General Conference and 90 by the SPD.

Currently, the PNGUM and local Missions are working on Preparing the Soil—using health programs and other community services to open people to the gospel. Some are also Sowing the Seed with Discovery Bible Reading groups. There are plans for hundreds of new churches, which will meet anywhere they can find, and people are being trained to lead them.

There are plans for getting Bibles, picture rolls and discipleship materials on doctrine and spiritual habits as well—all part of the 2020 harvest. PNG now has an Adventist radio station, Hope 107.5 FM, which is already reaching many people. There is much happening!

So, how does this affect VIA? Apart from many of our VIAs being directly involved in every part of the 2020 program, we will also have ongoing need for more VIAs to support the new church members, and additional roofs for new church buildings.

If you are willing to make a special, sacrificial donation to help bring many souls into God's kingdom for eternity please contact Kaylene on kaykos01@gmail.com or 0414 313 753 or contact Vic on the details at the bottom of this page.

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” *Matthew 28:19-20*

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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