

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

October 2021

More Than Conquerors in Bosavi

by Jim Wagi, Western Highlands, PNG

With a population of 50,000, the Mount Bosavi people are a group that had not been reached by the Three Angels' Message. It is a remote region, difficult to enter due not only to hostile terrain but also to a hostile religious leader. Since 1964 it has been a stronghold of the Evangelical Church of Papua (ECP).



In the past, SDA Aviation Evangelists like David Bryce, Gordon Stafford and Roger Millist have tried to bring God's truth to the people of Bosavi, without any obvious success. The current aviation evangelism team continued their endeavours when delivering relief supplies during the earthquake in February 2017. This surely had some impact but still without positive results. But in 2018, Jack Ane, a VIA Sponsored Volunteer courageously fought his way through mountains of difficulties and successfully established a Church in the Bosavian village of Huiya.



VIA missionary, Jack Ane (centre) with new Bosavian brothers

In May this year Komo-Bosavi District sent in a mobile evangelism team of 25 (20 men and 5 women) including Jack Ane. This group, led by Gibson Patrick, left on foot to reach as many villages as they could in 10 days—and it was hard going. They had to carry all their food and program equipment on their backs. The mountains were steep

and tall, the flooded rivers had no bridges and then there were the extra challenges of leeches and snakes! But the team pressed on through Bosavi territory, running an evangelistic slide show program to a different crowd every night. They wanted to reach as many villages as possible, and with their supplies running low, they reached Muluma village. Here they felt the villagers were especially interested and genuinely hungry for gospel truth so they shared their presentation for four nights. Here they met Douglas Degili, who had learnt about the Adventist message through a street preacher in Port Moresby. His faith had been faltering but with the arrival of the mobile evangelism team, he felt his heart warming again.

The team returned home, praying that their efforts in Bosavi would be blessed, and they were! Ten days later a group of nine from Muluma village, led by young Douglas Degili, arrived on foot, requesting baptism.



When an Adventist Aviation plane arrived at Muluma airstrip on August 19 with a shipment of roofing iron and wall cladding for three churches, they were publicly welcomed by Chief Waima Tinawi. WHM leaders, including Pr Daniel Lee (a former VIA missionary) and Jim Wagi spent the next seven days, preaching, building and helping the people.

On Sabbath August 21, Pr Daniel Lee conducted the SDA Church's first baptism on Bosavi soil. Chief Waima Tinawi and 16 others were baptized. Praise the Lord! A follow up visit is planned for next March, when seven crusades will be run, one at each air strip in the Bosavi region. Medical supplies and personnel along with audio Bibles and basic supplies like clothing and soap, will also accompany the team. Please keep Bosavi in your prayers.



Audio Bibles for Bosavi

by Jim Wagi, Western Highlands, PNG

In late August, 240 audio Bibles, arranged by Pr John Kosmeier and distributed through VIA, arrived in the remote district of Bosavi. These were given out on Thursday August 26. Eight were specially reserved for the pastors of the Evangelical Church of Papua. Within days the report came through to the main WHM office that people continued coming, asking for audio Bibles.

The people there have neither seen nor heard audio Bible before. Recipients like Alfie (below) said, "I am so happy because this is the good news. I will play as often as I like." He has already made up his mind to become a Seventh-day Adventist. The audio Bible will help him to understand the gospel truth more fully.



To God Be the Glory! VIA Comes Full Circle

by Stanley Aurika, Eastern Highlands Simbu Mission, PNG

God had done so many great works in this mission since VIA started. Looking back, we are filled with praise for the way He has blessed. In the beginning, volunteers worked willingly for many years when they couldn't be offered a paid job by their Mission, and God blessed their dedication and trust in Him.

Many of them were sponsored to attend Omaura school of Ministry. Upon graduation, most of them were picked up by their home Missions as mission volunteers, and many then moved on to become full-time workers. Some went on to further study at Sonoma college and PAU.

Faithful VIA missionaries have been ordained as field pastors, some went on to serve as District Directors, for example, Peter Fago, Boas Leowan, Sam Kepa, Lorance Aitapo and Yauko Kasave. Some, like Reuben Krimpave in Sepik, were appointed as departmental directors. Seeing their children attend colleges and universities has been one of the most rewarding experiences for the VIA's.

Another who started as a VIA missionary is Mission Secretary Pr. James Kiangua. District Director Yauko Kasave has also been called to Omaura School of Ministry. Our great God has blessed the VIA training work at Omaura, EHSM. God deserves all praise and honor!

Church Membership Quadruples

Report by Ben Lasak, Kakulip Grow One Adventist Church, Finschhafen District



Ben is a VIA Missionary who was appointed to Kakulip church in early 2020. Situated in a staunchly Lutheran area, and with only one baptised SDA member there, it was a challenging assignment. God blessed and through house-to-house visitations, adult literacy classes, health seminars, and Bible studies, Ben prepared four precious souls for baptism.

'Total Member Involvement' Rolls Up Its Sleeves

Report by Ben Lasak, Kakulip Grow One Adventist Church, Finschhafen District

When VIA Missionary, Ben Lasak, took up his challenging position at Kakulip church there wasn't even a place for



him to live, let alone a church in which the new members could worship. But then 'Total Member Involvement' came to his rescue.

The SDA church members from the surrounding districts arrived and set to work building him a house. They also cleared and dedicated a large area beside his house where the new church will be built. The materials for the church will be donated by the Morobe Mission Head Office. All praise to God!

Business Training Brings New Opportunities

by Numboku local church in Yangoru Kubalia Region, Sepik Mission, PNG

VIA field missionary, John Fabian Homboku, wanted to offer more to the community friends he was studying the Bible with every Sabbath. So he asked them if they would be interested in Small Medium Enterprise Training. This would certify them to access small business bank loans, providing them with more financial stability. His idea was greeted with enthusiasm and before long 22 people had registered to attend the training sessions.



VIA John Fabian Homboku with the happy SME graduates

Upon graduation, they received a NDB (National Development Bank) Certificate, qualifying them to obtain a bank loan to start up small scale businesses.

John Fabian encourages other VIAs to conduct these trainings in their areas, expanding their gospel influence as they meet the day-to-day needs of the members of their community.

Thank You Volunteers In Action!

by Wilfred Nangu, Sepik Mission, PNG



With funds from VIA, the Sepik mission was recently able to run workers meetings for all the workers and volunteers in their area. Everyone enjoyed the training and were encouraged as they met and shared their experiences. They would each like to thank VIA's faithful supporters for your "willing heart to reach and train us."

In 2021 we have the highest number of sponsored VIAs (434!) since 2011. That's a record for the last decade. Thank YOU!

Keeping Sabbath in Secret

by Jack Aingky Toby, Morobe Province, PNG

The Indagen Adventist church was pleased to welcome visitors through their doors one Sabbath. The family was from the nearby non-Adventist village of Musep and at lunch after the sermon, they told VIA missionary, Jack Aingky Toby, that they had been secretly keeping the Sabbath in their home. They have been prohibited from going to church on Sabbath by their parish priest.

There have been many evangelism meetings held at Indagen church and several volunteers and laypeople have also been active in the area. Jack believes that there are many people secretly keeping Sabbath and he feels called to do the follow up work of seeking them out and visiting them.



Locally-grown Lord's Supper!

by the Ginde Kuso, Koweth and Yawan churches

The Koweth SDA church in Morobe Province, PNG, recently reached out to their community by running classes on how to grow wheat. A VIA Missionary trained people on how farming wheat could bring them a small income to help them to survive financially. He was relieved when the wheat grew, and now the unleavened bread for the Lord's Supper is made from locally grown wheat flour!

The Koweth church also has more news... they just finished building the first SDA school in their area. It is the Koweth Adventist Kindergarten School.

VIA missionary, Ginde Kuso has also been busy helping with the construction of the Boksavin SDA Church, and helping with Adult Literacy Training at Kabwum church.

Pre-Evangelism Program in Yawan

The Yawan SDA church ran a week-long, pre-evangelism program earlier this year. Community members were very interested to attend the nightly meetings on various health topics. The week concluded with a special all-day Sabbath program.

DID YOU KNOW?

VIA only uses 0.5% of total funds for overhead costs—and that all comes from bank interest—so **100% of your gift** goes to the field. © Thank you for trusting us with your hard-earned donations as we invest it for eternity.

Bougainville Mission Workers' Meetings



The Bougainville Mission is classified as one on the smaller missions in the country of Papua New Guinea. This autonomous region, with an estimated population of 300,000, has only 9,000 baptized members, so only 3% of the region is Adventist.

Membership growth is slow and perhaps this is because of the civil unrest crisis that has been affecting the region for many years. This Mission consists of eight districts and the landscape is a mix of coastal and mountainous areas.

This Mission has 33 full-time workers and 20 sponsored VIA missionaries. They are doing a great work, distributed equally within the eight districts of the Bougainville Mission. On the 27th- 31st July our workers meeting was conducted at Bougainville Mission Headquarters. All workers were invited to attend with their spouses and the overall program was very successful. Thank you, VIA committee for supporting us financially with K5,500 to cover the expenses of running the program.

Sessions were run during the day by Officers and Directors and worships in the afternoon by president Pastor Julius Divu. All attendees loved the program which ended on a high note with the dedication and consecration prayer of workers with their families.



Dear Friends of VIA

If your heart is being touched by the Holy Spirit as you read of these faithful men and women who are working on the front lines of God's work, we invite you to consider increasing your support for them, in prayer or financially, or by sharing this newsletter with others who may also be prompted to give.

Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness.

Please Build More Churches!

by Greg Abel, Health Temperance & Family Life Ministries Director, Bougainville Mission.

The Bougainville Mission Director, Greg Abel, was blessed to recently visit the Buin District. In Turigau village, a remarkable thing happened in 2020 after the *Revelation of Hope* two-week evangelistic series. An entire congregation converted to Adventism! The local PNG Church of Fellowship changed their church signs to display 'SDA Church'.

During this most recent visit, we were invited to visit the Turigau village chief's brother, who had recently suffered a mild stroke. We gave him a hot



bath and a two-hour massage. The chief invited us into many other homes, and we were able to pray with people and invite them along to the nightly meetings we were running.

The Turigau village chief is a great ambassador for the Seventh-day Adventist church. He is a powerful leader and has a great influence over his village. Wherever we went he told people that the SDA church is "the new church that cares for us." Before leaving each home, he would express the joy and peace he is sensing since inviting the Adventists into his village.



While the Tirigau church was still under construction, another village chief arrived requesting that an evangelism program be conducted in his village, and a new church built there too.

Maureen Mingel - A PNG Dorcas!

On reading through the many stories that VIA Maureen Mingel shares, the title 'PNG Dorcas' comes immediately to mind. Her ministry's foundation is prayer and, as the Holy Spirit prompts her, she moves through her community attending to the real-life needs of the people she meets. Here are some of her stories from Nawaeb District.

Bible Studies with Orphans

Maureen has been visiting Joshua regularly, doing Bible studies with him. Having no living parents, he has grown to love his church family and will soon be baptised.



Witchcraft Family Request a Visit

Maureen felt compelled to spend one month in special prayer for this family who had never allowed anyone to speak with them about Jesus. After this season of prayer, the father of the home requested she visit, and she is thrilled to be sharing God's love with them.



Unity through Sewing

Maureen was saddened to see disunity amongst the women of her church. She prayed for God's guidance and felt inspired by the Holy Spirit to participate in running a Women's Ministry Emphasis Sabbath. In preparation for their upcoming program, she got them together for a sewing class and taught them to sew their own special uniforms. When the emphasis day arrived, Maureen was thrilled to see newfound love and harmony amongst the group.



More Inspired Sewing Projects

This single mum is a volunteer literacy teacher at the church. She attended Maureen's sewing classes and now proudly makes clothes for her daughters. She is also using her new skills to earn an income to support her family.



Maureen also visits many families when they have sick family members. She encourages them and seeks ways to help them practically with their needs.

When death visited a poor family in her community, Maureen rallied together the church ladies and with their new skills they lined and decorated a coffin donated by the church. The family was so touched by this thoughtful gesture.



Adventurers Neckerchiefs are sewn by Maureen and given to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them. Many of these families are not Adventists and some of the children are orphans.



Lani's Sabbath Dress

Little Lani loves coming to church. Her mother is a single parent who works hard at her nursing job. She isn't strong in her faith, but Lani keeps bringing her along. To encourage her in her young faith, Maureen gave Lani a World-Changers Bible and made her a special Sabbath dress. Lani loves it!

Maureen's husband Charles is very supportive of all her VIA activities in their community. He recently helped her complete a project her sewing skills couldn't manage... building a concrete pit toilet for their community, to help with sanitation and water-saving.



Maureen says that her ministry is so fulfilling! "I thank God Almighty for calling me to serve in His mission and to prepare people's hearts for His soon return."

VIA is now on eGiving!

We are so grateful to the South Queensland Conference Treasury team who have managed all VIA finances for more than twenty years. Now they're being even more generous as they've included VIA in their eGiving recipients list for all South Queensland churches. Thank you!

How to donate with eGiving

Simply go to www.egiving.org.au and select your Sth Qld Conf. home church (or just select 'South Queensland Conference Church'), then search for VIA in 'Search all gifts'. You can then insert the amount of your donation in the Volunteers In Action box and follow the prompts. So we can credit your VIA account, please email your name and donation amount to Val at admin@volunteersinaction.com.au

The screenshot shows the eGiving website navigation bar with links for GIVE, ABOUT eGIVING, TITHES & OFFERINGS, FAQs, and SUPPORT. Below is a banner for the Seventh-day Adventist Church South Pacific. A progress bar indicates steps: 1. Select your church, 2. Select giving options, 3. Payment, 4. Receipt. The main content area is titled 'Gifts for South Queensland Conference Church' and contains a search bar with 'VIA' entered. Below the search bar, there is a result for 'VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION (VIA)' with a description: 'Your gift will help to train, equip and support volunteer, frontline lay workers as they share the gospel message among their own people in isolated regions of the Pacific Islands.'

How to set up a recurring eGiving payment

If you wish to set up recurring payments to VIA you will first need to set up a myAdventist account. Go to eGiving as outlined above and then follow the myAdventist login and registration link on the right-hand side of the eGiving page. Once your myAdventist account setup is complete, simply go to eGiving and insert the recurring amount you wish to pay and tick the 'Recurring gift' box in the credit card payment section.

The screenshot shows the 'Login / Create Account' section of the myAdventist website. It includes a link to 'Click on the link below to login or register a new MyAdventist account.' and a 'myADVENTIST' logo. Below the logo, it says 'Login to show previous giving, reprint receipts and manage your scheduled giving.'

How to donate anonymously

If you want to be an anonymous donor to VIA you don't need to worry about having a myAdventist account, simply use the eGiving instructions above.

Need Help with eGiving?

Just click on the 'HOW TO' links in the orange box in the top-right corner of the eGiving web page at egiving.org.au

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

A Deepening Conviction



"As the workers in the Australasian colonies and in the islands of the Pacific kept advancing into new territory, there came to them a deepening conviction that every effort possible must be put forth to train many labourers for the harvest." *E. G. White, Life Sketches, p. 370*

Dear sponsors, Let us again praise God together as we continue to support these dedicated soul winners on the front lines of the battle. They certainly deserve our utmost support.

26 x 'Please Help'!

Due to a number of changes, including rapidly increasing demand for VIA workers in the field, by the end of 2021 we expect to have 26 dedicated VIA workers without sponsors. Please share this need for more funding with your mission-minded friends, local churches and Sabbath School classes.

We would love you to also prayerfully consider whether you might be able to increase your sponsorships in 2022.

Thank you again! You truly are making a kingdom impact.

OTHER EASY DONATION METHODS

Post Cheques to: Volunteers In Action, c/- Val Friend, 3 Friends Court, Yeppoon, QLD 4703

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

Credit Card: Monthly, quarterly or half-yearly scheduled credit card payments. Please contact Val at the details below for a Payment Authorisation Form.

THANK YOU!

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!

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