



Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Easter 2023 Newsletter

PNGCP is the UK-based mission agency dedicated to raising awareness of, and support for, the Anglican Church in PNG

ACPNG AT ACC-18

ACC – the Anglican Consultative Council – is one of the worldwide Anglican Communion's four Instruments of Communion. Unlike the other three: the Archbishop of Canterbury; the annual Anglican Primates Meeting; and the ten-yearly Lambeth Conference, this three-yearly meeting is the only one involving appointed laity, clergy and bishops from around the world. In February, ACPNG's current delegate, Bishop Reginald Makele of New Guinea Islands, travelled to the Ghanaian capital, Accra, for ACC's 18th meeting.



Before a packed 10-day work and worship agenda, the meeting began with a profoundly moving Service of Reflection and Reconciliation at Cape Coast Castle, one of a number of former British strongholds where slaves from across West Africa were assembled in the dungeons, prior to being transported overseas. Archbishop Justin Welby presided, together with the Archbishops of West Africa and the West Indies, praying for forgiveness and reflecting on current examples of injustice. Together with these pictures, Bishop Reg posted on Facebook: *"Ready lo go long Cape Coast lo lukim ples wea ol white man save recruitim ol slave na salim ol I go lo America na Egypt."*



+Benedict Loe of Melanesia & NGI +Reginald Makele (r)



Archbishop of West Africa, Dr Cyril Kobina Ben-smith & Archbishop Justin Welby at Cape Coast Castle

RETURN TO 'THE LAND OF THE UNEXPECTED'



With +Nathan and Diocesan Secretary, Dick Kolai

Four years after returning to the UK, Lynn and Tony Fry were eagerly anticipating a return to PNG and, particularly, a flying visit to Simbai where they had previously served as much-appreciated volunteer instructors in the Vocational Training Centre. Frustratingly, with the Simbai air-strip closed at the time of their visit, this highlight was not to be. However, they did provide the following reports and photos from their time in Mt Hagen, with more to come from Popondetta next issue.

On changes in Mt Hagen:

Lynn writes: "When you step out of Mt Hagen airport, the first change you see is

the four-lane highway running from here into town, complete with traffic lights and zebra crossings! The people here are very proud of it. Of course, it has resulted in a lot more traffic, plenty of 4-wheel drives, PMVs and, new to us, a fleet of taxis. We've arrived in a very wet, wet season. A little sunshine in the morning, then the clouds come, the mountains disappear and the rains come. The second pleasant change is the lack of rubbish. Plastic bags are banned in the markets and food shops, so there is no longer the cushion of betel nut, pink plastic and food waste surrounding the market. Rubbish is swept into neat piles and is gone by the morning.

With the airstrips at Simbai and Dusi closed, plenty of people are stranded in town. Each day, someone arrives at the guest-house or we go to the church compound and talk stories. Father Nicholas Kaam tells of the scabies outbreak and the lack of medicine; the collapsing of the community with the airstrip closed; and the road inaccessible because of flooding and fighting. Bishop Nathan shares his vision of a self-supporting diocese with the development of rental apartments in Madang. Byron Alomp (ACPNG's Literacy Coordinator) tells us of literacy training gathering momentum again after Covid."

On Mt Hagen Mothers' Union:



Lynn & Tony with some of Mt Hagen MU members

Lynn writes: "Bishop's wife, Mother Jesicah, continues to be energised by her time at the Lambeth Conference. On their return, they did a series of Bible studies using the Conference material.

In Mount Hagen, the Mothers shared their lunch and their news with us, particularly pleased that they now have their own independent bank account. Mother Jesicah had purchased two sewing-machines which,

after training, had resulted in printed T-shirts and skirts for the MU and cassocks produced for sale. Aiming for all the diocesan Mothers to have the same uniform, they plan to travel around the Jimi Valley teaching their new skills.

Mary Sumner House (MU HQ in London) are providing two literacy trainers in Port Moresby to train two 'literacy champions' from each diocese, to cascade the training skills to parishes where there are no literacy schemes. During Covid, teachers returned home, so there has been a three-year gap in education and an expectation that many girls will not return to school.

The third diocesan MU project for this year is health education for young girls. Mother Jesicah was shocked to find in one of the remoter areas, girls digging a hole in the ground to sit in for the duration of their monthly period. She has since travelled with other Mothers to support them with soap and reusable sanitary towels, an approach they hope to extend.

The PNG Mothers' Union continues to be a power-house for those who live in one of the most dangerous countries in the world for women. They build confidence and release skills in each other as they share, pray and teach each other."

Aipo Rongo coffee update:

Tony writes: "I met with Dick Kolai, Aipo Rongo Diocesan Secretary, for a coffee project update. Five years ago, the Diocese was awarded over £1 million by the World Bank to seed-fund a large coffee-growing project for subsistence farmers in the Simbai Highlands. By 2020, over 800 farmers in the Simbai, Kaironk and Kovan areas had each received a set of tools, a pulping press and planted new and more-productive, hybrid coffee seedlings. Because of the mountainous terrain, coffee plots are small but of great financial importance to the families.

Many people returned to their villages as Covid 19 set in but, surprisingly, there death-rates were low considering the lack of medical facilities. However, as with the rest of the world, life was put on hold.

The current suspension of flights to Simbai has resulted in coffee beans not being collected for sale. The government had set up a Stabilisation Fund for coffee farmers to subsidise transport but, with no road access to Simbai, this is of little help. The government has committed to building black-top highways connecting Port Moresby to Lae; Madang to Sepik; and Port Moresby to Alotau by 2025, ready for PNG's 50th Independence Anniversary celebration. A highway from Simbai to Mount Hagen is not planned until 2033.

Now, as transport is unreliable and too costly, many farmers are neglecting their plantations and the future for coffee production in Simbai is looking more precarious. The Diocese is operating a small, secondary press in Simbai to process the green beans and increase their value, but not large enough to process all the local production."

Grateful thanks for contributions and help in compiling this Newsletter to: +Reginald Makele; +Peter & Sue Ramsden; Jean Ifuda; Janet Wells; +Lindsley Ihove; Canon Val Gribble; +Jonathan Meyrick; Lynn & Tony Fry; +Nathan & Jesicah Ingen; Dick Kolai; and Jasper Rea. As always, Newsletter ideas, comments or concerns to John Rea johnhellarea@yahoo.co.uk

GFS AT WORK IN PNG

Canon Val Gribble, GFS World Vice-President from GFS Australia and Consultant to GFS PNG, writes:

"I was able to make my first post-COVID visit to PNG mid-year where, with financial assistance from GFS Australia, the GFS Presidents in Popondota and NGI were able to join the Port Moresby President in the capital. As it was close to elections, we spent three days working on a number of issues there in the safety of my son's workplace. In line with the adopted provincial governance model where the provincial seat moves around participating dioceses every three years, Port Moresby is the initial coordinating diocese, followed by Popondota and NGI. Subsequently, MU in Lae has made contact wanting to start GFS in Aipo Rongo.



GFS Diocesan Presidents: Girika Sanata (POM), Vivian Jirega (POP) & Estellah Tawasu (NGI)



Distribution of Soap

We had obtained advice from Australian doctors visiting PNG on the best way we could support our PNG members in the Covid crisis, essentially to tackle hygiene in relation to washing of hands and to supply and encourage the wearing of masks. With the agreement of the GFS Presidents in PNG, a project was commenced in Australia, firstly for money to purchase soap in PNG, secondly to make simple soap-holders and to either provide money to purchase, or make, masks. Called "Soap for Hope", the project was a huge success. Old stockings were suggested as soap holders! My luggage for this trip included numerous soap-holders and masks, and money was distributed to each of the three dioceses to purchase soap. Training was provided in the introduction and use of the soap and masks.



World Day of Prayer gathering outside Resurrection Cathedral

In September, Popondota held their World Day of Prayer gathering with hundreds of people, including GFS members, clergy wives and MU members, present. Prior to the service, Fr Isaiah Masida, past GFS World Chaplain, provided two days of Personal Development training to members, soap was distributed, training provided and offerings given for GFS development.

With a world grant, Ms Girika Sanata, PNG's senior delegate, will participate in the next World GFS Congress in South Africa in August 2023 and bring back much valuable information for members. Please hold her in your prayers."

KIKI PHONICS WORKSHOP

Previous Newsletters (Christmas 2021 & Summer 2022) have carried stories of the successful creation of Kiki Early Learning Centre (ELC) in her Baga home village, Popondota Diocese, by Jean Ifuda, enterprising Headteacher of Port Moresby's Butuka Academy. With further modest PNGCP funding and facilitation from a Moresby colleague, Mr Kako Eko, a specialist phonics teacher, Jean ran a successful six-day phonics workshop this January for elementary and support teachers across her local Council area. Such was the interest and relevance of this lively, interactive programme that it also drew the involved attendance of a number of youths, parents and primary-school holiday-makers throughout.

There was also a day allocated to acknowledge and present awards to the Special Needs Class of slow learners at Kiki ELC, with parents and carers contributing traditional food and dances. Jean and Mr Eko have been invited



Facilitator Kako Eko with Kiki ELC volunteer teachers



Workshop session for uniformed workshop participants

by the Tufi Education Cluster Committee to return

and run a workshop in the Easter holidays to better enable teachers to include children with intellectual disabilities in their work.



Jean with some of Kiki ELC special needs children



The 'fringe workshop' of observing youths, parents and holiday-makers

PNGCP SUPPORTERS DAY – SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023

Where? The Anglican Communion Office, St Andrews House, 16 Tavistock Crescent, London W11 1AP - two minutes walk from Westbourne Park tube station on the Hammersmith & City line.

Programme? Tea and coffee from 10.30am, with an 11am welcome and introductions, Communion Service at midday, followed by a simple lunch provided. In the afternoon, a contribution from Rachel Parry who, with a previous PNG connection and distinguished USPG history, now has a key role in the Anglican Communion. There will also be a showing of some re-mastered old films of PNG church life; updates on current ACPNG developments; and sharing of personal memories from last summer's ACPNG bishops' visits. 4pm finish.

What now? We look forward to seeing you there. Diary the date and, to help with catering, please let Janet Wells know if you are coming on 0207 313 3918 or pngcpoffice@gmail.com

PNG, ACPNG & PNGCP NEWS:

- Since 2020, at the invitation of North Queensland bishop Keith Joseph, four Melanesian Brothers have established a household and ministry on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. Two of the Brothers, Abaijah and Deacon Kelliot from Dogura and Popondota Dioceses respectively, had already served for two years in mainland Australia and, once replacements are found, are now due to return to PNG.



+Lindsley & Mo. Felicity Ihove receive +Bevan's ashes in Popondetta

- In line with his wish to be buried amongst the Mangalas people, the late Bishop Bevan Meredith's ashes are now with Popondota bishop Lindsley Ihove, whilst arrangements are made for a suitable burial in Sakarina Parish where he served as a teacher and Parish Priest from 1961-1965. He then went on to be Bishop of New Guinea Islands and then the third Archbishop of the Province of ACPNG. Bishop Bevan died in retirement in Brisbane, aged 92.

- With the death of Sir Leonard Wilson Kamit CBE in January, age 70, ACPNG has lost a distinguished Anglican layman. Originally from Oro Province, Wilson was one of a band of pre-Independence youngsters given scholarships for secondary education in Australia to prepare them as future leaders in PNG. With a Degree in Economics from UPNG, he worked with the Bank of Papua New Guinea for 37 years, serving as its Governor for 10 of them. When Sir Mekere Morauta was Prime Minister (1999 – 2002), Wilson oversaw the introduction of new Finance Acts after years of financial mismanagement, and supervised superannuation and life insurance company reforms. He opened doors for ordinary people's financial services with the establishment of PNG's first commercial microfinance company. In 2013 when the government compulsorily acquired the valuable Ok Tedi Mining shares, Wilson stood steadfast with Sir Mekere to protect this fund meant for people affected by the mine during the legal proceedings that followed. His honesty and leadership thus had a real impact on people's lives. Wilson was married to Winifred, a well-known lawyer from New Ireland, and together they were faithful worshippers at St Martin's, Boroko. Wilson broke with tradition to state that he should be buried in his wife's place and not in his own home village in Oro. Bishop Lindsley Ihove presided at the funeral in Port Moresby and burial at Kavieng in New Ireland.



+Peter Ramsden with Winnie & Wilson in 2017

- At the invitation of Acting Archbishop Nathan Ingen, this Autumn the ACPNG leadership is planning to meet in Popondetta with key representatives of the various overseas organisations and dioceses in Australia, New Zealand and the UK which support the Anglican Church's work in PNG. The broad purpose of this Partners' Meeting is to share information on each of the external agencies current contributions in PNG and, with an update on ACPNG's progress, its priorities and needs, identify the joint and separate potential for further overseas support. PNGCP representatives will be the Bishop Jonathan Meyrick (Chair), two Trustees on a first time visit to PNG, Jan Nicholson (Treasurer) and William Spooner, and past PNGCP Chair, Bishop Peter Ramsden, who will be already there leading a clergy pilgrimage. Visitors are also likely to attend the 75th anniversary of Martyrs School.

Enjoy reading ACPNG's Newsletters on the PNGCP website:

<https://www.pngcp.org.uk/acpng-newsletter/>



Papua New Guinea Church Partnership
PNGCP, St Andrew's House, 16 Tavistock Crescent, London W11 1AP
Email: pngcpoffice@gmail.com

CIO Registered Number 1178290

Tel: 0207 313 3918

Web: www.pngcp.org.uk

f : Papua New Guinea Church Partnership