

Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation



Living and Sharing the Gospel

January-February 2015

PNG Women's Ministry

At Mt Wilhelm's pastoral team meeting, the women's ministry gave their annual report. They are an incredibly active group in the church and the wider community.

Every month one day is scheduled for the women to clean up the two health centres, *Gembogl Health Centre* and the *Toromambuno Health Centre* in the Gembogl District. They also bring food supplies for the health workers and even for the patients. Other church denominations have seen them in action and have made very positive comments about their efforts. They have said that they are doing a good and blessed job as they care for the sick.

But that is not all they do. On every second Tuesday they have a prayer meeting and prepare dramas for the church service. One was performed during **Ben** and **Richard's** ordination on being called to be fishers of men. It was dignified, meaningful and very appropriate for the occasion. The alternate Tuesday they assist their two pastors by working in their vegetable gardens to free them for pastoral work.



On Fridays they clean up the church property which is becoming more and more beautiful because of their efforts.

A new exciting adventure has been the coffee shop at **John** and **Rose Banda's** store at the junction. It is a great location. The women serve on a roster and all the profits go towards the functioning of the church. It has already been very successful. They are planning to expand and have tables so they can serve meals. **Mark** and **Rod** tasted their new soup, pancakes with luscious strawberries and their avocados - almost the size of a small football. No complaints! A bee hive has been purchased from **Arnold** and **Josephine Moro** to provide honey from what has been described by scientists as the healthiest bee hives in PNG. Josephine will look after the hive for the coffee shop. A coffee grinder and plunger is on the short list to make use of the coffee beans grown locally near Kundiawa.



Other plans include to raise goats. Arnold has offered his place for them to graze. They have two sewing machines and plan to obtain a third as they make clothes for the church. They also do cooking classes so their meals are becoming more varied and healthy. Mark and Rod can attest to tastiness, the nutrition and just good organic food they enjoyed up there. A light lunch has a different meaning now!



It is the women who dig out the foundations and cart up the gravel from the river for the cementing of the building's floor. They were very excited to have their kitchen treble in size. On the last visit, Mark presented a sample package from Avon to reward each lady for all their hard work. It was a very much appreciated gift organised by **Helen Callaghan**.

A Big Hearted Lady

Josephine Moro and her husband **Arnold** run the guest house Mark and Rod stayed at. She is a remarkable servant of Jesus Christ.

Josephine is an Australian-registered nurse, trained in 1978-1980. She is also a long term member of the Mt Wilhelm congregation, baptized in the early 1990's by **Ken Slade**.



Josephine's story is a remarkable witness of practical compassion and wisdom to those who need help. She is not in to the 'big' people but the little sheep. She looks out for people who are less fortunate. She worked at the Kundiawa Hospital as a Community Health Worker. In this responsibility she delivered babies, sometimes travelling to their homes in the bush late at night, immunized children, worked in surgery, gave medical, family planning advice, counselled about nutrition and especially hygiene for women. She has a particular concern for young women and young families. She is very strong about the need for children to be educated. She supported Arnold in the building of an elementary school.

If people are in unfortunate circumstance Josephine would give wise advice to guide them. It was always friendly, inclusive and non-judgemental combined with practical support. She would quietly ...Cont'd on p2



Big Hearted Lady (cont'd)

give seeds to help a new family have a garden, utensils or an animal.

Because of her kindness and generosity and example, many new people have come to church. She is very active in the women's ministry. She has suggested many different ways to raise funds for the church and then she enthusiastically participates in the fund raising activities. She is deeply respected as a Christian lady in the wider community.



Josephine is innovative, trying new things. She introduced wheat and sheep into the area. She never has a problem getting a loan from "Women in Business." She is always improving her love of cooking and loves to cook for her guests. She runs the guest house, looks after her vegetable garden, helps with the new project of the bee hives, and is now planning to open a canteen for the high school next door.

She lives the Christianity of Jesus: loving and serving people.

"On behalf of the Mother and Child Ministry and especially the orphanage and the guardians of Irugl Care Centre, I

Letter of Appreciation from PNG

Martin Teine would like to convey my deepest gratitude to you and your Congregation for your kindness in donating these 30 blankets towards the Care Centre.

The community and the beneficiaries do appreciate the gifts and express their heartfelt thanks and offer you our prayers that the good Lord Jesus will continue to bless you, and that your Congregation will prosper throughout the world."

(More on Web incl letter & photos...)

Buduburam Sydney congregation sent another \$4,100 for education and grain to Buduburam – this had to come from our suppluses as the Buduburam fund was low.

Theo Okai reported "The Toilet Project is now fully operational and the members now have use of it. It also serves others who visit the Buduburam Congregation from time to time." Theo also requested: "Please extend our thanks and greetings to all the congregations you visit."

This project was a partnership. The Ghana church gave 50% and we gave 50%. The next project that we are looking at partnering together is a building for the children's church. The Buduburam congregation does have a lot of children. At present the estimated cost is USD 15,000 to complete and furnish the facility for use by the children. Theo said "Any support in that regard would be most welcome."

We will be looking at what can be done as we prepare our next budget.

The annual PNG meeting will be taking place on Sunday, February 8th, at the **Callaghan's**.

PNG Meeting

Because of Ken's recent illness this will be first time **Joy** and **Ken Slade** will be unable to attend. Those coming are **Mark Latham, Rod and Ruth Matthews, Matt Gudze, Rod Dean, David Jordison** and **John McLean**.

On the agenda:

- Report on the last visit and updates since.
- Travel plans and objectives for this year.
- Governance and financial payments issues.

Please pray for God's guidance so that we are helpful for the future development of the PNG church.

John Biswas:

Bangladesh

Greetings!

We sincerely thank you for helping us to print 'The God Revealed in Jesus Christ' booklet in the Bengali language for the Bangladesh mission field. It will be very helpful to non-Christians and Christians to understand how God revealed himself in Jesus Christ to save all the people of the world despite religious discord.

Once again we thank you very much for being a partner to share the message of hope through the printed page.

The Wollongong congregation was involved with this donation.

Another \$3,000 has also been sent by Wollongong for the training of 20 more nurses aides.

