

Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation



Living and Sharing the Gospel

July 2015



Anmari Day 1919–2015

The Sydney congregation held a memorial service for **Anmari Day** on June 6th. Four speakers shared their memories of Anmari.

Peter Brown described her like the widow who gave her all to God. She gave and gave. For example she gave soft toys to the children's hospital for the children to have what she didn't have as a child. Many of us received our Feast exercise book from Anmari to take notes. Anmari personalized each cover with a selected picture. Peter remembered how diligent she was with her exercise regimen – able to touch her toes in her nineties. She was fiercely independent never wanting to inconvenience others.

Arthur Mavros described her as a kind and gentle mighty woman of God. She had a heart of gold. He talked about her courage, strength and discipline. He remembered how she used a spoon to dig out a hedge that had been too hard for him with a spade. Her perseverance inspired him in later years when things got tough on his farm and elsewhere. Anmari would

visit people in nursing homes and change bed sheets that were soiled. And she wrote pages and pages based on the scriptures.

Wayne Garratt told us that she had changed her name from Marie Anne to Anmari. She was always very grateful saying thank you for whatever was done for her. Wayne shared her last Lord's Supper using her Bible. He was amazed how thoroughly marked up it was. She really studied it.

Peter McLean shared **Hadyn** and **Pauline Cook's** thoughts as well as adding some of his own observations. Anmari was very bashful and would hide from people when she first came to church. She was an extremely intelligent person who was always reading and studying. Many years ago she gave her home to the church. **Mark Ellis** described her humble, sharing person who you could not out give.

In the latter years of her life she had degrees of mental failing. But even then she could become very insightful and very clear. Peter McLean compared her to Tabitha (Dorcas) in the book of Acts.

Rod Dean based his sermon on one of Anmari's messages. Her spiritual insights deeply moved the whole congregation. Many people shared their memories after the service. She had a very emotionally difficult childhood, with many unfulfilled opportunities. She had always wanted to be a medical research scientist. Anmari was different and yet touched many lives – she would have been surprised how all present responded to her and her words of encouragement.

We would like to thank all those who helped Anmari over the many years. She received a lot of support and friendship.

From **Ben Gelwa**:

PNG Update

Dear brothers and sisters from the beautiful Highlands of Papua New Guinea to all of you, in Australia and across the world. The gospel is still moving and growing in the hearts of men, in season and out of season. When humans feel weak to live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God is still faithful by watering the seeds, which were already planted. God is continually spreading the seeds to the new field for his glory.

Mt Wilhelm Church of God/Grace Communion International is now conducting a program of Christian Religious Education in Mt Wilhelm Secondary School. We have more than 20 students from different grades plus some of the non-Christian students. We conduct the program on every Wednesday at 2.00pm and finish at 2.45pm. On Fridays at 7.00pm combine fellowships are held. All the students and staff from different denominations come together for the fellowship. Every pastor has their turn as programmed to take the lead in the fellowship with the members of their denomination. I and the students from our denomination had our turn in leading the combine fellowship. The students sound the music with songs while I took the part of Bible sharing. It was beautiful and the students were very happy.

This is all I have to share with you. Let us pray for each other.

Your servant in Christ

Ben Gelwa

Francis and **Ben** had a very inspiring recent visit to see our Ramu Valley congregation.

Mark and **Rod** will now be travelling from Saturday 25th July to Sunday 9th August.

Please remember to pray for their safety and for wisdom as they serve God's people in Mt Wilhelm.



Budget 2014-2015

The last budgeted money from the Sydney budget 2014-2015 has been allocated to Bengali version of The Gospel Really is Good News! (a publication of GCI) . \$3,000 will help toward its production and the printing and distributing of 10,000 copies, in Bangladesh.

Buduburam 5th Anniversary



Ordained Deacons - Mr. Akoto (L) and Mr. Balidin (R)

Recently the Buduburam refugee church celebrated its 5th year anniversary.

The occasion saw the ordination of three deacons for the Buduburam Congregation. Messrs **Christopher Balidin**, **William Akoto** and **Jackson Flah** became the first deacons to be ordained in and for Buduburam GCI.

Please remember them in your prayers.



Ordained Deacon - Mr. Jackson Flah

... More on Web.

Budgets have been prepared for our area.

Overseas mission remains a major focus of our efforts.

Overseas Mission Budget 2015—2016

Buduburum

Grain, children education,	Sydney	\$11,600
Medical insurance	Sydney	\$1,500
Vocational Children Hall	Bathurst Sydney	\$1,000 \$5,000

Mission Fund

Bangladesh	Wollongong Sydney	\$3,000 \$2,500
Nepal	Canberra Sydney	\$3,000 \$2,500
Bible Fund	Wollongong	\$3,000
Emergency Fund		\$2,000

This will be in consultation with **Rod Matthews**.

Kenya/Tanzania

School, Widows and Orphans	
Sydney	\$5,000
Wollongong	\$2,500
Canberra	\$5,000

PNG

Canberra	\$5,000
Sydney	\$3,000
Wollongong	\$3,000

This is for the 2016 trip.

Kalengule Kaoma will be advising us after his recent trip to the region.

Burundi

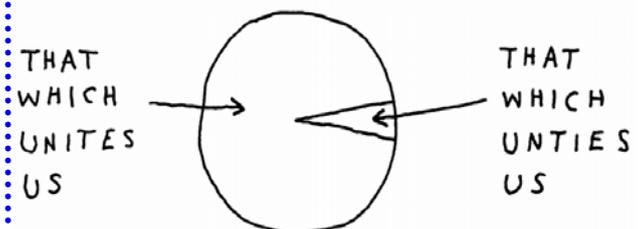
This was Kalengule's number one priority. He wrote:

The Church was renting land before the floods of February 2014. After the floods, they were asked to relocate. **Eugene**, our National Director in Burundi, entered an agreement to purchase land.

Cheapest he could find is US\$10,000 in Bujumbura. He has not been able to pay anything towards this purchase price and facing an eviction. He does not know where to take the congregation.

Thank you for your consideration and help in whatever way and by how much.

Sydney will make a one-off AU\$8,000 donation to this.



This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times

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