

Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation



Living and Sharing the Gospel

April 2016

PNG & Youth Group

Mark and **Rod** will be travelling to PNG on August 6-19th. Air Niugini has graciously given an extra 10 kgs per person so that 40 kgs each can be taken up to Goroka. This year there will be only a one-night stop-over in Port Moresby.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the last trip to PNG was the dedication of a growing youth group to the service of the church. The total number of youths is 25 — 12 male and 13 female. Their following letter reflects the sincerity of their Christian walk:

Greetings from the highest mountain in the Pacific region (Mt Wilhelm) to all our brothers and sisters in Australia. We would like to send cool greetings and also our love to you all. We are in the physical world, so that you are far from us but spiritually we are one. We would like to share some Bible texts with you

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Eph. 4:2-6).

Hopefully, we the youths of Mt Wilhelm are looking forward to celebrating the soon coming festival. We believe that you are also looking forward to the celebration.

To conclude we would like to thank each and everyone of you for your supportive prayers, support and also many great gifts that we have received from you. All of you are kind to us both spiritually and physically. Lastly but not the least of all, may our Father God bless each and every one of you all as he always blesses us all.

A lot of our young adults now have the opportunity to go back and finish their high school since school fees have been dropped. One student attends the University of Goroka and another attends teachers college. Unfortunately at their high school there is a lack of text books and computers to assist them in their study. They have given us a list of their text book needs.

We would like to form a study centre at the church hall for the church youth with donated laptops and tablets, study guides and other resources so they can have study time together. If all goes well perhaps they can learn to help facilitate study centres at their high school. Mark as a professional teacher will be focussed on the study centre.



The youths have set goals for this year. They already gather on a Friday night at the church hall to prepare for the worship. Their fund raising will help go towards music lessons to improve their skill on guitar and the church organ. They also plan to purchase some new guitars. This will not only help in the church services but also in the rotational worship leading done with other churches at Mt Wilhelm High School. Several youths assist **Ben** and **Richard** with religious instruction at the high school as well. We are hoping that two young women will be helping with children's church this year.

On the recent trip several young men brought their USB flash drives and downloaded all the material we had brought up. They are very keen to learn and to grow. On the next trip Rod will be sharing more time with them covering *Celebrating the Grip* by **Jeff MsSwain** which he produced for SEP in the US this year, how to organize camps and the values we have, the theology of worship, public speaking and the use of the voice – perhaps introducing speaking clubs if practical.



Rod with Young Men (PNG 2015)



PNG Youth Meeting

Special Services

Just a reminder that the Lord's Supper will be on at 7.30pm Thursday 21st April. The last day of Unleavened Bread will be at Ermington meeting hall 10.30am on Friday 29th April.

There will be no services in Sydney and Wollongong on 30th April.



Burundi

Last year **Kalengule Kaoma** wrote to us:

On Burundi, the most pressing need is for the Church to have a fixed "home;" a place brethren can identify with as their own place and as a place where they meet and worship God in spirit and in truth. Landlords harass and call our brother and sister names outsider Christians. It is embarrassing. This is why they have been pressing on their knees to seek God's intervention. Your response to this plea will result in our heightened praises to God.



The Sydney congregation included this in its annual budget. Before monies are sent we do need to make sure there has been due process and accountability. I think it is helpful to know that we do go through a process in these matters.

Our head office sent the following questions and received these answers.

Can you confirm who the entity is that will own the land and who the directors are of that entity?

Burundi Pastor: Land ownership will be in GCI Burundi name.

13 Directors (Board):

Eugene Sibomana (BA Management and Business Administration; Diploma in Biblical Studies).
Samuel Mbanye (Diploma in Biblical Studies)
Eric Aime Niyindengera (BA Nursing)
Jean Hakizimana (BA History in Political and Administration Sciences)
Donavine Ntahondereye (BA in Enterprises Management)
Aline Batocoka (BA in Social Development)
Jackson Nizigiyimana
Damascene Nyandwi
Celenie Nzokirantevye
Nestor Niyongabo
Fabrice Habonimana
Andre Mutingire
Gracien.

Is there a wind-up clause for this entity, and who would the land go to in such an event (i.e. the entity ceased to operate)?

Burundi Pastor: The local church does not have a wind-up or dissolution clause. However, Republic of Burundi national constitution states that if an organization ceases to exist or stops its activities, the property will be given to an organization or denomination of similar vision and interests.

Who will use the land once purchased?

Burundi Pastor: The land will be used by GCI Burundi for purposes of worship, discipleship, and any other activity related to the aims and goals of GCI Burundi.

Is the proposed use of the land for a charitable purpose?

Burundi Pastor: The proposed use of land will be for religious/charitable purposes.

As the money has been dedicated for the purchase of land can you confirm the money will be set aside until a suitable property is found? Will this sit in your accounts as a liability to GCI Australia until the purchase is finalised in Burundi?

KK: The money will be used for the purchase of land in Burundi. Before it is used for its intended purpose, the money will be kept in WCG Account in Lusaka, Zambia as a liability to GCI Australia until the purchase of land is finalised in Burundi.

Are you able to provide us with proof of purchase once the property is secured and purchase is complete?

Burundi Pastor: Proof of purchase will be provided once the property is purchased.

KK: Let me know if we need to clarify anything else.

This has been approved and AU\$8,000 sent to Kalengule for this purpose. Please pray for our church there. They have been poorly treated by landlords. This gives them an opportunity to be free of such harassment.

Buduburam

\$800 has been sent to purchase grain for the Buduburam congregation.



"HURRY UP WOMAN! WE GOT TO GET TO CHURCH EARLY OR WE WON'T GET A BACK SEAT."