

Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation



Living and Sharing the Gospel

September 2016

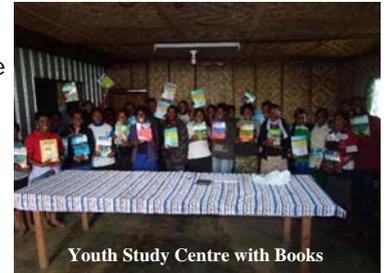
PNG Trip Report

"The Child in the Midst" was a theme of the talks to be presented. We had planned a study centre with 25 text books, laptop and tablet taken up. We had also planned to encourage the church to see the importance of little children.

But what a big surprise awaited us. Instead of 18-22 children we had 66 children — with some away and more to be born. Our youth have grown to 33. At the service we asked all those under 25 to stand up. Out of the 140 or so in attendance the vast majority stood up. Mt Wilhelm is a church with an exciting future. The young people do have dreams for their future. Their ambitions include being a doctor, nurse, primary and high school teacher, office manager, lawyer, business person, IT, hospitality and tourism, even a minister.

Mark went to the local high school to give classes and to give words of encouragement to the 122 year-12 students. The lack of support these young people receive about their future is disheartening. This made the contrast with the opportunities of the study centre even more stark. Mark also visited the local technical college to see what opportunities were there for our young people.

One of our elders **Richard Kindi** is vice principal of the Catholic school attached to the orphanage. Recently the school has been expanded from K,1, 2 to include 3, 4, 5, 6 without any real support from the government. We will see how we can assist him in training material and office administration.



Youth Study Centre with Books



Mark's Biology Class

Other activities included: training in preaching with the speakers; time with youth on subjects like worship, computer skills, public speaking, introduction to SEP's 'Celebrate the Grip'; women's ministry -- the way God has worked with women in very different circumstances in his plan, the importance of Shalom, using the image of the little children in the midst of, and dealing with, needs and issues that had arisen; men's ministry about being like Jesus in our relationships, and the importance of men supporting men. There were counselling and discussions to learn about the needs and what is happening in the community.

All of the above was supplemented with a lot of back-up material.

Mark had to re-measure and re-evaluate the new kitchen project which had expanded in its purpose.

At Goroka we purchased Bibles, an increasing supply of medicines, sleeping bags and some clothing on the way up. On the return trip the church had put together their clothing needs to purchase in Goroka. In Kundiawa we made visits to the hardware store going up and down. We have finalised the purchases for the project to provide water for the showers and toilets at the orphanage.

It is full on. We are very grateful for the on-going support for these trips. PNG Mt Wilhelm is officially part of the Australian churches and they feel very close to all of us.

We will share more details in coming newsletters.



Kitchen - Meeting Room

From **David Peter**, Youth Secretary:

Hello to our brothers and sisters of Australia. We are grateful and thank you for your kindness and love. You have greatly supported us in spiritual and physical with many gifts, which we really appreciate with our heart.

We would like to thank you for allowing Pastor Mark and Pastor **Rod** to come to PNG. They have been very great to us by setting up a study centre for us with many text books, a laptop and a tablet. We were very excited about the study centre and we promise that we will produce good results at the end of the year.

In the youth ministry, we were about 25, but as time goes by there are more joining, and now we are 33 altogether, 25 girls and 8 boys. We know that we have many leading roles to play in the church such as:

- Teaching the children's church.
- Making music, singing and leading the service.
- Helping women's ministry by teaching them how to cook and use the tambourine.
- Finally we are looking forward to hosting a youth camp in 2018 at Mt Wilhelm PNG.

Wagai and may God bless you all.

(We are hoping to meet some of our Ramu brothers and sisters at the upcoming festival.)

Mt Wilhelm Youth Ministry



Children's Church



Falling.... But Not Fallen

I took a fall recently.

by Barry Hatfield

It's something that we of the 'older generation' are prone to do.

Just a quick slip on wet grass in our sloping backyard ... and a micro-second later I was on the ground with shoulder and wrist on my right side taking the impact. It could have been much worse. The pain, stiffness and joint immobility came later that day as swelling cut in. Cold packs and bed-rest speeded recovery.

But ... (there always seems to be a 'but'), the real discomfort began to creep in immediately and it concerned how I had been seeing myself as a 'senior' — up until then. And it wasn't all that pleasant.

I had taken a fall.

I had 'known' that older folk appeared to topple over more than the virile, stronger, younger generation surrounding us, but suddenly I was up there with those of the 'fallen', it seemed.

I discovered I was vulnerable. And I didn't like it. It wasn't funny. It was a little disconcerting. Was this the start of something inevitable, irreversible for someone of my age?

Sadly, the answer is yes — to a degree.

Since that day, I've been having mild bouts of 'vulnerability-itus.' I'm finding that where once, in earlier days, I boldly stepped, I now foresee a pathway seemingly mined with booby traps specially crafted for my particular age group.

Yet this is nothing new. Our physical bodies don't carry a lifetime warranty, despite our attempts at regular care and maintenance and careful driving. It's just that we tend not to want to think about the limitations on our chassis until we're confronted with an incident on the highway of life.

I clearly remember when I was a teenager, my 80 year-old grand-mother slipping on a linoleum floor and landing on her shoulder (much as I did). The injury was not serious, but the mental-emotional-physiological shock triggered deeply locked-away memories of childhood that she continually verbalised to the gathered family that evening. As a youngster I found it confronting. And all because of a fall.

Yes, our old bodies *are* vulnerable to trauma — and not necessarily of our own doing. If we were left to fend for ourselves we could find the going very rough indeed. Thankfully, we're not alone, whether we safely ride the storm of life without the need of a lifeboat; or find ourselves in rough water without a life-jacket and heading for jagged rocks.

With all this falling business that older people often suffer (along with many other issues of life) God seems to have set an 'Early Warning System' that, if we're alert enough, we can sense what could be ahead — and so take measures to skirt around potential road-blocks to a more productive walk in our later years.

Feeling vulnerable (but not frightened) is one such warning. The present world glorifies senseless risk-taking; the results of which we see in our daily news. In contrast, members of Christ's church value their body and the longer they live the more they rely on His Grace to sustain and nurture what they've been given to use for Him.

Knowing we're vulnerable (that word again) to the physical impositions of this ageing life spreads a reality blanket over us when minor and major incidents surface unexpectedly — even a slip on the grass! God's awareness of this 'vulnerability' is a comfort. He wants his aged people to live productively within the bounds of their physicality so that their spiritual journey may bring Him all the glory.

As aged, we will probably 'fall' at some time in our human frailness and physical weakness and suffer the painful effects for a season. Despite this though, we're given a solid promise in *2 Peter 1:10* for what is vastly more important than the increasing effects of aging on our physical bodies. Here it is:

*'Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, **you will never fall....**'*

Now that's re-assuring. But he isn't finished. Rather than promising a support mechanism to prevent us toppling over in our later years, we're given far more than any assistance package man could ever offer the weary, infirm, damaged, wounded, aged and injured of this life.

'...and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'

We may have falls in this life, but we're certainly not of ... the fallen.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33) 01-04-2008

PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER

ULLADULLA FESTIVAL 2016

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Sunday Oct 16			
Monday Oct 17		2.00pm Tea/coffee 3.00pm Worship Service R Dean	
Tuesday Oct 18	10.30am Worship Service K Gubb Children's Church M Best	2.00pm Children's Party M Best (In the Hall)	Funland "this is a non-church-sponsored, non-church-supervised activity"
Wednesday Oct 19	10.30am Worship Service H Callaghan		6.30pm 10 Pin Bowling "this is a non-church-sponsored, non-church-supervised activity"
Thursday Oct 20	10.30am Worship Service R Bouchier Children's Church M Bouchier	2.30pm Adventure Activity J Richardson	
Friday Oct 21	10.30am Worship Service K Gubb Children's Church M Bouchier	3.00pm Senior's Activity (in the Hall) Supper R Dean	
Saturday Oct 22		2.30pm Young Adult Led Worship Service J Richardson/D Garratt	7.30pm Bunco Night (in the Hall) R Garratt
Sunday Oct 23	Seniors J Thomas Breakfast Barbecue/Beach Games Z Garratt/J Richardson		
Monday Oct 24	11.00am Worship Service R Dean	BYO Lunch Fellowship/Farewell (in the Hall)	