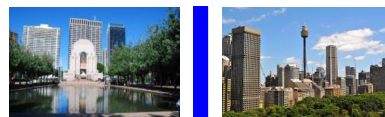


Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation



Living and Sharing the Gospel

April 2017

60th Wedding Anniversary

Dorothy and Don Raffell were married on 23rd March 1957 at Drummoyne Presbyterian Church. They had met when travelling on the school special bus while attending High School.

Later on, when they were both working, Don saw Dorothy at the bus stop and "the rest is history."

They first lived in Five Dock, then moved to Grenfell when Don changed his employment to work for 2 years with Grenfell Council. They then moved to Nowra in 1965 to work with Shoalhaven Council and have been there ever since.

Son **Rod** from the UK, **Julie** from Sydney and **Lisa** who lives locally, will be celebrating during a family lunch at Lisa's home this coming weekend with other family members.

We congratulate them for providing an on-going home for their family and remaining faithful over such a long time.



Lord's Supper and ULB

The Lord's Supper will take place on Sunday night, April 9th, at 7.00pm at our normal venue.

The First Day of ULB will be held on Tuesday, 11th April, at 10.30am at our normal venue. We will be looking at our complete dependency on our resurrected and living Lord Jesus Christ if we are to be true gospel-based communities.

The last day of ULB will be held on Monday, April 17th, at 10.30am at our normal venue. We will share the wonderful hope of having Jesus as our living High Priest.

Buduburam

Theo Okai wrote:

I have enclosed a few photos I took at Buduburam last Sunday of the Children's Hall Project which is substantially completed, barring painting and some few outstanding finishing touches. The entire church is very grateful for your support without which this project could not have been done within the time it has. We are eternally grateful.

Pastor Richard & Mrs. Linda Ablordeppey were officially installed as Assistant Pastor for Buduburam GCI.

Richard wrote:

We pray that our brothers and sisters in Australia receive God's blessings a thousand-fold over for blessing our children with this lovely building. We are very grateful.

Recently, we had been in contact with **Geoff Sole** about the use of Life Clubs. We are looking at their possible contribution to the young people in PNG. A recent update was sent about how they are being used around the world — particularly in Africa. This update can be seen by clicking on:

<http://www.gci.org/together/15/life-club-meetings> .

Life Club International is a public speaking club sponsored by GCI-Britain. Life Club is similar in focus and format to GCI's former Spokesman Club. Rod thought it might be something for the Buduburam Church.

Theo wrote back:

Thank you for mentioning us to Geoff concerning the impact of Life Clubs. We are planning to start LIFE CLUBS at both Buduburam GCI and Baatsonaa GCI — two churches I have responsibility for with support from my assistant Pastors Richard Ablordeppey and **Abraham Asante-Manteaw** respectively.

Theo finished by saying:

Please extend our appreciation to our brothers and sisters in Australia and let them know their labour of love to Buduburam is very much appreciated.



Service Cancellations

There will be no services in Sydney and Wollongong on April 8th and April 29th.



Introduction to Jackson Flah

A number of years ago we began vocational scholarships in the Buduburam congregation. This was strongly supported by the Bathurst congregation. One of the recipients was **Jackson Flah** who studied to be an electrical technician in 2011 and completed the course in 2014. He was the



first to complete his vocational training. He then repatriated back to Liberia.

Sad events occurred in Liberia last year. **Kalengule Kaoma** explains:

I returned recently from Monrovia, Liberia, where I officiated at the funeral of GCI Liberia National Director, **Robert T. Browne II**.



On Sunday October 30th, I met with church leaders and their families from our four GCI congregations in Monrovia. The meeting looked at the future of GCI in Liberia. These leaders are eager and willing to continue working with GCI. After prayer and examining a few scriptures about leadership transitions, we sought God's guidance by asking the leaders whether Pastor Robert had left anyone in position to continue in his leadership role. Robert's widow, **Deddeh O. Browne**, had been designated to succeed her husband and the leaders were happy with this transitional assignment for "Mother" Browne, as they call her.

The Australian office assisted with \$2,500 from the Australian Mission Fund for the travel and funeral costs. **John McLean** also offered training help via ACCM, or any way, for the needs of the young ministry there. Kalengule:

There are nine young leaders. They have many financial, physical, material and spiritual needs. Our late pastor and I had started a small school project. Small payments by students were shared among pastors (as little as \$10 per month). I would like to continue this program. The needs of the school are many, including a little investment in classrooms and furniture.

Continue praying for GCI Liberia. Most of the Liberian church leaders are young and without much experience. But Jesus is behind them all. The Holy Spirit will continue to guide and strengthen them. The youthful leaders are our "Timothy" who have the mantle of leadership in Liberia.

Last year **Rod Dean** noticed the name of Jackson Flah among the new leadership in Liberia. He knew that Jackson was among the first three deacons ordained in Buduburam on their fifth anniversary service in April 2015. Kalengule confirmed this with:

Yes, Jackson Flah was ordained as a Deacon in Buduburam church. He went back to Liberia and continued with GCI Liberia. The late Pastor Browne very much depended on Jackson. Before he died, Robert Browne ordained Jackson as an elder. He played a major role in stabilising the church immediately after Pastor Browne died.



Just recently Jackson found Rod Dean's email off the web and wrote:

I am Deacon Jackson Flah, an ordained deacon of the Buduburam Congregation in Ghana. I am currently residing in Monrovia, Liberia.

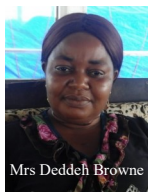
Today on my way from church (GCI Liberia), I was browsing on Google and visited the web page of GCI churches in Australia. Your kind heart funded the scholarship scheme of the Buduburam congregation in Ghana, of which I am a beneficiary. Thank you for your timely and great assistance.

I am currently worshipping at the headquarters of GCI-Liberia and served there as pastor after been ordained as pastor in August 2016.

Jackson asked to stay in touch as he would always need spiritual advice. Rod offered instructional material and notes of sermons. Jackson replied:

Please don't hesitate to send me any reading material that will help in building up the church here as we are all younger men tasked with greater responsibilities to spread the Gospel. Being the one with outside experience, I now take on the responsibility to communicate on behalf of the church in Liberia since the demise of our National Director, Pastor Robert T. Browne II. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Mrs. Deddeh Oldlady Browne his wife is now the National Director. She extends her greetings to you and the Australian congregations. Thank you for your prayers and support for us during our difficult moment when we lost Pastor Browne our National Director.



The Buduburam church's infrastructure projects are basically completed. We will be looking at how we can include Liberia in future budgets. This is an example of how helping one area becomes a blessing to another.

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Thanks to SoloTotoCoyote

02-07-2014

MOSES AND NOAH HAVING AN ARGUMENT