

# Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation



*Living and Sharing the Gospel*

August 2017

## Overseas Mission Budget for 2017-2018

We again have been able to put together a healthy overseas missions budget. This is due to several factors. One is the on-going generosity and faithfulness of the area. Another is the careful expenditure of resources. And we should not forget the thoroughness of our accounting processes. We are very thankful that we can have a part where Jesus is doing his ministry in some very remote parts of the world.

As Paul wrote in *2 Corinthians 9:12 (NIV)*,

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.*

### Canberra

PNG	5,000
African widows/orphans	3,500
Bangladesh Gospel Workers	2,000
Nepal Mobile Bible School	3,000 (due in March 2018)
Emergency Fund	3,000 (rolled over from last year)

### Sydney

Buduburam Education, medical and grain	13,300
Liberia (private donation) Land registration	9,900

Liberia will be part of on-going discussions with head office and **Kalengule Kaoma**.

We do have \$2,000 for the emergency fund if needed. And Ulladulla has an annual charity appeal - this year for providing food for the orphanage in Mt Wilhelm.

### Wollongong

PNG	7,000 (\$5,000 rolled over from last year)
Kenyan/Tanzanian Orphans/Widows	2,000
Kenyan School	7,000 (rolled over from last year)
Bangladesh Nurses Aids	3,000
Katmandu Bible College	9,000 (due in November)
Bible Fund	2,000 (rolled over from last year, due in March 2018)

The Kenyan school project is still under review and will depend on discussions with head office and Kalengule Kaoma.

**Bathurst** will support vocational training where needed and within their budget realities.

We are also looking at PNG educational scholarships.

All of the above is sustainable, leaving healthy reserves in the congregations. We also need to discuss with head office the use of **Betty Cummings'** bequest. In principle we hope some will go the African basket project to help bi-vocational African pastors be sustainable and also towards their training. This will require further discussions between head office and Kalengule Kaoma.

## Liberia - Land Registration

**Survey & Registration: \$7,200 USD**

A lot of questions have been asked and answered about this project. All communication has been shared with our head office over the situation of

our church in Liberia. We are very pleased to confirm that it has been agreed that a private donation will be used to survey and register the land. An excerpt of **Jackson Flah's** correspondence with **John McLean** is given below:

I Deacon Jackson Flah wrote to Pastor **Rodney Dean** of Australia when the need to survey and register the 6 acres of land donated to the church by the people of Louisiana became paramount. This land is situated along the road leading to the Mount Coffee Hydro and therefore it is to an ideal location. The land will be registered in the name of GCI-LIBERIA and Pastor **Deddeh Browne** is our Head, the National Director. I assure you and the church that the money will be used for the intended purpose as I work in one accord with my team.



(...More on Web)

## Outreach to Women's Refuge

Last month another 100 toiletry bags were delivered to the Bonnie Women's Refuge in Canley Heights. This has been an on-going mission project for the Sydney congregation for well over 20 years. Once again, the Refuge staff were delighted with our contribution.

This year they had another request: gift wrapping paper and gift bags. Each time a woman or child in refuge has a birthday, the staff like to give a gift so the individual feels valued and loved, and also to keep the normalcy of daily life as much as possible.

So we are asking for donations of wrapping paper, tissue paper and gift bags. This collection will continue until the end of August when a delivery will be made to the Refuge.

A big thank you to everyone who donated goods or monetary donations for the toiletry bags and to all those who helped assemble the bags after church.

Jackson Flah sent this to John McLean:

The school has had to be closed down at this time because of government requirements. Jackson wrote:

### THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT PROPOSAL

Amounted: \$7,000 USD and plus, cannot figure out the exact amount now but later when searched email.

The school project proposal was sent by Pastor Deddeh Browne to Pastor Kalengule Kaoma before the land project. The school building project came about after operating Grace Communion Institute for some times in the church building and the Ministry of Education-Liberia within our district summoned us that it is against government's regulation to operate school in the church building.

Therefore, if we are not able to put up a school building before next academic year 2017-2018 which starts in August this year, we will not be allowed to operate school. Pastor Deddeh Browne then wrote to Pastor Kalengule Kaoma, our Africa Director to find solution to this problem. Pastor Kalengule Kaoma replied and said a project proposal should be made and sent to him. The project proposal amounted to \$7,000 USD +

The school has been operating under GCI and it is under GCI. Pastor Deddeh Browne is the head of the School Board and the man whose email she used to email you is the principal for the school.

The school (Grace Communion Institute) had its closing and graduation exercises on the 2nd of July.

Kalengule Kaoma will discuss the future of Liberia with John McLean at the Orlando Conference. We have reduced our commitments to the Buduburam church so as to be able to help in the long term the Liberian church if needed.

## Liberia - Closure of School



## PNG Update

Recent communication with PNG has been very encouraging. The training material taken up is in use. After services **Ben** goes through the Discipleship and Worship material with the young people for about an hour. **Richard** is holding English classes at the school for the women plus two of the venerated members **William** and **Thomas**.

**Rex Morgan** is keen to use the edited PNG Discipleship material in Vanuatu and in the future look at other material prepared for Mt Wilhelm. Rex said that the needs in Vanuatu are pretty similar to those in PNG.

From Alotau, long term member **Ray Lakani** wrote:

The Bible Study material is very encouraging, challenging, and uplifting. It is stimulating and has become a daily topic for discussion and encouragement at our home – and very helpful.

I would like to ask if it is ok for this material to be read out or presented topic-by-topic on a provincial radio station every week-end. We do have weekly Christian Broadcasting program and I feel and believe this genuine message of love, reconciliation and hope is to be heard. I have not approached anyone in Alotau yet but this is just a strong thought that is coming through which I seek your view and permission to do so.

I am planning also to hold weekly 1 hour Bible Study using the material with my staff and friends at where we stay in the neighborhood.

We have scattered members around PNG. We are endeavouring to support them with good study materials, answer questions and share good resources for teaching their children. It is not easy as PNG is a challenging country to communicate with and to meet with people.

**Mark** and **Rod** will be getting together shortly to review the last visit and to list the priorities for next year's visit. Your prayers and support are vitally important.

