

Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation



Living and Sharing the Gospel

December 2017—January 2018

As another year flies by, our small congregations have much to give thanks for. Jesus became of one us so we could be like him and share his Sonship with the Father in the Spirit.

Thank You

Jesus was God's first missionary—to earth! Now he sends those who belong to him out as well:

Jesus said to them again, "*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*" (John 20:21 NRSV)

God's love is an outreaching love. It extends out to draw people into personal and dynamic fellowship. This is expressed in worship and witness. The missional God calls us, the body of Christ, to share in his mission. So his church is to be missional. As God's own Sent One (Apostle), Jesus Christ gathers us to himself. He then sends us out as his representatives, his ambassadors.

As we go, he goes before us. When we arrive, we find he's already there. He is at work drawing people to himself by the Spirit. Our calling is to go and when we arrive to identify what Jesus is doing and join in. Sometimes what he is doing is relatively hidden. At other times it's fairly obvious. Either way, we're called to recognize his activity and then join in.

Our congregations have been able to support his work locally, nationally and internationally because your hearts are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. That's a lot to give thanks to God for making this possible.

50 Years Since Baptism

This year **Jim Thomas** and **Peter Valusiak** reached the milestone of 50 years since baptism.

Jim Thomas of the Sydney congregation was baptised on 27/05/1967. Jim said:

It has had its tears and laughter. I deeply appreciate the church family here and around the world that I have been blessed to meet. And I have had so many opportunities of travel, education and especially of participating at SEP. More and more I have grown to see the love God has for all people and look forward to a world free from pain and death. What a joy it is to know that God wants us to be his children and I look forward to that great reunion of all my old friends. The journey continues and each day it is enriching. I am most thankful above all for our life in Christ. For that is the blessing beyond measure.



Peter Valusiak of the Bathurst congregation was baptised on 01/10/1967. Peter said:

When I began the journey I made a lifelong commitment to follow Jesus. Over the 50 years there have been many changes and trials in my life but one thing stands out and that is God is faithful to His Word and His promises. He will never leave us nor forsake us and that has been true in my life. Whatever I find to do, I do with all my might as God gives me strength to walk in the way of love and service.



We deeply appreciate the faithfulness of both men. They are dedicated servants in our congregations.

We are looking at educational scholarships and just recently had four sturdy laptops kindly donated to us from *Merk, Sharp and Dohme Australia Pty Ltd*. We are also looking at work experience opportunities with *Aon* in Port Moresby.

PNG Update

Articles on the Web

[PNG - 2017 Youth Ministry and Children's Church Buduburam—Thank-You Card / Letter](#)

Message from Ben Gelwa

Love and greetings from Mt Wilhelm Church to our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ in Australia. It is with great pleasure to write and inform you about the reports below.



We thank you very much from our heart for your help in implementing many projects and sending many ministers to serve PNG.

There are so many we have not seen face to face but who are always with us in spirit. So we once again thank you very much for both the spiritual and physical services you have provided. Your consistent love, patience and faithfulness reflect the face of Christ.

The visits to Mt Wilhelm have been very helpful to our ministerial obligations. Most of the sermons that we are preaching are on the notes provided. The laptop that you gave me is very helpful. I used it to study notes, prepare my sermons, watch Bible Stories in children class, etc.

I want to give you an illustration about the ministry in Mt Wilhelm, Gambolg, Simbu Province. It is just like a tree that is growing on a mountain where it grows stronger and taller every time. Despite the continuous blowing of heavy wind it cannot fall to the ground since its roots have been deeply rooted and it is growing on the solid land. We will continue to serve in the Lord's ministry diligently.

Thank you very much and may the Good Lord Constant Blessings and Unconditional Love be with you all.

Your Family in Christ.



Jackson Flah:

Finally, we are done with the registration of the church land and attached is a copy of the registered title deed. The registration process has taken long due to the electoral process in our country but by His Grace it is done now.

The discipleship learning materials you sent me are very meaningful and helpful and the English language is simple. Please send us more.

Jackson has received the first 5 units of the edited Discipleship series. There are 10 units to send.

Liberia Update

PNG Festival 2017 Theme: Celebrating the Grip

Report from Ben Gelwa:

Before the festival we had faced many challenges because of the 2017 National General Election and it has affected us greatly. In our village almost 30 houses were burned down and more that 100 people were injured. Also four

men were killed and we didn't travel to Kundiawa town since the road was blocked. As a result most schools and hospital in our area were closed.

In spite of all that our good Lord has helped us to go through this most difficult time in our life. It has united us and makes us stronger than before spiritually, physically and mentally. As a result we have a very successful festival this year and it went along with our theme "Celebrating the Grip" – because we do not know who we are until we know whose we are.

We had four days of worship service. On the first day the children led and organised the service. On the second day the youth led and organised the service. Then on the third day the women organised and led the service. On the last day we had many great happenings. We had three baptisms, Communion Service and a big feast.

Also we had a talent day where many members of the congregation displayed their talents awesomely for example: singing songs and making drama, etc. We also organised different games where we played happily.

Many people from near villages and other denominations attended our four days and were very pleased. It was a very interesting and memorable event in our life.

Attendance: Children under 10 years of age – 65

Youths – 54; Adults – 51

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Thanks to Josiah Gilman

01-18-

TODAY'S SERMON WILL BE ON HOW TO DRESS MODESTLY IN AN INCREASINGLY IMMODEST AGE