

Nambawan!
**Global Mission's
Vanuatu Newsletter**



GlobalMission
Vanuatu

August 2024



A chaplains training event organised by the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, and led by a team from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, was hosted by the North Efate Presbytery in June. In this photo, participants pose for a photo on the beach at Siviri village where the training event was held.

It has been several months since the previous Nambawan newsletter was produced in November 2023. Events outside our control, including the collapse of Air Vanuatu have added complications to mission in Vanuatu in recent months. However, Global Mission's partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu remains active and this newsletter will give examples of this. We have hosted members from the PCV in New Zealand for exposure and training programmes; we are supporting an English teacher at Talua Theological Training Institute; we played a major role in the inaugural chaplains training event pictured above; a team contributed to an ongoing project on one of Vanuatu's many smaller island communities; and one of our Presbyterian church schools is continuing their impressive service programme with schools in Vanuatu. Opportunities continue to exist for PCANZ congregations and members to support our mission partnership with the PCV. Read on for more information ...

Chaplain's Training Event—The First of its Kind

In June a team of three PCANZ ministers and chaplains led a chaplains training event in Vanuatu. This occurred at the invitation of the PCV through their Secretary of Mission, Pastor Solomon Vanuaroro. In previous years, the PCANZ has hosted PCV school chaplains at Presbyterian chaplains and church schools conferences. But Pastor Solomon felt more could be achieved by holding a training event in Vanuatu, where more of their chaplains could attend. So after a long time of planning and addressing logistical challenges, our team of three (Geoff Skilton, Paula Levy, and Rae Wilson) arrived in Port Vila to lead the training event from June 10 – 14. This was held at Siviri Village on Efate, Vanuatu's most populous island, about an hour's drive from the capital, Port Vila. Official figures have the number attending at 99 – quite a good achievement! Many participants had to travel by boat from their respective islands due to the collapse of Air Vanuatu. Team leader Geoff Skilton had this to say about the experience:

“It was a wonderful privilege to meet so many pastors and elders who were eager to explore the possibilities that chaplaincy offers beyond the church. Most attendees were school chaplains. Our curiosity was piqued when told political chaplains existed. We met with two pastors who were respectively chaplain to the President and the Prime Minister. Their appointments were made by the office-bearer and ceased with the end of the President or Prime Minister's term. Learning was two-way. There is an eagerness amongst attendees and pastors who couldn't attend, for further training.”



In these photos:

Members of Santo Presbytery with their certificates of attendance;
The team of trainers—Rev. Geoffrey Skilton, Rev. Paula Levy, and Rae Wilson;
Some of the PCV's female pastors and chaplains who attended the training;
PCV personnel and members of the North Efate Presbytery who hosted the training event at Siviri village, North Efate.





More Photos from the Chaplains Conference:

PCV Moderator Pastor Simon Vani, and Secretary of Mission Pastor Solomon Vanuaroro thanking the trainers.

One of the participants with his certificate.

Members of the Southern Islands Presbytery, who had to travel a long way by boat to attend.



Community Projects on Paama Island

After the chaplain’s training, Geoff Skilton spent time on Paama Island, to the north of Efate. He has a long-standing relationship with the schools and community there. Geoff describes what he and his small team achieved on Paama:

“I was joined by two friends who travelled to Paama last Christmas. Their time there was pivotal in the choice of project. The roll of Vaum Presbyterian Junior Secondary School has continued to grow in 2024 and currently sits at around 120 students, most of whom are boarders. The auxiliary boys dormitory was in urgent need of some TLC to the shutters and many shutter frames. Thanks to a number of Dunedin congregations and friends the cost of tools, timber, paint and freight was met; and thanks also to the school students who helped with the repairs.

At the request of Pastor Sebastian we ran a one day training event. The morning was focused on an introduction to chaplaincy, and the afternoon was on computer skills using Word and Powerpoint. With no power available at Frater Presbyterian Church the laptops/tablets all faded. News spread and three pastors travelled from Ambrym - an hour in a fishing boat on the open sea. At the end of the day another request 2025.

With Air Vanuatu being in liquidation internal travel in chartered flights is provided by one very small airline - Belair - who fly one old plane. Given the extra hours being flown, breakdowns and re-scheduled flights are common daily occurrences. We struck both and had to make a one hour open sea dash from Paama to Epi in a small fishing boat to connect with a delayed flight to get back to Port Vila for our flights home.”



Students from Vaum School helping with the repairs to their dormitory; and right, the repaired door and shutters.

Jae Ahn — English Teacher at Talua Theological Training institute

In 2024, Global Mission has been supporting Jae Ahn as English teacher at Talua Theological Training Institute. Jae is a member of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Auckland. This is a position Global Mission has funded and facilitated for many years. Jae lives in a staff house on the Talua campus that was built with funds donated by PCANZ members several years ago. Due to his abilities with IT and media, Jae has contributed in many other ways alongside his English teaching. We are very grateful to Jae for his commitment to this essential aspect of the students curriculum, as it helps to prepare them to be more equipped for academic study and ministry.

English Teacher Required for 2025 and 2026 — Do You Sense a Call to Serve in Vanuatu?

Jae will conclude at the end of the year and the position is open for applicants for 2025 and 2026. Teachers with an ability to teach English and who have an interest in cross-cultural mission are invited to contact Global Mission Director Phil King for more information. The position does not come with a full salary but accommodation is provided, a living allowance is paid and expenses are covered. See the full role description here, <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/global-mission-office/#ENGS>



Donations to support the role of English teacher at Talua can be made to Global Mission, 02 0500 0086963 10.



Top: Jae with his diploma English students, and standing outside Heniko House on the Talua campus. **Above and left:** Talua community members on a cultural evening, and Jae taking a class with members of the womens programme. Talua is a community of staff, students and family members all living on-site so there are pastoral responsibilities as well as his teaching role.

Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu at the Council for World Mission Assembly in Durban, South Africa June 14—19

PCV General Secretary Collin Keleb and his wife Roslyne attended the Council for World Mission Assembly in Durban, South Africa in June as observers. This was a step towards the PCV becoming full members in CWM. In common with many Pacific churches, the mission history of the PCV began with missionaries sent by the London Missionary Society (LMS), the forerunner of CWM. However, when CWM was formed in 1977, the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides (as the PCV was then called) was not included in its membership. It is good to see this process under way now, so the PCV can join with the 10 other Pacific churches who are already within the membership of CWM. The Cook Islands Congregational church is also on a similar pathway to CWM membership.



Observers

- Evangelical Co
- Presbyterian Cl
- Cook Islands Cl
- Presbyterian Cl
- Presbyterian Cl



PCV General Secretary Rev. Collin Keleb addressing the CWM Assembly in Durban; and Mrs. Roslyne Keleb with PCANZ Moderator Right. Rev. Rose Luxford, and PCANZ Global Mission Director Rev. Phil King.



Observers

- Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola
- Presbyterian Church of Mauritius
- Cook Islands Christian Church
- Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago
- Presbyt Church of Vanuatu



PCV Youth Leaders Attend Presbyterian Youth Ministries National Youth Leaders Conference

Four Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu youth leaders visited New Zealand to take part in the Connect national Presbyterian youth leaders conference on July 26-28. While they were here they also shared in various other exposure events which ensured their visit to New Zealand was a stimulating and fruitful time. Team members were PCV national youth director Josiah Ewai; Tmothy Makekon, Anna Rongo, and Eva Keleb. After Connect they all expressed their appreciation for what they learned and the relationships they made. They were impressed that Connect focuses on the training of youth leaders and they will take this idea back with them. They enjoyed the worship, the speakers and range of workshops that addressed issues relevant to youth culture. One factor that stood out for them was what they described as the servant-leadership approach of our ministers and leaders who were there to support youth ministry, including PCANZ Moderator Right Rev. Rose Luxford. And all of them agreed – Connect was too short! They enjoyed it so much, they wished they could have stayed for longer!



In these photos: Top: PCV youth leaders at Connect with PCANZ Moderator Rev. Rose Luxford; PYM national Youth Director Matt Chamberlin welcoming the team. Middle: Ice-breaker games were a great way to mix everybody up and have some fun; Knoxanna Leasi shares in table conversation with Anna Rongo.

Below: More table conversations; and Presbytery Central's youth enabler Nga Rolston offering chocolate in gratitude for the PCV team's contribution at Connect.



St. Kentigern School To Continue Their Service Programme Work in Vanuatu

St. Kentigern Presbyterian Boys and Girls School in Auckland will be returning to Vanuatu in September to work on the next stage of their service programme. They are working with PCV schools in the Port Vila area. This year's programme will include a water and sanitation project at Popowoh school, and hopefully also laying a concrete pad for a new classroom. Twenty families will be involved in this year's project. Future plans include the construction of playgrounds like the one pictured here at Etas School in 2019. The team will be supported by Global Mission legends Neville and Gloria Jones.



Left: The PCV youth leaders who attended the Connect Conference at Forest Lakes near Otaki pose on Paraparaumu Beach after the conference. Acclimatising to Wellington's winter weather was all part of the adventure!

Below: The PCV is on a pathway to membership in the Council for World Mission (formerly the London Missionary Society (LMS)). The CWM Office in Singapore includes an artist's depiction of LMS missionary John Williams arriving on Tanna in the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) in 1839, clearly showing the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu belongs within the CWM family. Membership will hopefully be achieved in 2025.



PCV Finance Manager Visits PCANZ

The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu Finance Manager Melten Ataur visited New Zealand for two weeks in February to gain experience in his role. Melten made valuable connections with the PCANZ Finance Team during his time here. We hope his visit will provide him with helpful support and strengthen the shared mission partnership between our churches. Melten was accompanied by his wife Stacey. During their visit, Melten and Stacey were hosted by the Vanuatu High Commissioner Hon. Jimmy Nipo and his wife Lidcha. Melten also had a surprise visit to a woodturning class where he made a kauri pen. Great work!



Above: PCV Finance Manager Melten Ataur with Global Mission Director Phil King, and members of the PCV Finance Team Katrina Graham and Michaela Press.

Below: Melten and his wife Stacey meeting with Vanuatu High Commissioner Hon. Jimmy Nipo and his wife Lidcha Nanuman. And Melten with his kauri pen at his impromptu woodturning class.



Thank you to everyone who financially supports our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Donations are always welcome and allow us to achieve more. Online donations can be made to 02 0500 0086963 10. If making a new donation please send an email with contact details for receipts to katrina@presbyterian.org.nz

Nambawan! is dedicated to the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand's partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. "Nambawan" is Bislama (one of the three official languages of Vanuatu) and means "Number One" or as we might say today, "Awesome!" If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or would prefer email, please advise by return mail to Global Mission, P.O. Box 9049 Wellington 6141, or email Phil King at phil@presbyterian.org.nz.