When I am weak He is Strong

Kay Fulcher recently visited Solomon Islands to catch up with many of the people she served and ministered too during her time as missionary to the Solomon Islands. Here are some of her stories from that time...

I would not have been surprised if there was no one at the Munda airport to meet me. Firstly because I had no guarantee that the news of my visit had preceded me and secondly because the New Georgia District is very unpredictable. As I waited for my luggage, Robert Zio arrived and I surprised myself by bursting into tears. Robert is a very gracious godly man. He is now an ordained minister and District Superintendent. He was told seven years ago that he would not live more than two years. In fact I remember visiting him when he could not get out of bed and was expecting to die within a week. It was good to sit and talk with Robert and hear how he has already planned the calendar for 2017 and how he hopes to somehow visit the outer churches this year. I met the Dunde Congregation the next evening and shared good laughs, worship and food. That somehow seemed to be the formula for wherever we went.

I was able to catch a bus towards Noro and asked the driver to let me off at place blong John Tuta. His family live with him in this small village and they planted a church there. His daughter Sarota was the first one who trained to be a Kids EE teacher. She is a gifted teacher and a joyful travel companion. However, Sarota was grieving the medical diagnosis that she should not have children and suggested treatment that she should have a hysterectomy. I remember praying with her in tears and then I remember her not being able to travel to Choiseul for a Kids EE clinic because she was too heavily pregnant. What a joy to meet her and her son again. Sarota has also started a kindergarten in the church building they have erected. People are...
coming from nearby to both attend church and send their children to the kindergarten even though they have absolutely no resources.

One of the things that struck me in my travels was the number of people who came up to me and told me they loved me. Often these were students in courses and it was hard to know how I could have affected their lives.

I arrived back in Honiara completely exhausted but was glad I crossed paths with David Collins who was heading back to Noro. Myra contacted me and I told her I just needed to rest. So she only organised two meetings for me to attend. The Women’s meeting was Tuesday evening and I was ready to go, I must admit with no enthusiasm. when Myra texted me to say that Teva was bringing her daughter who was sick for prayer. I put in my oil and headed for church. Teva’s daughter, Nini told me that her sickness was spiritual as a sorcerer had put a spell on her and she could not sleep because a snake was crawling inside her belly. Well this was not the kind of sickness I was expecting and I felt so inadequate. God had led me to share Psalm 91 after which we read James 5 and had a time of confession. I needed to confess my attitude. Pastor Nelson arrived from work and joined us as he laid hands on Nini, anointed her and prayed, I believe with authority. Nini immediately began to shake and vomit. We continued to pray and sing, “In the name of Jesus.” Myra has since let me know that Nini has not had any more problems and believes she has been healed. So do I. I praise God for again showing me that when I am weak He is strong. He is above all!

I feel this brings to a closure my physical presence in the Solomons. I thank you again for your prayers and faithful support. You have made a difference.

Kay Fulcher
By Rev. George Velopide
National Superintendent

When I visited our churches and heard testimonies of new life in Christ and ministers’ reports of new believers and celebrating believers’ baptisms and seeing people grow in their Christian Faith, I was very sure about God’s Great Commission:

“Then Jesus came to them and said, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:18-20).

Just last year, three church buildings have been completed and dedicated, which is a huge achievement.

Also, I interviewed an old man, aged 77 years and named William Nevikera, before officiating at his baptism. He said, “My decision to receive this baptism is before my eyes and close to death.

I want to let the world know that I belong with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20)”.

This year my family moved to Noro to pastor our church there, and my goal is to bring members to the church, training them and building a working community team to our training centre at Noro. We are praying for this to happen!

We have encountered many challenges, hardships and trials, but out of all this, our focus is on Jesus, the One who calls will lead us in the path of righteousness.

Rev. George Velopide,
National Superintendent Minister,
Wesleyan Methodist Church of Solomon Islands
For the 21st consecutive year, Paul Parilia, is doing his part to kick off another academic year at the PNG Bible College. As groundsman, Paul oversees the gardens which provide much of the students’ food. He supervises weekly work duty, does some shifts on night security, does more manual labour than men half his age and attends every college chapel service. Some of Paul's most important roles aren't written in his yearly contract. They include being a grandfather to the kids on campus, reminding us of the value of hard work and giving wise advice. Paul doesn't talk a lot, but when he does we all listen!

When we served as the full-time administrators at the college 1999-2003, I can't tell you how many times I turned to Paul to tell me what to do. I have on occasion literally trusted him with my life. God, as we mature a bit more, please make us like Paul.
New House Group Birthed Amongst the Karis People

The Karis Team is made up of five missionary units. Most of them have been on the field for 5 years or longer. This means that they have already engaged well in the culture and in language. This is very helpful as they seek to see an indigenous church planting movement established among the Karis People.

Currently, the team is primarily establishing relationships for the purpose of sharing the Gospel and seeing people come to faith in Christ, teaching new believers and beginning to train spiritual leaders. Most recently a house group was birthed in the countryside as a result of a young woman sharing her faith with her family.

These young believers have been baptized and are taking being obedient to the commands of Christ seriously.

Praise God for his faithfulness!

(The Karis people field is part of the Turkic/Arabic Muslim area of Global Partners. Since security is an issue, we are highlighting the work on the field and our missionaries as a team instead of individually.)

Outreach in Albania

Heather Jedrzejczyk moved to Albania in September 2015, burdened by the number of unreached people living in the Kenet. She is currently living in an underdeveloped area filled with squatters from all over Albania.

Heather is involved in discipleship, young adult ministry, and Global Partners’ anti-human trafficking ministry in Albania. This is part of the effort to establish a healthy, Albanian-led church in Durres. Her passion is to see Albanian young adults rooted in the love of God and pursue restoration in order to freely be who God wants them to be.

“The height to which love leads is indescribable. Love unites us with God.” –Clement of Rome
You’ve Planted a Very Big Seed

Julie Tyler

It was my privilege to be invited to attend three women’s rallies in the Solomon Islands in December 2016. Many thanks to those Wesleyan Women who support Project Boomerang by purchasing copies of the Women In Touch magazine to make this trip possible.

Solomon Island National Woman’s Director, June Qorakana Ililo and I connected on the first day of meeting. I was so impressed with June’s clear vision for the women of SI and what she hoped to achieve at the women’s rallies. June took the opportunity to draw on my professional experience to open the discussion with the women about domestic violence. June and I were able to develop the content for the rallies together. We then co-facilitated, providing the women with the opportunity to share how they were feeling, what is happening in their villages, build their skills and gain a biblical understanding about this complex topic. The content was relevant and well received by the women. Many of the women said they were going back to their community to share the content with their families.

Two comments stand out for me “you have opened our mind” and “you have planted a very big seed”.

Julie Tyler
Wesleyan Women’s Director,
Southern District.
Julie attends Wangaratta Wesleyan Church
As we have found many times over, the movement of Visa Applications between Pacific Countries is often slow and need to be regularly prodded and prayed for! Alister and Elaine Moss, at the time of publishing, are in the final stages of their Residency Visa application for the Solomon Islands. The final paperwork was submitted at the end of February and I hope their visa will be issued early March. Alister is anticipating moving to the Solomons in April with Elaine following later.

Alister and Elaine will be Directing the Noro Site Development over the coming year or so as volunteers. They are fully funded and we encourage your prayers for their transition away from their home and family in Australia. We also encourage financial support towards the ever needed expenses for the site development.

Alister and Elaine have just retired from 45 years of running their own family building business in Northern NSW. Their son has taken over the business. They look forward to settling in at Noro and providing a steady guiding hand as the Noro Site continues to be developed under the overall long term site plan!
Australian Wesleyans Serving Overseas Missions

2017 is off and running and the opportunities to get your hands dirty on the mission field are scheduled. Whether you can help with tutoring of a class, or can come and help with the next onsite building in Noro Solomon Islands or assist with World Hope Educational or Medical projects in PNG. See below for more details and complete the online form on our website to register your interest.

Group Leadership June
24th- July 7th. Noro Training Centre Solomons

You would assist with tutoring and group discussions during the ten day course preaching. Onsite accommodation. Interact and get to know church leaders. Opportunities on the weekends to see the local sites, WW2 relics and snorkelling. $2200 ex Brisbane, all inclusive. Limited spaces available, preference given to those who have not participated before.

Building Team
May 13-25 2017
Solomons

This team of people with trade and practical skills will be assisting the new Site Director Alister Moss and local volunteers as they continue on with the next building project on site. Opportunities to interact with local workers, see some of the local sites, be involved in church services and of course do some amazing snorkelling in pristine waters. $2200 ex Brisbane, All inclusive.

Combined WWM/World Hope Teams. Education or Medical in PNG

Opportunities later in the year to assist with educational teaching development or village birthing attendant training. If you are a teacher or have medical background you could be a part of either of these teams. Click below to be informed of exact times.
Email admin@worldhope.org.au
These will both be approx $2200 ex Brisbane All inclusive.