AWSOM Solomons Team

FROM SOUTHERN DISTRICT

The recent team from Southern District of Phil Hotchkin (DS) Dale and Jason Richardson arrived in the Solomons literally one day after Alister Moss arrived to start his time as Site Director at Noro. The team helped the local team finish off the renovations to the chapel on site. After more than 4 years the leaf roof was leaking and floor was deteriorating. The roof had already been replaced by an iron roof. Timber was obtained and the team got to work. It was finished just in time for the John Wesley Day Celebrations on May 24th, the day before the team headed home.

Blind but still loving God

Rev George Velopide

On a recent tour to Gizo Wesleyan Methodist Church to preach and lead the bible studies for Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, I met a 66-year-old woman named Grace Mazikolo. Grace has been blind now for 6 years having lost her eyesight in 2011. She also lives one kilometre from the church, her home right on top of a hill; you have to climb the hill to get to her home.

Grace lost her sight the time she heard a voice in her dream saying, “Grace, faith can take you anywhere you want, because you are close to God.” When she awoke, her sight was gone.

Grace’s response is: “My body is still healthy. I can sing. I can eat, talk, walk and pray. I am happy. My sight is not stopping me from walking down to the church to worship God together with other Christians. My blind eyes are not a barrier to getting close to God, because I know that Jesus loves me. He knows I am blind and one day I will get healed.”

On our recent return from the National Board of Administration Meeting, Rev David Collins and I visited Grace in her home and prayed with her.

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Happenings in Honiara

Often times, we tell stories from Noro and the exciting things taking place here. As I write, Alister is travelling on one of three flights headed for this town of 6000 people and he’ll probably hit the ground running with what’s currently happening at the training centre.

But before he arrives, he’ll spend a little time in Honiara, the capital of the Solomons, a place I’ve often visited particularly on my way to and from Australia. And while it’s very different to the West (many of us say here, “the West is best”), God is working in the lives of His people in Honiara, as seen with two ministry courses I’ve conducted there in as many years.

Last month, while present to conduct our Godliness Course, I had the chance to present certificates to students from the previous year. From that Inductive Bible Study Course run in 2016, many of the students have gone on to become local preachers in the Honiara Church. This is despite the busy lives many of them have as schoolteachers, university students, and office workers working in government departments and the private sector. Life is a bit of rat race in this town of 6000 people (the city is approaching a population of 100,000). But in this church bursting at the seams of their building, we see a number preparing to serve God as pastors and other church ministries. So much so, I believe many of our Honiara students will eventually make their way to Noro for full time training.

On the last day of our Godliness Course this year, the students basically took the entire service as different ones contributed with presentations communicating their desire to experience spiritual formation in their lives. One lady, Julie Poqesopa, prepared a chart comparing her life to a plant drawing on the resources God provides for spiritual flourishing. Her vivid illustration highlighted the importance of accessing those resources, using means of grace such as prayer, study of God’s Word and fellowship with other believers, if we desire to grow, bloom and bear fruit in our lives. Along with the other students, she helped us see the value in discipling our lives so we might find ourselves open to the work God wants to do within and through us.

Below: Julie Poqesopa holding her chart

awsom opportunities

Building Team July 31st to Aug 13th, 2017 Solomons Islands.

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, including WW2 relics, be involved in church services and of course do some amazing snorkelling in pristine waters. $2200 ex Brisbane. All inclusive. (photo of guy on ladder from last edition)

November: Health Workers Combine with World Hope International Team and travel to the most remote area of the Solomons

Wopasale in PNG to help with training Village Birth Attendants.

See the work that the Wesleyan Church has accomplished in this area that can only be reached by light plane (or a three day walk through jungle) you will be taking the plane.

January 8-16 2018-Join in with National Conference & Youth & Women’s camp in the Solomon Islands.

Can you help with worship or youth activities, or have you been itching to see what has been going on in Noro? Here is your chance to come and be a part of the biannual Conference that will draw together leaders and youth from across the Solomon Islands. (dates to be confirmed) Price approx $2000 all inclusive ex Brisbane.

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World Update is produced quarterly by Wesleyan World Missions, a ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia

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Students receiving their certificates
It was a busy afternoon at our house—three families were visiting from another town. The afternoon cooking had just been finished. All the kids were outside playing. All the adults sat down to visit before having lunch. This is when we heard a call from outside for “Auntie.” It was Aarav,* a believer from our church. His niece, Lavanya,* was with him. It seemed like an inconvenient time for a drop-in visit, but we welcomed them in. They joined in the small talk we were having.

Finally, we began talking with Aarav and Lavanya. We learned that Lavanya had been suffering from severe headaches and back pain. For three months, she had been unable to attend her college classes. Out of desperation, she came to us for prayer. Before they left, we prayed for her. Immediately she said she felt 85% better. The next day, when we called to check on her, she said she was fully healed and went to school! She also said she felt a new kind of joy and peace.

The next week Lavanya came by our house on her own. She asked for a Bible. Now she is reading the Bible and learning about the only true God—the one who healed her.

*Names changed or omitted for security reasons. The girl in the picture is not the girl in the article.

Hospitality and Healing

AUTHOR: A GLOBAL PARTNERS MISSIONARY* IN INDIA | CATEGORY: #TRANSFORMINGLIVES | POSTED MAR 29, 2017

Training Leaders to Multiply Churches

CORY AND JENNIFER ELLISON | POSTED APR 28, 2017

Ankha is a pastor in Ikh Tamir, Mongolia, but this is not where she expected to end up. After high school she left her village to go to the city, 10 hours away, to attend a university for engineering. Influenced by her pastor, she transferred schools and began Bible college where she prepared to be a church planter. Her parents were upset with this decision and fought her. Nevertheless, Ankha persisted. After completing her four-year degree, she anticipated following her dream to plant churches in unreached villages. Instead, God led her back to her hometown to pastor the church she grew up in—the church where she met Jesus.

The church Ankha leads is the only church in the village. From the steps of the church, she can look out over the hillside dotted...
I need her beside me

By Cheri Floyd | Mar 6, 2017

Why now? In the past, there were Papua New Guinean women who had the educational qualifications needed to enter the Bible college’s training program for ministry. The Wesleyan Church of Papua New Guinea acknowledged that God calls both women and men to preach the gospel. But no woman had done ordination level studies at the Wesleyan Bible College of Papua New Guinea. So why now in 2017? I’m not sure I will ever be able to answer that question. I just praise God that a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit is blowing—sweeping aside tradition and cultural reservations.

This February, two student wives (pictured) asked if they could join their husbands’ more academically rigorous classes—rather than taking the normal women’s program at the Bible college. The time was right! Elis and Betty passed the entrance exam. The Papua New Guinean college staff was excited to accept them. The district superintendents from their tribe endorsed them. The final hurdle was sitting down with their husbands, Maxson and Amos. They were asked “Do you want your wife to study with you? In this culture where men typically reign supreme, what will you do if she outperforms you academically? Do you realize she will now have just the same amount of time that you have to devote to raising your children and tending the garden?” These were hard questions — appropriate to Papua New Guinean culture. The college looked for honest answers.

Even though Amos comes from a tribal culture where men and women usually don’t sit together in public, he said he was happy to have his wife beside him in the classroom. Maxson said, “She probably will do better than me academically. But I can’t let that hold me back or hold her back. I need her beside me as a full partner in ministry.”

Cheri Floyd is a Global Partners missionary in Papua New Guinea.

REV. CORY AND REV. JENNIFER ELLISON TRAVEL FREQUENTLY TO MONGOLIA AS SHORT-TERM MISSIONARIES FROM ALL SHORES WESLEYAN CHURCH (SPRING LAKE, MICHIGAN) WHERE JENNIFER SERVES AS ASSOCIATE OUTREACH PASTOR.