From the Amplify Missions Blog

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Wesleyan World Missions; Don & Cheri Floyd in PNG; David Collins in Solomon Islands, Alister Moss World Update is produced quarterly by Wesleyan World Missions, a ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.

WHP PNG

2017 A Year of Change

Christmas Greetings!

This year has seen God work in the lives of people prompting them to serve Him with Wesleyan World Missions. Alister and Elaine Moss have moved on site in Noro to assist with the practical side of managing the ever growing site infrastructure. Instead of retiring and enjoying their grandkids, they have followed God’s leading and volunteering up to two years to assist. We have also seen a number of ordinary folk volunteer for up to two weeks to help on AWSOM trips, from afar afield as USA with Lee GrothOlsen, former missionary to PNG who ran an English workshop to assist students preparing for full time study.

The other exciting thing this year has been the increasing variety of courses being run at Noro by locals for locals, the building and computer courses are two such examples.

This year has also seen us come to the end of our direct support of mission work in PNG after more than 65 years since Walter Hotchkirn and Kingsley Ridgway first arrived in Fugwa. The Floyds are finishing up with Wesleyan World Missions Australia at the end of December and it is anticipated they will be reassigned directly by Global Partners (USA) to PNG at the start of 2019 after a years time out in Coffs Harbour.

These are all significant changes as individuals listen to God’s voice and follow the direction he lays on their heart.

As we all celebrate Christmas this year and look forward to another year ahead, may we each be open to whatever leading the Lord may have for us in our family and ministry life.

We have personally been involved this year with Ruth herself helping with the two weeks English course during her holidays, and I also helped with setting up some water tanks at Noro. We continue to enjoy our three grandchildren. Our Christmas will be with Family and Dallas will be heading back to Noro in January for the National Conference/Convention with a number of pastors being ordained. It is a great privilege to continue to serve this way.

Dallas Thomas, National Director,
Wesleyan World Missions

In Ecuador, students are in a cohort class, which means that students go through all of their schooling together. The Thompson’s son, Ian, will most likely graduate with the same group of students he’s been with since kindergarten.

In Ecuador, birthday party announcements are sent out only a week before the party. Most birthday parties are held in a building set specifically aside for children’s birthdays. Anything from puppets to clowns to games can be found at these birthday parties.

“We’ve learned,” Isaac explained, “that if the invitation says the party starts at 2 o’clock… well, the first couple of times we went at 2:15, and we were by far the first people there. So, we’ve learned that an hour after the start time is actually when people start getting there. It could even bother people if you get there on time.”

In general, parties may start with face paint, followed by games. Instead of a meal, there are snacks. For example, snacks like Doritos may be passed around.

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What a Year!  From David Collins
Solomon Islands

Having managed the operations and development of the training centre for most of the year, run 13 courses, welcomed Australian visitors on 6 different occasions, and helped Alister (our new project manager) and Elaine Moss settle into the Solomons, 2017 has proved a big but satisfying year. In that time, we’ve seen God’s hand at work in many people’s lives. This culminated in witnessing seven students graduate from first ever semester program on the 18th of November, with four of these individuals anticipating ordination in January at the National Convention (see photo).

Late November through most December will find me based in Australia. During that time, I plan on reporting to a few supporter churches, taking a week’s cruise with my parents back out into the Pacific and spending Christmas with extended family in Gympie. On my way back to the Solomons for their National Convention (9-13 January 2018), I’ll visit the Sotos and Floyds in PNG to ensure Richard receives the support he needs as he heads into his final year of study with his theological degree.

Praise God for an amazing year with so much achieved at the college with its development as a ministry and vocational training centre.

Prayer and Praise

Praise God for the 39 different students completing courses this year, including one who completed 8 in six months.

Praise God for substantial preparations made at the training centre to host the Solomons’ National Convention in January.

Pray for all the preparations left to be made for the upcoming convention.

Pray for Ruriko Otota, Watson Otota, Jefferson Qae and June Qorakana getting ordained at the convention.

Pray for decisions made at the convention concerning the future operations and leadership of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Solomon Islands.

From the Amplify Missions Blog

What Is Day To Day Life Like For A Missionary?

From: USA Global Partners’ “The Amplify Mission Blog”
Blogging with Wesleyan Missionaries from around the globe. Sign up at http://www.amplifyingmission.com/

CULTURAL CONNECTION: ZAMBIA

by: Robin Crowell

Greetings from Zambia! Over the past year and a half, I have come to realize how important food is in Zambian culture. This basic staple is not taken for granted, particularly around Zimba. The main food is called nshima. It is prepared from ground maize (corn) kernels mixed with hot water. There is a certain way to stir the combination to ensure that it turns out correctly. Once fully mixed and cooked, a particular spoon is used to make the “lumps.” The consistency of the nshima is similar to that of dense, thick grits that can stick together in an oval shape about the size of your fist. They also prepare some type of “relish” to eat with the nshima, which consists of meat (chicken, fish, beef, goat) if available, and vegetables. Such common vegetables are cabbage, beans, okra, eggs, potatoes (both Irish and Sweet), pumpkin, rape (a green leafy vegetable), and even pumpkin leaves! Any of these items with nshima comprise your typical Zambian meal, which tastes wonderful!

Food is culturally significant on many levels. For one, you are praised in society if you have plenty to eat. One knows you have plenty to eat if you are overweight or obese. It is not uncommon for one to get called “fat” here in Zambia. Despite our initial shock and thinking this is a derogatory comment, Zambians in fact, mean it as a very high complement! They explain it to say, “Oh you have plenty to eat, so you are blessed!” It is not easy to acclimate to, however, as many of our Zambian friends now know to never call a white lady fat!

Most any meeting or gathering is surrounded around a meat or food of some kind. If you visit a friend’s house during mealtime unexpected, your friend will make sure there is enough food for you to enjoy as well, even if they did not prepare enough at the time. They have absolutely no problem doing this, as it is important for them to make the guests feel welcome. Many families even keep back enough maize at harvest time to be prepared for when visitors come.

Since being in Zambia, I have greatly desired to learn how to prepare the traditional Zambian foods. I have succeeded on multiple occasions, with the help of several of my Zambian friends. I have become very accustomed to preparing these things by myself and it surprises our guests so much! They are so humble and grateful that we can prepare and share with them the food that they grew up eating. They are also so surprised that it tastes JUST like that prepared by a Zambian! It is because of this, and several other reasons, that we are now referred to as Zambian by many of those around Zimba!

CULTURAL CONNECTION: ECUADOR

By: Dezary Barr

Isaac and Amy Thompson have been long-term missionaries in Ecuador since 2012.

In Ecuador, birthday parties are very different than they are in the United States. The Thompsons have two young children, one will be in the equivalent of second grade in the States. “Just going to birthday parties has been a cultural experience for our family,” Isaac said. “That for us has been a cultural eye-opener and a way in which our ministry has been able to expand.”
The Wesleyan Bible College of PNG was at last ready to establish its new campus and I was asked to head up construction and development. My first step was to ask each of the 5 church districts to send someone to work with me and be trained during the construction. A traditional house was built on site and the trainee carpenters moved in, ready to start work in 1996.

The shortest of them all was Tau, from the Waposali district. I soon discovered that though Tau was short in stature, he was long on faithfulness, attention to detail and intelligence. As the year progressed Tau was developing nicely as a carpenter. However, he shared with me that he’d like to attend Bible College when classes began in the new buildings. I encouraged Tau in this. And in 1997 Tau became a student in the very classroom he had helped to build.

Tau was a humble, committed student, who excelled academically and exhibited a heart to serve. Upon graduation he returned to his home area, Negebare, the most remote zone of the most remote district of the PNG Wesleyan Church.

After a few years of faithfully serving the church there, Tau told me that he believed God could best use him to serve his own people not as a full-time pastor, but as a medical worker. I was honoured to write the recommendation that accompanied his application to study again.

Today Tau serves Wesleyan Health Services of PNG as the only full-time worker at the remote Waposali health centre. He continues to use his Bible college training as a faithful layman and the church district secretary. Tau also takes action during times of crisis, as when he toured all the villages damaged in a regional flood, providing precise data needed for humanitarian relief. I continue to work with Tau today as he has bought his own computer and phone. We work together so that he can write e-mails, attach documents and photos, as well as use Facebook!

Over the years many trainee carpenters have completed a longer stint with me and have received a certificate of training from me. Those certificates are recognized as proof of good training by any of the big PNG mining operations where these men go to find work. That makes me happy. But Tau makes me happy in a different way. He is so naturally intelligent and such a man of integrity, that he was going to be good at anything he tried, with or without me. I am simply pleased that God allowed me to be one of the people who could be involved in Tau’s journey, recognizing his quiet ability and encouraging him each time to take the next step God was leading Tau to.

Don & Cheri Floyd PNG

God is faithful! As 2017 ends, we look forward to Christmas at home in PNG. Then in mid-January we head off to Australia for a year of transition and preparation. We expect that Don will make three trips back to PNG during 2018. Cheri will be pursuing online studies from our new base in Coffs Harbour. Jono has been accepted into the Christian school there. And William will head off to university. Although our employment with Wesleyan World Missions finishes as 2017 closes, we do hope our friendship with all of you grows ever stronger. Please keep in touch with us through Facebook and e-mail fmopng@gmail.com. As we prepare to return to PNG under North American Wesleyan missions (Global Partners), we still testify there is true joy in the journey when you go with Jesus. Our prayer for 2018 is that each of you will journey with Him and find Him faithful as we have.

One of our great joys for 2017 was seeing the Wesleyan Bible College of PNG accept women into the ministerial studies program.

William has now finished high school by distance education. Both he and Cheri are rejoicing!

Jono and his mate Maia sit in front of the slow combustion stove to watch cartoons. Yes, the PNG Highlands can get cold!

Don teaches the computer basics course at the Wesleyan Bible College

Don trains local carpenters in the use of solar equipment.

Check out our great NEW Missions Website

www.wmm.org.au

WESLEYAN WORLD MISSIONS
Merry Christmas from Alister & Elaine Moss

Alister first arrived in Noro in May through to August. We both arrived back 6th November and will return to Australia on 1st December to spend Christmas with our family and friends.

Our time in Noro has been spent cleaning up the site, finishing the chapel renovations, building a new kitchen and dining area on to the end of the chapel, upgrading the solar system and electrical wiring, installing new ceiling fans and point points, hosting AWSOM teams, organising the cutting of logs and learning to cope with the day to day issues that seem to crop up every day.

Alister has taken a few services. Elaine has met with some ladies to help set up financial books for the local church, Wesleyan Women and District.

Jeff Davies came for a week to carry out some maintenance on the 4x4 ute which was much appreciated.

When we return on 5th January 2018, we will finish clean up and preparations for the Conference and host visitors from Australia from the 8th to 16th. Our aim for 2018 is to build to house and continue to organise the site.

We thank God for choosing us to serve Him at the Noro Training Centre.

Merry Christmas from Alister & Elaine Moss

Semester Student Interview

From July to November this year, the Wesleyan Methodist Training Centre at Noro in the Solomons ran a Semester Program offering 6 different subjects. Seven students took part in the program. Jefferson Qae was one of them.

David: Tell me, Jefferson, a little bit about yourself.
Jefferson: I’m a licensed minister from Choiseul Island. I look after three churches in the southern part of the island and serve as the Assistant Superintendent for the district.

David: Why did you spend four months studying at Noro?
Jefferson: My interest was in training to become a better leader, to know the Word of God and equip me to preach and teach the people of my church. I look forward to my ordination in 2018.

David: What are your plans for the future?
Jefferson: My plan is to develop the community to grow physically and spiritually through the church. I will go back to Choiseul for Christmas to celebrate Christ’s birth and see my family and church members.

David: What advice would you give to others wanting to train for ministry?
Jefferson: I’d encourage them, new leaders and students, to train at the Noro Training Centre. This will lift them up to lead the church.

Jefferson Qae studied Christian Leadership, Biblical Foundations (Genesis 1-11) and Inductive Bible Study (Mark) this semester completing all his studies needed for ordination.

AWSOM Opportunities

SOLOMON ISLANDS - Work Teams

March and May 2018 10-14 days ~$2200

We are finalising dates for ‘handy people’ and tradies to come and help with the many building projects on site. If you have interest and availability during these times (or even at others) let us know and we can finalise dates around the availability of initial respondents.

Price is all inclusive, ex Brisbane, and will be finalised when length of each trip is finalised.

NORO TRAINING CENTRE - Ministry Teams

June 30th- 13th July 2018 Cost $2200.

We will only have limited availability to help with training courses on site. Each team will be quite small (2-4) on each trip to maximise the opportunity for each person and the classes being taught, and minimise the disruption on site. Basic English will be amongst the courses taught. If you have interest in assisting with courses next year please contact us on awsom@wwm.org.au.