Christmas Greetings from the Floyds
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.

Late November through most December will be spent with extended family in Australia. During that time, I will plan on reporting to a few supporter churches, find me based in Australia. We are looking forward to visiting Floyds in PNG to ensure Richard and Floyds are finishing up with Wesleyan World Missions and I will also help with setting up some water sites. Our Christmas will be with family and I also helped with water site construction in the busy season. With the support he needs as he heads into the Pacific and spending Christmas 2017 with extended family in Australia.

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My plan is to develop the new leaders ordination in 2018. I look forward to my preaching and teaching the people of the Word of God and equipping me spiritually through the church. I will celebrate Christ's birth and see my family Jefferson Qae studied Christian Leadership, Inductive Bible Study (Mark) this semester. Biblical Foundations (Genesis 1-11) and several other reasons, that we are now referred to as prepared by a Zambian! It is because of this, and with them the food that they grew up eating. They are accustomed to preparing these things by myself several of my Zambian friends. I have become very important for them to make the guests feel welcome. Since being in Zambia, I have greatly desired to learn how to prepare the traditional Zambian foods. I have them have absolutely no problem doing this, as it is well, even if they did not prepare enough at the time. However, as many of our Zambian friends now know Zambians in fact, mean it as a very high compliment! Most any meeting or gathering is surrounded around opportunities for each person and the classes courses taught. If you have interest in assisting with courses next year please contact us on awsm@wwm.org.au.

**CULTURAL CONNECTION:**

**ZAMBIA**

Food is culturally significant on many levels. For example, the nshima, a thick paste that can stick together in an oval shape, is considered an important part of the Zambian meal. This dish is made from maize meal and is usually served with meat, such as chicken or beef, and vegetables. One knows you have plenty to eat if you are overweight or obese. It is not uncommon for one to find nshima on the table at almost any gathering or meeting. In Zambia, nshima is often served at special occasions such as weddings and funerals. It is a symbol of hospitality and is considered an honor to serve nshima to guests. It is also a way to show gratitude and appreciation.

Greetings from Zimba, Zambia! Over the past year and a half, I have come to realize how important food is in our culture. In my experience, food is a way to bring people together and is a part of our daily lives. It is a way to show love and care for others.

**ECUADOR**

By: Dezaray Barr

In Ecuador, birthday parties are very different than in the States. "Just going to birthday parties has been a cultural experience for our family," said _______. "In the States, we celebrate birthdays very differently. In Ecuador, birthdays are a time for family to come together and enjoy the love and support of each other. In the States, birthdays are usually celebrated with gifts, games, and fun activities. In Ecuador, however, the emphasis is on the family and the love that they share. We have learned so much from these cultural experiences and have come to appreciate the different ways people celebrate birthdays."