Lawry Wickham travelled from Solomon Islands with Pastors from the Solomon Islands to the National Pastors and leaders retreat on the Sunshine Coast in January. He passed away suddenly on his return. National Supt Rev. George Velopide shares his story.

Even though we came across some challenges with getting passports and visas, thank God he sent others ahead with a loving heart to assist with the task. Thank you to David Collins for helping with getting Thompson Qevolo’s and my (George Velopide’s) visa. Also, Carol Wickham for working on Joshua Loko’s passport and visa. May God bless you both!

Four delegates accompanied myself in attending the Pastors and Leaders’ Retreat on the Sunshine Coast in Australia in March. Along with the men already mentioned, we had Church Elder Lawry Wickham join with us. On the 22nd of May 2018, after his return from Australia, Lawry passed away from a heart attack in Gizo Hospital.

Lawry was one of those men who fought for the establishment of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the Solomon Islands. He campaigned for the United Church to change their name back to the Methodist Church, in keeping with the beliefs of the people. But in the end such efforts came to nothing.

When the United Church of PNG and Solomon Islands split into national churches, however, in 1996, the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Solomon Islands was registered. Though only a few United Church members linked with the new denomination.

Even in recent times, Lawry was greatly involved in the leadership of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Solomon Islands. At the 2018 National Conference, he moved that our National Conference be only held every four years to give the leadership a longer term for implementing policy. But he was keen for the National Church to keep meeting every two years to bring the church together for fellowship and spiritual inspiration in a National Gathering. His enthusiasm was seen in his volunteering to coordinate the next National Youth Convention, even in his eighth decade of living in this life!

Lawry was a member of the Gizo Wesleyan Methodist Church. He was married to Regina and he has left behind four children and fifteen grandchildren.

Lawry will be greatly missed by the church, but his legacy will live on and is highly respected by all. Please pray for the family during this time of their bereavement.

Rev. George Velopide
National Aupt SIWMC

A mid term plan for supporting the training centre at Noro is to build a holiday unit out over the foreshore of the Still Waters Training Centre in Noro, with this actual view!

Aussies are invited to ‘prepurchase’ 10 weeks of holidays for just $2750* so this project can go ahead.

As tourist accommodation in an idyllic location that can easily command $200 per night, this will give great support to the local community, providing training in hospitality, employment and cash income to support the training centre.

- Amazing diving
- WW2 Relics nearby
- 2 Bedroom accommodation
- Fans in each room
- TV- laundry- kitchen
- Car and boat hire available
- Day trips to idyllic islands can be arranged for swimming and diving
- Prepared meals available

Full details are in the brochure online at https://wesleyan.org.au/noro-training-centre/thnorovilla

*Price after July 1st 2018 will be $2950 (Wesleyan Pastors will remain at $2750 till the end of 2018). Deposit of $750 ($950) plus ten monthly $200 payments can be made. Ten weeks off peak, 5 weeks peak, split evenly over 5 years starting 2020. See full details in the brochure.

Imagine lying in your hammock... watching the beautiful sunsets over the still waters of the Noro Lagoon.

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Imagine lying in your hammock... watching the beautiful sunsets over the still waters of the Noro Lagoon.
Elaine and I arrived back in Noro on 30th April, hitting the ground running as we prepared for David Collins return on 7th May with Keith McLauchlan and Peter Barnes and then a work team arriving on the 14th, consisting of Rodney Hall, Joel Heron from Queensland and Andrew Woods from Christchurch NZ.

A problem with a dispute over ownership of logs that had been donated to the Training Centre, meant that timber we expected to have on site our return was not available. So we had to rethink projects for the work team who arrived from Australia and New Zealand, who quickly got into these projects, such as: The bathroom in David’s house needed some remodelling so Andrew soon got into that and within a few days it had become more user friendly. Rodney & Joels first focus was to empty our storage container where material was stacked on top of material, making it very hard to find things. Donated shelving from Australia was the installed into the container, then all the material etc. sorted & put on the shelving. Now we can walk into the container and see what we have.

In the meantime we were able to re-organise getting some timber cut, while Joel and Peter busied themselves burning some stumps and doing some site cleaning. Andrew, Rodney & Joel finished straightening and bracing the steel piers.

The bearers arrived and they were able to fix them in place

Overall we had a very productive 12 days, with great fellowship and lots of laughs. A very positive mission experience, interacting with local people on site and involvement in Sunday worship. We would challenge and encourage everyone to think about a short term mission, and start planning.

We covet your prayers and support

Alister Moss
WHAT CAN I DO?

Australian Wesleyans Serving Overseas Missions

TRADIES NEEDED IN NORO NOW!

The saw mill in Noro is now pumping out timber (after the last work team just left!) so

CHIPPIES AND HANDY PEOPLE

are needed asap to help with the building of the new duplex staff accommodation at the training centre at Noro. 10 days to 2 weeks approx $2200 all inclusive ex Brisbane

This needs to be in place before the end of the year ready for two new staff families to move on site as they prepare for the full year of preparations and studies next year.

SPARKY needed for 2-4 weeks
to help with re wiring current under par wiring, and new duplex housing. Experience with Solar a bonus. If you can help or know someone that can contact us on awsom@wwm.org.au

Some assistance for costs may be available for a qualified sparky if needed. Timing can be arranged to suit your circumstances.

awsom@wwm.org.au
Call Dallas 0424223333

WISDOM OF SOLOMONS

I saw wisdom being leveraged through Alister & Elaine’s interaction with their S.I. counterparts. Whether it was getting the sawmill up and running using a proper mechanic or a “bush mechanic”, or hosting a cooking class with S.I. neighbourhood women, the Moss’s imparted their wisdom from above to ensure that activities moved ahead smoothly (as smoothly as things can run in the poorest countries on the planet)?

When it came to “a holy life characterised by getting along with others,” I saw that in action through Pastor Rodney Hall. Rodney was our resident S.I. expert. I reckon he inherited that honestly from his dad, Allen Hall, one of the founding Weso missionaries to S.I. Rodney’s gregarious love for the people and his fun-loving, yet righteous character was a good example to the rest of the team (Peter Barnes, Andrew Woods, Keith McLauchlan and I).

The wisdom “gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings” was enacted when there was a critical and emergent interruption to our stump-clearing, container-organising and duplex-building labour: the death of a Solomon Island church founder, Lawry Wickham. While Peter Barnes and I were cleaning stumps from the property, and Rod & Andrew were setting posts to get ready for bearers for the student housing duplex, we got word of Lawry’s death. It was an interruption for sure (when is death not an interruption to life?), but David, Rod and National Superintendent, George Velopide dropped what they were doing to take the two-hour boat trip to Gizo for the funeral. Their love & mercy was “overflowing...not hot one day and cold the next.”

There is still much wisdom to be imparted and work to be done in S.I. Whether it is imploring the locals not to waste their life and resources on addictive habits, but to pursue godliness and holiness through Jesus Christ; or the hard work that is yet to be done on training centre infrastructure (solar panel expansion; duplex completion; district housing; bush clearing; holiday villa development or simply getting the latest shipping container from the wharf!), there is much to be done for the LORD in beautiful, hot, steamy S.I. I challenge you to pray and seek God for where you might be of service in work, in wisdom or in both! You will be glad you did!

--Ps Joel A Heron, Axis Church

James 3:17 [MSG] says this: “Real wisdom, God’s wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterised by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced.” I saw this in action over the twelve days I was privileged to be in Noro.

I saw God’s wisdom in action through the lives of our missionaries,Rev. David Collins and Alister

& Elaine Moss. Wisdom that is needed to address educational deficiencies across the board in the S.I. culture. David and I talked at length about Christian education and basic education being intertwined. And David’s heart cries out to see his brothers & sisters in Christ be educated. It put me in mind of how the Hebrew culture used the Scriptures as a primer to educate their children.

Some assistance for costs may be available for a qualified sparky if needed. Timing can be arranged to suit your circumstances.

awsom@wwm.org.au
Call Dallas 0424223333
The Wesleyan Church of Uganda has been under the authority of the Pilgrim Wesleyan Church of Zambia. Now, after their first national conference, they will stand on their own. A new page in the history of The Wesleyan Church of Uganda has been written.

He loves us just because he loves

AUTHOR: BY A GLOBAL PARTNERS MISSIONARY* IN SOUTH ASIA

It was May 2013 when we first met Rachel.* We had hired her to work as a teacher's assistant at the preschool we were starting. She was not a follower of Christ, but she was kind and compassionate. And we knew she would be a great person to work with children. As time went on, our family and Rachel formed a friendship. Eventually we learned that Rachel’s daughter had been sick for a long time. Doctors had not been able to help her daughter. The gods she put her trust in also failed in helping her. We were able to share with Rachel about our God—Jesus—and that he could help.

Rachel was skeptical. Why would our God help her when she had never worshiped him? This gave us an opportunity to share with her about what makes Jesus different from all the gods she knew. Jesus is a God of love and grace. He loves us just because he loves, not because of what we can or cannot do for him. Together, with Rachel, we prayed for her daughter. Her daughter was healed! Rachel, since then, made the choice to be a follower of Jesus. She no longer worships the gods she once trusted.

Rachel is just one of many in our community that simply need an opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus. One of our ministry strategies in expanding our circle of influence is to expand our current preschool to a full elementary school. The elementary school will be a door into the lives of families and communities that we may never interact with otherwise. We will build relationships and tangibly demonstrate the love of Jesus. This will amplify those who will hear and those who will be made new.

*Names omitted or changed for security reasons.