



# PULSE MAGAZINE

June 2022



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*Pulse is the voice of CRC Missions International*

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# FROM THE EDITOR

## *Mikaela Groom*

Welcome to the second edition of Pulse Magazine for 2022.

This edition of Pulse focuses on various nations across the South Pacific, particularly Papua New Guinea (PNG).

We also have a report on Ukrainian refugees who have settled in Poland and the efforts of Polish churches in helping them settle in. Various CRC churches and personnel have generously given towards these efforts. Thank you very much.

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July we are celebrating our National Missions Sunday. A new training facility is currently under construction at Bethel International Training College (BITC), located on the grounds of Bethel Christian Centre in Port Moresby, PNG. This facility will feature a preschool, three classrooms, a library and study area, and office space for the training staff.

This year's Missions Day Offering will focus on fitting out the new facility with the resources and equipment needed to run a preschool and BITC's training courses, including furniture, educational resources, preschool equipment, TV screens, internet and more.

More information about this can be found on pages 12 and 13. A big thank you in advance to all the churches who contribute towards our Missions Day Offering.



# FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

## *Pr Mike Cronin*

The apostle Peter wrote "Live as free people, but don't use it as a cover up for evil; live as God's slaves" (1 Peter 2:16).

The apostle Paul wrote "Rejoice in the Lord always...Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:4-7).

Peter wrote these words in very difficult circumstances, and Paul wrote while he was in prison. Outwardly imprisoned, but inwardly gloriously free.

Now in June 2022 most countries are releasing the severe physical lockdowns associated with COVID-19. However, it is important that we are not only outwardly free but also free on the inside – spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.

Jesus said in John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed".

Our true freedom is inner freedom not restricted by fears, inadequacy or inferiority. It is then that we can effectively fulfil Paul's exhortation to rejoice in the Lord at all times, and move forward outwardly to fulfil the vision God has set before us.

Enjoy reading this issue of Pulse about free people reaching out in the Pacific countries, and also what our Christian brothers and sisters in Poland are doing to help the Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Thank you to all those churches who have contributed financially to this.





# CRC GATEWAY SOLOMON ISLANDS

*Pr Ronny Asasai*

Greetings from CRC Gateway, Honiara. Let us thank our Lord for keeping us safe during these trying times. To be able to survive in these trying times shows that our God is faithful in keeping his promises. Our prayers go to those who have lost their loved ones during the pandemic. We have also lost some of our church members. Please pray for peace, strength and the comfort of the Holy Spirit for those who are still mourning for their loved ones.

Lets us continue to build our lives on the Solid Rock, Jesus. He is the Rock of our Salvation (Psalm 62:2).

## Women's Prayer Meeting

God moves in his own way in restoring, healing and delivering lives. Our women's ministry group normally have their time of prayer on Tuesdays from 9:30am-12pm. They enjoy a time of fellowship and prayer and encouragement from the Word of God.

One Tuesday, a woman name Elima was invited by her sister Miriam to attend the meeting. Miriam is part of Gateway's women's ministry. Sister Merrilyn, a missionary from Papua New Guinea, led Elima to Lord and asked other women to join her as they prayed for her. She was overjoyed. Thank God she accepted Christ into her life and was delivered from some habits.

Please pray for our women's ministry as they continue to reach out to women in neighbouring communities, sharing the love of Christ.

## Live Stream at YWAM

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June our music team was invited to do a live stream at the YWAM studios. It was a great privilege for us to be able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through this platform. God has many different ways to reach out to people everywhere. Live streaming is a powerful platform that can be used to reach people for Christ.

This live stream program was started by YWAM Solomon Islands during the COVID-19 lockdown. Most people were not going to church because the health authorities did not allow more than 10 people to gather for church services. But God always makes a way when there is no way so people can hear the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Taloa Outreach Church Building

The outreach church in Taloa is a 25 minute drive from Gateway Church. When Pr Mike Groom came with teams prior to COVID, they had a wonderful time preaching to the community.

The Taloa community has agreed for us to construct a building for prayer and fellowship. Recently our team boys, from church, along with help from the community and other friends have put their hands together to do some work on the church grounds and church building.

Gateway Church has been a great help in supporting the church building financially and providing manpower since the work began. We are looking forward to the completion of the building so we can have a proper shelter for prayer and fellowship.

## Outreach at Aviation Market

Recently our CRC women's ministry took up the challenge to do an outreach service at the Aviation market just five minutes walk from our church.

The program began with singing followed by a testimony from sister Miriam. Miriam gave her heart to Jesus earlier this year. She was so excited about her new life in Christ and wanted to share her experience. Sister Merrilyn also shared a message about God's unconditional love. Praise God!

Three men, two young adult girls and 20 children accepted Jesus. What a joy to see lives changed by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Inner City Youth J.A.M Event

The inner city youth leaders comprise of various churches, including CRC Gateway. The first gathering of leaders was in March. They commit their time to come together every Sunday from 4:30-8:30pm to pray and fellowship. They pray for other countries and for the youth in the Solomon Islands.

One of the things they were believing for was to organise a youth J.A.M (Jesus and Me) night. A night for young people from different churches in Honiara to come together to showcase their God-given talents through singing, drama and dancing. The Inner City Youth J.A.M (Jesus and Me) event was launched on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May after almost six months of COVID-19 restrictions, lockdowns and community transmissions in Honiara. We had almost 700 hundred youth from all over Honiara attend the event.



## UPDATE ON THE WORK IN VANUATU

*Pr Remy Adams*

We would like to thank the editor of the Pulse Magazine for giving us the opportunity to provide an update of the work in our nation of Vanuatu.

This year has been a difficult year for us. We have faced challenges in our mission work here.

When COVID-19 arrived in our country our government announced a curfew for two months (March and April). All the work of missions stopped, no church services were allowed, and we could not travel to visit our local churches in the islands.

It has also been difficult to start a new class at our World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) because there are no new students.

There is a sense of fear in the country as people are instructed to stay in their homes for safety.

I have faced challenges with my health and also my family's health.

I had to undergo surgery for a small lump in my chest and I have been diagnosed with high blood pressure so now I'm under medication.

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February my wife had a minor stroke. She had to rest in the house for a couple of months before she could go back to work.

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March my second son Alfred was involved in a fatal car accident that caused him to be taken

urgently to ICU in Princess Alexandra hospital in Brisbane for treatment.

Alfred travelled to Australia last year for the seasonal workers program. Alfred is recovering well since he has gone through a lot of surgeries.

On behalf of my family I would like to thank everyone that has been praying for us.

Our church services restarted in the month of May after two months COVID-19 restrictions.

Our six pastors with their church members are facing challenges with this current pandemic so please think of them in your prayers.

Our WMFTS has not been in operation for two years due to the COVID-19 situation in our country. It is a very challenging time for us to find new students.

We have other challenges involving the government program that recruits young people to travel to Australia and New Zealand for work. More young people are looking to money rather than to serving God.

Our three staff are still in the school compound looking after the property and maintaining and cleaning the school. We have our missionary couple from PNG, Pr John Unuba Weimani, as well as Willy Malon from Vanuatu.

Despite all of our challenges we are still praying and are looking forward to reopening the school.

We still have work to do around the school. During our last trip we took a

team to the school to build a roof on the staff house.

Our two preschools restarted their classes in the month of May after two months of COVID-19 curfews.

In Port Vila there are 30 students enrolled this year with four female teachers.

Our rural preschool in Eratap village has 12 students with one female teacher.

We feed the children at lunchtime and we also provide day care after preschool finishes to help some of the parents out.

Last year we graduated eight students who went on to enter year one in private and government schools.

This year from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December we will organise our 14<sup>th</sup> CRC National Conference in our local church in Malakula island.

We are expecting all of our local church leaders, their youth and church members in the provinces to be present.

We would like to ask for your prayers towards this important event. Please pray for our speakers, for good weather, for the preparations and so on.

We appreciate all of your prayers and welcome any financial support towards our church developments, preschools and WMFTS. You may contact the CRC Missions office if you would like to give financially.



# COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORTS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*Norah Stanley and Viema Vakacegu*

This is a report on funds that were sent last year for the purchasing and distribution of food to families that have been affected during the COVID-19 pandemic in all of our city churches here in Port Moresby.

A massive thank you to the sponsors for considering families who are struggling in PNG during this time. We believe that the food relief brought smiles to many faces and was a miracle to most of the families.

We were able to purchase food items over two days. Our staff members and pastors here at Bethel Centre helped pack the supplies for the families.

We managed to prepare 200 packs and hand delivered them to families at MacGregor (outreach church), ATS (settlement church), 6 Miles (settlement church) and 2 Miles (settlement church).

200 families received the food packs initially, with an average of 5-10 people per family. Therefore, a total number of 1000-2000 people benefitted from this food relief project.

The people in the outreach church at MacGregor were grateful for the food

donation as it benefitted families who had been laid-off from work during the pandemic. Most of them survived from daily earnings from market produce.

In 2 Miles we had some time of ministry and prayer for the children after distributing food parcels to families. One of the church elders spoke on behalf of the church families and pastors, appreciating all the kind donations made to them. He spoke about how the packs have greatly benefitted families as they are unemployed and have been affected by this pandemic.

Packs were delivered over three days to each of these locations. The remaining packs were given to families here at Bethel Tabernacle of Praise.

After these initial food packs were created and delivered, we managed to purchase another 90 packs using the remaining funds.

The team put together the packages and were able to distribute them to families at Morata (settlement outreach) and to families that attend Bethel Tabernacle of Praise, especially to single parents, widows, unemployed parents and elderly people. The remaining packs were distributed amongst our Bethel Centre families.

Every receiving hand has shown their sincere gratitude towards this food distribution and they are all very appreciative of the kind donations.

We would like to express our appreciation to all who have contributed and worked tirelessly to bring smiles to many faces.







## BACK ON THE MISSION FIELD

### Mikaela Groom

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April I travelled to Papua New Guinea with my dad, Pr Mike Groom. This was our first overseas trip since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Travelling to PNG felt too good to be true after such a long time away.

We drove straight to Bethel Centre when we arrived and were welcomed by the pastors, staff, students and families. What an amazing welcome it was! It was so good seeing everyone's faces again. Although we have been able to connect via Zoom and other online avenues, absolutely nothing beats seeing everyone in-person.

I had the privilege of sharing with the youth and young adults the night we

arrived. I shared a personal testimony on the call of God and missions.

Over the following two weeks I was given opportunities to share with our missions school students and our preschool teachers in training. I discussed various Bible study techniques with the missions students and spent time discussing my missions involvement with the preschool students. I thoroughly enjoyed my time.

I was asked to share in one of the Wednesday morning chapel services. I titled my message 'Deciding to Grow'. Prior to going on this trip I realised I have grown and developed quite a lot since I last went overseas. Now I am able to preach and minister on a different level to what I was doing prior to COVID.

I also spent time taking photos and videos of our new training building that is being built on the Bethel Centre

property. It is an impressive building! I'm excited to see and be part of the amazing things that will flow from it.

One of my favourite parts of my trip was reconnecting with old friends and building deeper connections with others. I absolutely loved all of the fellowship and chats I had with all different people at Bethel Centre. It truly does feel like home!

Dad also had many opportunities to minister with the people on the Bethel Centre property, as well as the church congregation. His trip was full of meetings and other ministry endeavours. He spoke at both services on the first Sunday we were there and had a great time of prayer ministry in the second service. He also had time ministering with the students.

One of the highlights of our trip was going to Gaire village to see our

preschool and visit the church leaders. The preschool is going very well - the kids are so cute! It was very encouraging to see two of our preschool teacher training course graduates running the preschool. What an awesome ministry!

We are hoping to begin our preschool on the Bethel Centre property at the start of 2023 once our training building is complete. We were able to develop further plans for the preschool during this trip and we are excited for all that is to come. Please keep the future of our preschool ministry in PNG in your prayers.

My first overseas missions trip since the COVID-19 pandemic began was such a special experience. The pandemic is almost behind us and the days of heavy international travel restrictions are thankfully coming to an end. Praise the Lord!





# NATIONAL MISSIONS DAY 2022

Education is a fundamental human right and it is one of the most crucial factors influencing an individual's ability to develop to their full potential in life. Access to and completion of an adequate education provides numerous opportunities for individuals, families and whole communities.

One of the most effective ways to empower men, women and children in PNG is through education and training. This is one of the key motivations behind our new project taking place at Bethel Centre.

A new training facility is currently under construction at Bethel International Training College (BITC), located on the

grounds of Bethel Christian Centre (BCC) in Port Moresby, PNG. This facility will feature a preschool, three classrooms, a library and study area, and office space for the training staff.

This year's Missions Day Offering will focus on fitting out the new facility with the resources and equipment needed to run a preschool and BITC's training courses, such as furniture, educational resources, preschool equipment, TV screens, internet and more.

## FROM OUR LEADERS

The long awaited vision is becoming a reality. The prophet Habakkuk states "the vision is for an appointed time, though it is slow in coming, wait for it because it will surely come to pass."

For years we have taught under poor conditions and have faced constant threats of flooding. Soon we will have an excellent environment for the

teaching and training of students, as well as proper facilities for Zoom lectures and visual presentations.

This facility will include offices for our course principals, and a preschool that will be open to the community and will provide our preschool teachers with practical experience.

## Pr Barry Silverback

Training is one of the four pillars of the vision of Bethel Christian Centre and on a wider scale, of the CRC in PNG. Training at Bethel has played, and continues to play, a vital role in the expansion of the work in PNG and the nations that Bethel is involved in around the world.

With the inception of the work at Bethel in the early 1970s up to now, training at Bethel has seen the development and growth of national and international workers who have come through its

training programs.

Bethel has trained pastors, leaders, workers, long and short term missionaries, missions supporters and senders, as well as missions promoters. People have come from all over PNG, nations outside PNG, a range of Christian denominations, the secular field and private sectors within PNG.

The training facilities at Bethel have deteriorated. This new facility that is being built - a double storey building with six classrooms - will enhance the training program and the expansion of the work in PNG and beyond.

Bethel Pastoral Oversight and the team are very thankful to the Lord to be able to see this project being fulfilled. We pray that this project will continue to help fulfil the vision of the CRC movement in the years to come.

## Pr Ai Wari





## UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN POLAND

*Bartłomiej i Danuta Tomczyńscy*

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 the Russian army launched an attack on Ukraine in many different places, even very close to the Polish border, killing thousands of civilians, including women and children. Just then hundreds of thousands Ukrainians started fleeing from their homes to Poland and different countries in Europe.

As at 16<sup>th</sup> June, the United Nations records 1,169,497 Ukrainian refugees have entered Poland. The government, churches, organisations and ordinary people started helping them immediately. Their needs were huge. The special law was undertaken.

Poland created places of accommodation and charity food points.

The first to open their homes and accept single families were two groups of people: Christians and Ukrainians who had previously come to Poland for economic reasons.

Very quickly, ordinary people also opened their apartments and took care of individual families. The scale of assistance adjusted to the scale of needs.

One of the foreign journalists wrote: "If you are looking for refugee camps in Poland, you will not see them. Poles, instead of camps, opened their apartments, their houses and their hearts."

As a church, we decided to help those who came to Poland first. We sent volunteers to the border and helped them come to Wrocław and find temporary accommodation. Our church has made a decision to help 25 refugees in the long term.

They lived in our houses for the first month and then we rented apartments for them. We have also found schools for their children. At the moment we are looking for jobs so that they can function normally. Nobody expects the war to end soon.

Each of the visiting Ukrainians is a different story and a different struggle. Celestina is a student from Kiev. The rocket destroyed the building next to her dormitory. It was then that she decided to pack and, having no passport, she went to the Polish

border. We picked her up from there, rented her an apartment and took care of her.

The trauma of the trip caused Celestina to have health problems. During the trip for several days, there were no hygiene measures or a place to wash herself. In Poland, she needed medical help so that her body could return to normal.

Iryna came to Poland with two daughters. For a few more nights, one of her daughters did not want to change her clothes for the night, because she was afraid that the sirens would blow in a moment and she would have to spend another night in the shelter.

Tatiana remembers rocket blasts, the sounds of war and the troops entering her town. It was only when she saw a rocket destroying their church building that she decided to come with her son to Poland. Tatiana is married to a local pastor who stayed in Ukraine to help his neighbors.

These are just three of the stories of the people we are caring for. Each of them has their own individual trauma and needs.

### We help in three ways:

- We meet material needs: clothes, food, medical care for those who came to us. In Wrocław, several churches have jointly opened two food distribution points, to which about 1,000 people come every day. We support them financially and purchase the most necessary products.

- As a church, we have opened a meeting point - a place where we help refugees from Ukraine register with our offices, obtain an ID number, receive funds for children, find a job or a place to live.

Due to the fact that we started working with Ukrainians before the outbreak of the war, we now have Ukrainian-speaking Christians who help to cope with trauma, loss of loved ones, destruction of life's belongings or depression.

- We collect food which we regularly send to places affected by war in Ukraine, where this food is scarce. We work with churches in Ukraine and this way we can be sure that all things will go to the most needy.

Thank you for your support, our help can be bigger and more effective. We wholeheartedly thank the CRC churches for their help and support.

Life in Poland has changed. There are 200,000 Ukrainians in our city at the moment. You can see and hear them everywhere, they became an integral part of our society.

Our country is changing for the better. We are more sensitive to our neighbours' harm and aware of their needs. Our churches are now primarily concerned with helping refugees.

It is not easy, the global crisis seems to be taking the biggest toll in Poland. There are price increases everywhere, but with the refugee crisis and the war in Ukraine, it seems to be even more complex in Poland.





CRC MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **MISSIONARY TRAINING INTENSIVE**

Monday 4 July to Friday 8 July 2022

*One week training with Pr Barry Silverback, Pr Jeremy Steel and others at Christian Family Centre Seaton.*

## **PATHWAY TO MISSIONS SEMINAR**

Saturday 23 July 2022

*One day seminar with Pr Barry Silverback, Pr Jeremy Steel and others at TurningPoint Church Cranbourne.*

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING**

Thursday 28 July 2022

## **NATIONAL MISSIONS SUNDAY**

Sunday 31 July 2022