



PULSE MAGAZINE

September 2020

CONTENTS

- 2 From the Editor
- 3 From the Australian Missions Director
- 4-5 The Vakacegu Family: *Ilisoni and Viema Vakacegu*
- 6-7 Ministering Across the Nations: *Julie Fonorito*
- 8-9 Missionary to Papua New Guinea: *Roxanne Caceres*
- 10-11 Serving in Papua New Guinea: *Delia Madimadi*
- 12-13 Ministering in the Philippines and Papua New Guinea: *Noel Tuiza*
- 14-15 The Manzanilla Family: *Abel and Melisa Manzanilla*

Pulse is the voice of CRC Missions International

CONTACT US

Pr Mike Cronin
Australian Missions Director
CRC Churches International

Address: PO Box 198, Endeavour Hills, Victoria 3802, Australia

Email: info@crcmissions.org

Phone: +61 3 9700 2314

Printed copies of Pulse are available at \$1.20 each plus postage.

FROM THE EDITOR

Mikaela Groom

Welcome to our September edition of Pulse Magazine for 2020.

Our overall focus for 2020 is on missionaries. In our March edition various Australian missionaries who are serving throughout the nations shared their experiences. In our June edition we heard from numerous Papua New Guinean missionaries who are doing excellent work across multiple countries.

For this issue we are focusing on missionaries from Fiji and the Philippines, with most of them currently serving in Papua New Guinea.

I am greatly inspired by the sacrifice and commitment shown by each individual and family included within this issue. Each one of them has left their home country, family and comfort zone to serve people in other nations.

Their willingness to follow God wherever He leads is a great example of what a true servant looks like, especially when it comes to being available at all times.

In Acts 16:9-10 Paul responded to God's call as soon as he recognised it; he did not hesitate, and he did not make excuses. In a similar way, the incredible missionaries featured within this edition have all made the decision to be used by God without hesitation.



FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Pr Mike Cronin

Most of the plans we all had for 2020 have changed. This change is not bad, simply different.

The world has changed with the coronavirus pandemic, and global missions is also changing to take up the opportunities God is opening before us.

I can see increasing opportunities with the technology now available to contribute toward the fulfilment of our International Vision.

We have been catapulted from mainly doing our mission work by visiting other nations, to now going via Zoom.

Zoom from Australia, but also from everywhere to everywhere, which may not have been possible if fares had to be paid.

Now we have the opportunity of strengthening the relationships between all our global leaders.

It is exciting to see, in this issue of Pulse, our Filipino missionaries in Papua New Guinea (PNG) contributing to the training of future PNG missionaries, along with our Fijian missionaries making great impact for the Kingdom of God.

Continue to pray for our CRC missionaries as they contribute to the global fulfilment of our International Vision, of a presence in every nation by 2045.

THE VAKACEGU FAMILY

Ilisoni and Viema Vakacegu

The idea of coming to Papua New Guinea (PNG) was birthed way back in 2009 after the leaders conference in Australia. After Pr Alipate Yagomate returned home to Fiji he shared with us about his time being trained in PNG.

In 2010, Soni joined the Fiji School of Discipleship training. He began to discover more about the work of missions and how we can further support missions.

Our involvement in missions awareness, prayer meetings, fund drives and more, began to motivate us and created a desire to become missionaries one day.

In addition to this, the lives of our very own missionaries serving in the field and hearing about their experiences and the challenges that they face also increased our desire to become missionaries.

In 2018, we were approached by Pr Mike Groom and Pr Barry Silverback to move to PNG to run the new Preschool Teacher Training School. We believe this was what God had been working on and preparing us for all along.

In January 2019 the two of us, along with our children - Alisi (11 years old) and Soni Junior (9 years old) - set foot onto this beloved nation of Papua New Guinea.

I am currently working as a full-time course facilitator at our new training school here at Bethel Centre - Bethel Preschool Teacher Training College (BPTTC).

Soni completed his training in the World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) last year and is now part of the training staff. He is currently helping Pr Paul Stanley with Bethel Bible College (BBC) and is also helping Pr Elijah and Beverly Umeume with Bethel Bible School (BBS).

From the time we arrived our greatest challenges have been struggling with the food, the hot weather, the language and freedom of movement. But as we have settled in we have changed our perspective in the way we see and do things, and have adjusted ourselves to all of these things.

Now we are going with the flow and enjoying every moment of our lives here at Bethel.

My greatest moments as a missionary in PNG have been: 1) being the pioneering course facilitator at BPSTTC;

2) being the first guest speaker for the first graduation of students of BPSTTC; and 3) successfully graduating nine lovely ladies with their Diploma in Early Childhood Education.

Soni's greatest highlights have been: 1) being part of the work in Gaire village during his practical - helping out in the community and at the same time reaching lost souls for Christ; 2) graduating from WMFTS - this was a big reward for him personally; and 3) being given opportunities to lead praise and worship, preach, and lecture in WMFTS, BBC and BBS.

Our advice for anybody who feels the call to become more involved in missions, or to become a long-term missionary, is to get involved in the missions work in your local church, go on short-term mission trips, read missionary biographies, and get to know the world around you.





MINISTERING ACROSS THE NATIONS

Julie Fonorito

When did you feel the call to become a missionary?

Being a missionary was not really even in my thinking until I did Bible School in Fiji and was exposed to overseas missions.

It was after I had been in Papua New Guinea (PNG) doing my training that I saw missionaries coming and going from Bethel Centre and really learnt what missions was all about.

I also never felt called to a specific nation but more to serve the nations.

What have you done and what are you currently doing as a missionary?

I graduated from Bible School in Fiji in 1994 and then Bethel Bible College in PNG in 1998.

Whilst in PNG, I worked in the World Missions Office at Bethel, as well as in the World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS).

From Bethel I first travelled to Sri Lanka on a short term trip in 1998 to visit Bethel Children's Home. From 1998, I have travelled to Sri Lanka six times to help in the home.

I have also visited Myanmar, Solomon Islands, India and the Philippines for ministry visits.

I have been based out of Adelaide since 2001 and currently serve as Pr Barry Silverback's personal assistant.

What is the greatest challenge you face as a missionary?

There are many challenges that I face as a missionary, including the everyday challenges and struggles that many people go through, but one of the greatest is missing and being away from family.

You miss a lot of milestones and important events and fellowship, especially when coming from a large and very close-knit family.

What is the greatest reward as a missionary?

Apart from travelling and visiting new places, my greatest reward is just being amongst people.

Building new friendship and relationships with people from different cultures and backgrounds – trying to

learn their languages and seeing the effect of the gospel upon their lives, and upon my own life as well.

What advice would you give to somebody who is thinking of becoming a missionary?

For a person with a strong desire to become a long-term missionary, I would encourage them to seek advice from their pastor so that they can be sure in their heart that it is God's calling for their life.

I would also like for people to know that they need to expect the unexpected on the mission field.

There will be challenges, problems and disappointments, but if you know that God has called you to serve as a missionary despite the circumstances, the rewards are much greater. So pack your bags and go!



MISSIONARY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Roxanne Caceres

The desire to become a missionary came to me in 2012, when I was still a student in Philippines School of Ministry (PSOM). It was through a prayer brochure sent by Bethel World Missions Office in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

As we were praying for this specific country (Cambodia), I felt a strong burden and asked God "what can I do for this nation? How can I serve these people?" From then on I continued praying for the nations, as well as a way to bring the message of salvation across.

After my time in PSOM, I enrolled in World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) Philippines. After I graduated from WMFTS I became part of the Global Frontier Expedition (GFE) team. I spent almost two years in GFE, going around visiting churches and promoting missions.

In April 2017, I was given an opportunity to serve in PNG, and I am still here up to this time. I am serving in WMFTS under the training department.

I am hands-on in every school programme/activity; lecturing, counselling, evangelising and practical work during work parade. During church services I help usher the people in and also pray for them.

One of the greatest challenges that I face here is putting aside my own culture and embracing their culture. There have been so many times that my actions, words, along with my dressing, offended the people here. So I needed to make adjustments, which was very hard for me. But by God's sufficient grace I have been able to make those adjustments.

In my three years here, the greatest reward is seeing our students graduate and take missions back to their local churches. I love seeing lives being changed every day and, most importantly, being able to serve the people in any way that I am able.

For those who are thinking or desiring to become a missionary, I would like to give some encouragement to you:

1. Firstly, is to pray about it.
2. Secondly, share your desire to like-minded people, those who are involved in missions or have the passion/drive for missions.
3. Thirdly, always find a way to learn more about missions through reading books or searching the internet, and find ways to involve yourself in missions – through praying for the nations, giving to missions and sending letters or messages to those who are on the mission field.
4. Lastly, keep on praying for God's plan to prevail. It may not happen right away, but be assured that God has His best timing for you.

God bless you and see you in the field!



SERVING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Delia Madimadi

The desire to become a missionary began to grow after I was challenged and motivated by the lives of Papua New Guinean (PNG) missionaries Pr Michel Zairere and family, as well as sister Rame Kande, who came and served in my province of Palawan in the Philippines in 2002.

Following that, a number of other PNG missionaries - including Pr Thomas Semoi, who also served in my province, and Pr Peter Hauje and family, who were serving in Cebu at the time - increased my desire to be a missionary.

It was in 2004 when I was in a Bible School that I really felt the Lord was calling me to be a missionary to

another nation.

My local church in my town of Brooke's Point, is a mission-minded church. My pastor, Pr Melvin Sotomayor, delivered many missions-centred sermons and teachings. This really helped develop a strong missions passion within me and prepared me to go out as a missionary whenever the opportunity would arise.

When Pr Barry Silverback came to visit Palawan I shared this desire with him and he prayed for me. I also shared my desire to other pastors and teams who came to visit from Australia; they encouraged me and prayed as well.

I waited and prayed for this call to missionary service for 11 years, and finally an opportunity came when I was asked to leave my home province and family to go to a place called Davao City in the Philippines to start the World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS). This was the beginning of my missionary journey.

After two years of running the training school, in 2014 Papa Barry sent me to PNG for three months for missionary exposure.

In 2017 I was sent back to PNG to complete a three year term of missionary service.

At the time I really did not know, and I was not sure, if I would ever get married because my motive to come to PNG was to do my missions work. However, the Lord opened my heart to respond to a man named Jeremiah from PNG.

We got engaged in August 2018 and got married in January 2019. My husband and I are now serving the Lord together.

I am currently involved with WMFTS in PNG as a staff member. I monitor the female students, run lectures, counsel female students and I sometimes help with the practical jobs in the school office.

At the moment I am not really participating in the training program as much as before because I have a baby girl to look after.

The greatest challenges I face are culture and communication, especially because of the language.

The most challenging is the language because I speak very little English and no Pidgin (PNG's national language) at all so I find it difficult when I am teaching, preaching and so on.

I am learning to speak English a bit better now and am also using a few Pidgin words.

The greatest reward for me as a missionary has been the opportunity to meet, know and relate to people from different nationalities, as well as the chance to serve them.

Also, I was able to get married here in PNG to a man that has a missionary's heart and now we can serve the Lord together.

My advice for anybody seeking to become a missionary is that you must listen and obey God's call upon your life.

Do not be afraid to commit yourself to following God's plan and go wherever He wants you to go, for God knows what is best for your life and your future.

In addition to this, family should not hinder you from accepting and obeying God's call.

Missionary life is very challenging but it is also very rewarding and enjoyable.

MINISTERING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Noel Tuiza

Since I was a child I attended Sunday services and grew up in the church. During this time I saw foreigners coming to our church, building schools and playgrounds for children, and running children's camp which I attended.

I did not know the reason why they were coming to my place. All I saw was them helping. In my mind I thought they were helping because they are Christians.

At this time I did not have a personal relationship with God. All I knew was that there is God that is in heaven watching all his creation and that He sent His son to die for all and rose again.

I thought being born again was just another part of religion and Christians are obligated to be in the church. I was also afraid to do bad things because I may be punished.

After I graduated high school I went to Manila thinking to work very hard to send money back home and believing that some day I would have a better life. However, along the way situations happened that I did not expect.

My second brother took me to an

island and I worked there. While I was there my fourth brother, who was in Cebu at the time, and I used to talk on the phone.

Every time we talked he would ask me if I wanted to do Bible School. I said no many times because I still wanted to work to have a better life.

Eventually after three years of working I went home and so did my fourth brother. He asked me if I wanted to go to Cebu with him. I was young and I said yes because for me it was a new place and experience - it was an adventure.

Although I said yes, I had in mind that I would only spend a few months with them - at that time our youngest brother was already with them - and I planned to go back to work. However, I did not know that it would be the time for me to say yes to joining Bible School at the Philippines School Of Ministry (PSOM).

Through my time in Bible School I learnt about God and I accepted Him in my heart.

While I was studying at Bible School I met more missionaries and began to have an understanding of what they were doing.

I became a Christian at the age of 20 and since then I have had the desire to serve God in any way that I can.

In 2014-2015 I studied at World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) and gaining a knowledge of the work overseas made me feel the desire to serve God in other countries.

While waiting for the opportunity we - the Global Frontier Expeditions (GFE) team - promoted missions in the local churches.

Because of my involvement in WMFTS I usually went out with the students to help with the children's outreach, prison ministry, church visitation, missions promotion and community work.

I am currently teaching the students here in PNG and working with them in their work time.

The greatest challenge that I face as a missionary is when I have an accident. I really miss my family during these moments and I wish they were beside me.

The thing that I enjoy the most as a missionary is being with my friends (students and staff) and having fellowship.

I also enjoy my time teaching and working with them. I enjoy my time of

teaching because I learnt that 'to teach is to learn twice'. I enjoy working with them.

To those who are thinking to become missionaries, feed your desire, and trust in God (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Keep doing what you are doing for the Lord. Someone said this quote: "If you cannot see far ahead, go as far as you can see."

God knows His plan for you: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

We are His workmanship: *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10*

God will finish what He started in you: *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6*



THE MANZANILLA FAMILY

Abel and Melisa Manzanilla

In 2003, right after we got married, we started a church and outreaches in a small town in our home province in the Philippines that was foreign to both of us. A passion to do this kind of work evolved in our lives and directed us to become involved in missionary work.

In the Philippines, Abel - along with a team - pioneered the work and planted a church in Santo Domingo Albay (1999-2008). He was also the Philippines National Youth Leader for 11 years (2005-2016); the coordinator of the Philippines School of Ministry (PSOM) in Danao, Cebu for three years (2008-2011); and the principal of PSOM for five years (2011-2016).

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), he was the principal of Bethel Bible College (BBC) for three years (2016-2019). He was also involved in ministering to the villages and other provinces with our family or with the students.

Abel is currently involved in the Wokabaut Baibel Skul (Mobile Bible School) as the lead-teacher, actively working with Bethel Evangelism Team, running lectures in the training sessions and preaching in church services. He is also an artist and he makes banners for the church and logos for other churches and Bible Schools.

In the Philippines Melisa worked as a radio broadcaster for Far East Broadcasting Company for 11 years.

She was also the National Secretary for CRC Philippines (2008-2016), a lecturer at PSOM and she oversaw the PSOM children's outreach programs.

In PNG she works in the Bethel Visa Office and she was a secretary for the Bethel pastors (2016-2019). She also lectures in different training programs for part-time and full-time schools (2017 to present), worked with the ARK Ministry (2016-2020); is part of Bethel Praying Mothers/Ladies (2016 to present), does correspondence for the Senior Pastors; and is currently involved with the Bethel Evangelism Team.

The greatest challenge we face as missionaries is seeing the needs in the different places we go to and wanting to do something to help but we do not have enough resources, time and opportunities to do it.

Our greatest enjoyments are seeing people being saved and growing in the Lord; visiting and ministering to churches in remote villages with our family; sending BBC graduates off to lead churches and outreaches - some graduates even become principals to local Bible schools; connecting with individuals and families, and becoming a blessing to them, along with our children - who enjoy serving with us wherever we go.

Our advice to somebody looking to become a missionary is to love God; the only thing we need to sustain us to do His will. As Jesus asked Peter "Do you love me more than these?", so we must love Him more than ourselves, our ministry, our dreams, our families and everything else, especially in these challenging times.





PATHWAY TO MISSIONS

Connecting, training and resourcing your missionary journey

Speakers: Pr Barry Silverback and Jeremy Steel

This event is for those who have a passion and desire to be involved in missionary service in the nations. Whether it be long-term, short-term or a missions trip - this weekend is for you.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Christian Family Centre, Seaton (185 Frederick Rd)

Friday 20 November, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Saturday 21 November, 9:30am to 4:00pm

This training will be made available online early 2021

There will be a small cost to cover food and printed materials

To register your interest please contact:

Vegena Bowering - girloomission48@gmail.com or +61 449 254 550

Pr Jeremy Steel - steeljeremy0@gmail.com

**CREATING PATHWAYS | CONNECTING WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE
VALUABLE INSIGHTS | MISSIONARY NETWORKING**