

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

February 2015

A REPORT FROM HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL Solomon Islands

A team of six travelled to the Western Province to repair the boat shed at Helena Goldie Hospital. Debbie Daley, Lesley Bath, John Kruger, Rod Armstrong, Terry Daley and Peter Collins. Barry Tennent was already there on another mission and helped us enormously organising equipment and he also organised the accommodation at the Hospital. We stayed in one of the Doctors houses that is not being used just now.

Debbie and Lesley did the cooking and washing for us as well as deliver 100 units for the "Days for Girls" program to Kokeqolo High School. They also spent some time at the Children's ward cheering up sick patients with reading books and drawings.



Repaired boat shed

The boat shed is a timber building and it had chain wire around it that was badly rusted and falling off, this allowed access to the inside where fuel and equipment would be stolen as well as other items from time to time. The shed is 16 meters long and 9 meters wide. We striped the chain wire off and replaced it with weld mesh and screwed the mesh on using timber on the outside. Part of the attached shed also had some of the roof replaced. The four big gates where the boats come in were also repaired and made lockable. Before we could do much we had to remove about 10 cubic meters of sand and coral from the inside, this was done by shovel and wheel borrow, A BIG job in hot weather.

The tracks for the boat rollers were refitted so it's much easier now to get the boats in and out of the shed. We hired four students from the Tabaka Rural Training School and taught them some skills in carpentry. We built a permanent seating along one side and constructed a Jetty.

There has never been a jetty there and all patients and people had to walk out into the water to board the boats. What joy that brought to the hospital!! While we were there 3 patients were transferred from Helena Goldie Hospital to Gizo Hospital and

they were loaded into the boat from the jetty dry. The trip to Gizo takes about 2 to 3 hours, not nice when you are very ill.



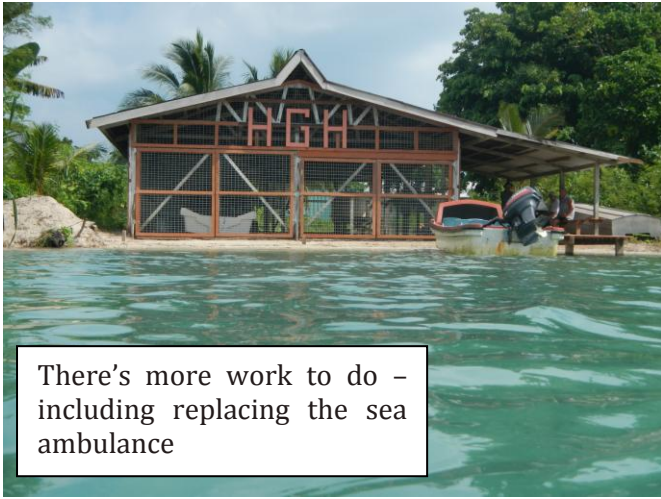
Job complete



This is now known as Dr. Jenny's Jetty

The hospital will always be a struggle, but the staff is terrific and does a great job under the circumstances. **There is no permanent Doctor there just now**; they will have a Doctor from Gizo attend on a rotation. There are six Doctors in Gizo. Dr Graham & Jenny Longbottom have returned to England. What remarkable people they both are. While we were there they had 2 deaths, 3 transfers to Gizo and x number of babies born.

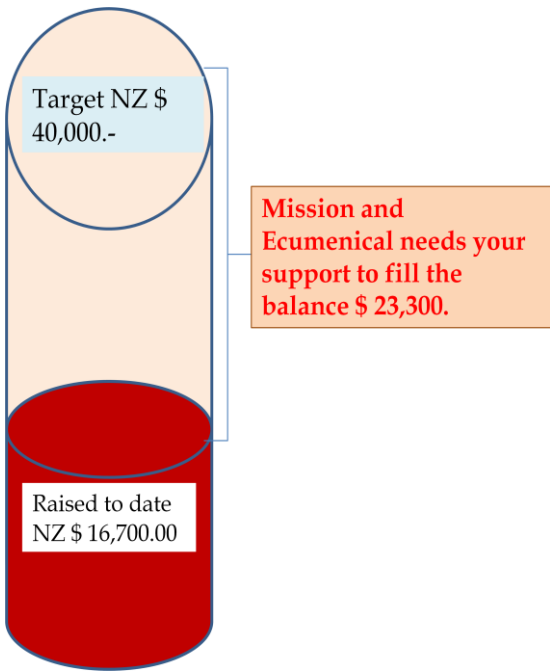
The Children's Ward building is now being refurbished by Telekom. It is being relined inside and getting a new roof. It badly needs new beds and mattresses. The Priority for the hospital is a reliable vehicle; both vehicles there are in need of repairs. One new dual cab is required now. The floor of the main ward badly needs doing again. The water problem has been solved by a previous team, Great job... I need to thank some people for the success of the completed job; the team members, Debbie, Lesley, Rod, Peter and John.



There's more work to do – including replacing the sea ambulance

Special thanks to Barry for all his help. The four Tabaka Students Hospital staff, George, Danny, Manastis and especially Soraya. Without Soraya it would have been difficult to get done what we did.
- PDG Terry Daley ***

Light up the young lives - Tabaka Solar Power Fund



United Church of Solomon Islands established the Tabaka Rural Training Centre in 1992 to train the young school leavers in skills that will ensure employment for them in the public and private sector. The institute trains over 100 young men and women annually in various skills from outboard motor and generator repair to hospitality and tourism. The need to light up the main hall of the institute is felt for some time. Due to lack of power the young lives are in dark in the evening. A Solar Power Unit for the main hall will help the students to do studies and recreational activities in the evening. Please support this project with your donations to reach its target. ***

VISIT TO THE VATICAN FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

by Rev Tony Franklin-Ross

From September 2014 until January 2015 I have been undertaking post-graduate ecumenical studies, with 33 other international students, at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute near Geneva, Switzerland (part of the World Council of Churches and University of Geneva). A key component to the course includes study visits. The final study visit was to the Vatican and Rome near the end of January, which coincided with the northern-hemisphere observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This particular study visit is hosted by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity.



Tony Franklin –Ross meeting with Cardinal Koch

What was very clear from the outset was this was indeed a study visit, not a tourist visit. A large portion of the week was engaged in meetings with various Vatican entities. The key meeting I think was with the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity. The President of the Council, Cardinal Koch, reflected on marking 50 years since Vatican II and the key document on ecumenism; in particular the re-exploration of the rich opportunities that it affords, as well as the growth in dialogue in the intervening years. The Methodist-Catholic dialogue was specifically identified as a key dialogue in terms of bearing fruit.

Cardinal Koch asked if the emphasis on the body of Christ is still alive today: what has changed since 1964? He affirmed the need to keep alive the quest for the unity of the church with stubbornness; for the uniqueness of the one church in Christ cannot be given up. Indeed new stimulus has always been possible when there is sufficient urge to change our hearts and conversion to the passionate search for unity. This is not only requiring the conversion of others but one's own conversion to recognise one's own weaknesses. Koch affirmed that the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity is an important reflection of this: we cannot create the unity of the church, it can only be granted to us; and therefore we need to

make room through prayer for the working of the Holy Spirit.

Further meetings were held with other Pontifical Councils overseeing: interreligious dialogue, religious orders, migrants and itinerant people, and also justice and peace. These afforded many useful insights. We also visited the Vatican Radio, at which I was interviewed as part of their coverage of the Week of Prayer and the Bossey Visit.

In addition, we had the opportunity to visit two largely lay-led international religious communities that have arisen since Vatican II; that are also open to non-Catholic people being members. One was the Community of Sant'Egidio, founded by a group of students in the 1960's; which embodies an engaged ministry with people on the margins of communities around the world, as well as a deep engagement with the goal of peace. The other was the Focolare movement which promotes the renewal of engaged spiritual Christianity that I sensed would resonate with that of John Wesley's movement of the 18th century.

A highlight of the visit was our participation in two events. The first was to attend the weekly Wednesday public audience of Pope Francis. We were afforded special seating near the front of the 6,300 seat auditorium; and also beside the path the Pope takes to enter and exit the auditorium. It was amazing to see the popular charisma that Francis has with people, and to see the change in expression on his face from that of a formal speech to engaging people reaching out towards him as he passed by. And yes, I took the opportunity to shake Pope Francis' hand as he walked past.



Rev. Tony Franklin-Ross with Rev. Tara Curlewis at the Church St. Paul Outside the Walls - Rome

On the concluding Sunday of our visit, we were taken to the Church of St Paul Outside the Walls, where the tomb of Saint Paul is located. This was for a special service of Evening Vespers to mark the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with Pope Francis leading the service. This was certainly a gathering of the "who's-who" of ecumenical relations in Rome, with many representatives of a

huge diversity of churches. I had the opportunity to catch up with Most Rev Sir David Moxom (who is the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative to the Holy See; Rev Tara Curlewis (until recently the General Secretary of the Australian council of churches), and Rev Dr Tim Macquiban (Methodist representative to the Holy See, who succeeded Rev Dr. Trevor Hoggard).

This visit to Rome and particularly the Vatican was certainly one of study and learning. I have visited Rome many times before as a tourist. This visit afforded me a much greater insight and understanding of the Roman Catholic Church, and the Vatican's commitment to ecumenism. During this week, I experienced Rome in a very different way. * * *

CURRENT DIALOGUE MAGAZINE ADDRESSES THORNY INTER-RELIGIOUS ISSUES



06 January 2015

The newly published issue of [Current Dialogue](#) is now available online. Along with key documents from the [WCC 10th Assembly](#), the issue includes several strong pieces addressing some thorny issues in contemporary inter-religious encounter and dialogue, including the recent Malaysian prohibition of Christian use of the name Allah for God, the relationship of ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue, the particular difficulties in dialogue among the Abrahamic traditions, and the limits of dialogue itself.

The issue is sent to subscribers and is also available online at www.oikoumene.org/current-dialogue.

[Download your copy \(pdf, 750 KB\)](#)

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/current-dialogue-magazine-addresses-thorny-issues-in-contemporary-inter-religious-encounter>

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD
Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa
Director: Rev. Prince Devanandan
409 Great South Road Private Bag 11 903 Ellerslie
Auckland 1542
Phone: 09-571 9142 Fax: 09-525 9346
E-mail: princd@methodist.org.nz

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Annual Appeal 2015

Light up the young lives

Tabaka Solar Power Fund

Tabaka Rural Training Institute
Established in 1992 by the United Church of
Solomon Islands

The institute trains over 100 young men and women in various skills from outboard motor and generator repair to hospitality and tourism.



The need to light up the main hall of the institute is felt for some time. Due to lack of power the young lives are in dark in the evening.

A Solar Power Unit for the main hall will help the students to do studies in the evening as well as provide light for recreational activities.



Methodist Mission and Ecumenical appeals
to all to contribute to the

TABAKA SOLAR POWER FUND to raise in 2015

\$ 40,000

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [Matthew 5:15 NRSV]

With your contribution to the fund you can be a participant in this mission to light up lives.

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical is registered with the Charities Commission Registration Number CC51048. Receipts will be issued for tax rebate on the donation.

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ANNUAL APPEAL 2015 - TABAKA SOLAR POWER FUND

Please send your donation by cheque in
favour of
Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Fund
to:
Rev Prince Devanandan
Methodist Mission and Ecumenical
Private Bag 11 903
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You could also make your donation
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BNZ Account No. 02-0800-0766004-03

Amount: \$ _____

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