

Vanuatu Update April 2015

Cyclone Pam

Our brethren in Vanuatu are all safe and uninjured, busy cleaning up, rebuilding their homes and planting gardens. The response throughout our Australian and New Zealand assemblies to our appeal following the cyclone has been overwhelmingly generous, fundraising and donations coming from everywhere. To date more than \$103,000 has been donated - thank you everyone! In the short term it means finance has been available for urgent assistance, providing food and building materials for those who lost their homes and took shelter in our church and house in Pt Vila where only the outside kitchen was destroyed.

Tanna

In Tanna, which took the brunt of the cyclone, Pastor Jeffed and Pastor Robert have purchased enough rice for distribution to our five Tanna fellowships to assist them over the next three months until crops grow again. Pastor Grant and Chris Howes have recently spent a week there with Pastor Willy Rouvone, travelling round the island assessing the needs for building materials and practical help. They have already ordered water tanks for each assembly, and have been sourcing other tools and materials. The intention is to have a cyclone resistant church building in each village with a water tank attached, solar power for some lighting and recharging of mobile phones and to provide some seed funding for cooperative enterprises that will increase long term self sufficiency. Cash crops like coffee and copra for example and livestock like pigs or cattle. The fellowships there were overjoyed to have a visit and very much appreciate all the support. On rented land in Lenakel, which is the only town in Tanna, we had a shop, church and small cafe. The shop has lost its roof and all the stock and the meeting hall and cafe have collapsed. We will rebuild and restock the shop and we now have the opportunity to buy our own land separately and to build a hall and pastor's house as the focal point of the Tanna fellowship and meeting place for pastors and leaders.



Left to right - Church at Green Point destroyed, to be rebuilt; Church at Yeruareng provided shelter for the village and where they all prayed and sang choruses while the cyclone sat on top of them for 4 hours; Pastor Robert's house at Yeruareng, to be rebuilt; Store in Lenakel minus roof; Lenakel church collapsed; church building in Enarauia to be rebuilt.

Santo and Vila

The church and pastors house in Pt.Vila were not damaged but some members lost their houses. There was very little damage in Santo. Our fellowships in both places are doing well, growing rapidly and Leader Thomas in Vila was recently appointed pastor. He and Pastor Willy and other leaders will be coming to our June 2015 Convention in the Gold Coast.

Malekula

There was very little damage in Malekula where we have two assemblies. Recently we funded supply and installation of a 6000 litre water tank for the church and the village in Caroline Bay. They had a special ceremony and everyone from the village was there, together with chiefs and pastors from different churches. Speeches were made and Leader Samuel, with tears, thanked all the saints in Canberra and Australia for what they have done and sent their love and greetings.

Gabriella

Our sister Gabriella from Santo has had a prosthetic leg successfully fitted and has been staying with Darren & Lisa Barnett in Adelaide while she learned to walk with it. She has been enjoying fellowship with the Adelaide brothers & sisters, including camp at Carrackalinga. She returned to Vanuatu on April 8 with Sr.Lisa. Thanks to all those who generously contributed to Gabi's rehabilitation.



Left to right - Easter camp at Carrackalinga; last day of physiotherapy; Gabi & Lisa