



# CONNECT

AUGUST 2023

## DEKOVEN VISIT

Dr Stan and Joan DeKoven will be visiting us this month. A timeline of their trip is included within this edition of Connect.

**Timeline on page 4**

## GHANA TRIP REPORT

Pr Mike Groom visited Ghana in July. He has written a report from his trip. Have a look inside for the report and some photos.

**Report on pages 6-7**

## MISSIONARY UPDATES

Benjamin and Asinate Wari are now in Vanuatu! Mikaela Groom has also written another report. See their updates inside.

**Updates on pages 5 & 8-11**

# WELCOME TO NLCC

Well, prep for our church building's foundations are underway (see the picture below). We are all very excited about the church building extensions. During the build we are meeting in our rear hall.

I enjoyed my time in Tennant Creek with Pr Jeremiah and Delia Madimadi and the church there in July. I am thrilled that, together with our Adelaide Christian Centre (ACC) congregations, we are contributing towards the vital ministry they conduct which reaches local people and many indigenous folk as well.

To be able to partner with our churches to serve people in other nations also is such a thrill. For us this means: praying for the works and people we are involved in, giving financially, sending teams, and training people for missionary endeavours, whether short term, or long term.

It also involves providing funds and resources to meet the practical day to day needs of people in need, whether due to poverty or natural disasters, or to sustain the lives and ministries of those we support. Let's continue to give our

hearts and hands to this great work of Christ through His church.

Being actively involved in world missions and serving the Lord in our own locale is part of our God-given responsibility. Our motivation is love for Christ and love for people. Our mandate is the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:19-20 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Ephesians 3:20-21 says, 'Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.'

Let's believe together for great fruitfulness over the course of the coming month.

God bless,  
**Pr Greg Crome**



# MINISTRIES PRAYER

**Launch Youth:** Details for our term three program can be found below. We will be combining with ACC for some events.

## **Youth and Children (CYC) Sundays:**

Held during the Sunday morning service during the school term.

## **Tuesday Night Young Adults Connect**

**Group:** Combined with ACC in the West and South. Please visit [www.facebook.com/groups/engagesturtstreet/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/engagesturtstreet/).

**Wednesday Night Connect Group:** In recess. 7:00pm at 75 Riverview Drive, Port Noarlunga (0417 857 515).

**Thursday Night Connect Group:** Twice a month. 7:00pm at the Odis' house (0452 634 630).

## **Missions Prayer Requests**

- Please pray for Benjamin and Asinate Wari as they settle into life in Vanuatu. Pray for a smooth transition and a blessing over their ministry during their missionary service.
- Please pray for Mikaela Groom as she continues her missionary service in Papua New Guinea. Please pray for her involvement in Bethel Sunday school that the changes taking place will be a real blessing to our Bethel Tabernacle of Praise church.

## **Church Prayer Requests**

- Please contact the church office if you have any prayer requests.



## **LAUNCH YOUTH PROGRAM**

### **Clash of Clans**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August

5:00 - 6:30pm at NLCC - \$3 each.

### **Movie Night**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August

5:00 - 6:30pm at NLCC - \$3 each.

### **Bonfire Night**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August

6:00pm at Mt Compass. Combined with Empower Youth. Further details to be released.

### **Clash of Clans**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August

5:00 - 6:30pm at NLCC - \$3 each.



# DR STAN & JOAN DEKOVEN

Dr Stan and Joan DeKoven will be with us from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August until Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. There will be a range of programs taking place during their visit at Adelaide Christian Centre (ACC).

## **Basic Christian Counselling Seminar** Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023

\$25 each (Equip Training College students are free)

- 8:30am Registration and coffee
- 9:00am Welcome and introduction
- 9:15am First Session - Principals of Christian Care Giving
- 10:00am Break
- 10:05am Second Session - Counseled to Counsel
- 10:50am Break - Morning Tea
- 11:15am Third Session - Kingdom Counseling (Part 1)
- 12:00pm Break
- 12:10pm Fourth Session - Kingdom Counseling (Part 2)
- 1:00pm Questions and answers
- 1:30pm Close (take away lunch)

## **Combined Sunday Evening Service** Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Everyone from NLCC is invited to join in ACC's evening service at 5:30pm.

## **Combined Young Adults Gathering** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Grooms house at 6:30pm. \$10 each.

## **Tips for Dealing with the Pressures of Ministry and Leadership** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August

ACC from 12:30 - 2:30pm. \$20 each.

## **Tips for Dealing with Anxiety and Depression** Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

ACC from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. \$10 each.

## **Ladies Dessert Night with Joan** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

ACC at 7:30pm. \$10 each.

## **Men's Breakfast with Dr Stan** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

ACC at 8:30am. \$10 each.

## **Sunday Morning Service** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023

NLCC at 10:00am.



# BENJAMIN & ASINATE WARI

Benjamin and Asinate Wari are missionaries to Vanuatu. They are based near Luganville on the northern island of Espiritu Santo at our World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) property.

After a long wait, they left Papua New Guinea (PNG) on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July bound for Vanuatu. They spent one night in Fiji with Asinate's friends and family before travelling onto Vanuatu on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July

Benjamin is the son of Pr Ai Wari, one of our senior pastors at Bethel Tabernacle of Praise in Port Moresby. He has been part of the church his whole life and has served in various different capacities. He was working full time but decided to give up work to enter into full time ministry prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He spent a few months in the Philippines as a short-term missionary prior to the pandemic. He was based in our church

in Pasig initially and also ministered in other churches. In 2022 he operated as principal of WMFTS at Bethel International Training College (BITC).

Asinate is from our Sigatoka CRC church in Fiji. She went to PNG as a student in 2018 and completed WMFTS before enrolling in Bethel Preschool Teacher Training Course. She graduated as a preschool teacher in 2020 and spent some time assisting Viema Vakacegu, another missionary from Fiji, in the running of the course.

Benjamin will take on the role of principal at WMFTS Vanuatu when the school is relaunched. He will also be responsible for maintaining the property.

There are plans to begin a preschool on the WMFTS property which Asinate will be heavily involved in. She will be our head teacher and will be responsible for the running of the preschool.

Our four churches are contributing to the Benjamin and Asinate's missionary support. Please keep them in your prayers as they adjust to life in Vanuatu and begin working in the ministry there. We will hear more from them in the coming weeks and months.



# GHANA TRIP REPORT

Recently I travelled to Ghana in West Africa. This was my first visit to Africa, and I was really looking forward to it. However, it was a long way from home. I left Adelaide on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July and 33 hours later I arrived in Takoradi via Accra and Dubai.



My purpose in going to Ghana was to visit Pr John Boateng, his family, their church - Cross Outreach Church International, their Bible school - Institute of Discipleship and Ministry Training (Adelaide Christian Centre, New Life Christian Centre and Bethel Centre, Port Moresby financially support the school), and their primary school - Terri International Christian Academy (an associate school of Adelaide Christian Schools).



It was lovely to be greeted by Pr John and his lovely wife Mercy at Takoradi airport. After a meal together we arrived at their home and were greeted by five of their six children.



The following day I was welcomed to Terri International Christian Academy by the children and staff. I loved seeing the joy on the children's faces and was entertained by their enthusiastic dancing. It was also an honour to inspect their Christian Cadets as they paraded.

It is a great partnership we have with Terri International Christian Academy and Adelaide Christian Schools and we continue to look forward to our ongoing partnership into the future.

Pr John and his team, including the Bible school students organised a three night night crusade at one of Pr John's four outreach churches in a rural area about 60 minutes from his home. The first night was very wet with heavy rain but we preserved and a number of folk gave their hearts to the Lord.

Over the three nights more people attended and many people were ministered to in prayer. I enjoyed preaching in the open air and was enjoying the freedom of their worship and dancing. Mind you, I didn't join in and reveal any of my moves! And they were loud, the Lord is hard of hearing in Ghana (haha).

Pr John arranged to take me about 60 minutes away to the coast to visit the Cape Coast Castle. This was an emotional experience. To be in a place where the depravity of human wickedness was so evident, it was emotionally disturbing and moving to me.

In 1664 the castle was conquered by the British from the Danish and Dutch. Originally used for trade in timber and gold, the castle was later used in the transatlantic slave trade. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century it was rebuilt and used as the seat of the colonial Government of the British Gold Coast in 1844.

The guided tour we had was very informative regarding the horrific conditions the slaves lived through. They accommodated up to 1,200 at a time, 800 men and 400 women. Just horrible and traumatic - evil!

On the Saturday night I spoke at a marriage seminar. About 30 couples were

in attendance. It was a good night and I enjoyed my time with everyone and the interesting questions that were asked by those who attended.

Sunday morning was a great time celebrating with everyone in Pr John's church. They are a lively bunch and very receptive. There was a great spirit within the meeting which is a credit to Pr John, Mercy and their dedicated team for their leadership.

The remainder of my time was consumed with a lot of discussion with Pr John strategising for the future involvement of Bethel Centre in Port Moresby, our four churches and Adelaide Christian Schools. Whilst dealing with a very bad bout of diarrhea for yours truly!

Mercy's cooking and their hospitality was fantastic, and I was most welcomed and felt right at home. The Boateng family are a great family, and it was a real joy to spend time with them in their home. I am looking forward to more visits in the future.

It is an honour for Adelaide Christian Centre and New Life Christian Centre to support the Bible School and for Pr Barry Silverback, Pr Greg Crome and Pr Warwick Hughes to lecture in Institute of Discipleship and Ministry Training regularly via Zoom.

Please continue to pray for Pr John, Mercy, their family and their team as they navigate through the numerous difficulties they face within their various ministries.

Blessings,  
**Pr Mike Groom**

# MISSIONARY UPDATE

Near the beginning of July, our preschool teachers in training held a cultural presentation night. They had to choose a province to research and prepare a presentation on. I was privileged to attend the night and take photos. It was an awesome experience! The students did an excellent job. It was cool to see them dressed up in their traditional clothing and to hear about the special cultural practices and traditions unique to each province. I really enjoyed the night.

In July we had a team from New South Wales come to visit Bethel Centre. Four of them are from Narrandera and three are from Condobolin. One of the greatest aspects of their visit was their ability to gather crowds of people to enjoy tea and coffee and great fellowship! Whenever people walked past the visitor's flat, they were invited to sit and talk and enjoy a drink and some snacks. I was encouraged by their welcoming nature and desire to genuinely get to know everyone they came across.

Throughout their visit there were a range of activities and events that took place. Although I was not able to attend everything that they were involved in, I genuinely enjoyed the ones I was part of, particularly the welcome fellowship evening, Bethel Bible School (BBS), and the children's outreach event.

The welcome fellowship gathering was held in the missions hall. It was a fantastic night filled with talking, singing, dancing and great food. It was nice to sit around

in a fun environment enjoying each other's company. Most people from Bethel Centre were in attendance and it was encouraging to see everyone mixing together with the team.

BBS runs on Monday and Thursday evenings. I really enjoy the atmosphere of BBS and I happily attend lectures when they are open to the Bethel Centre staff and congregation members. During the New South Wales team visit, I attended Pr Trevor Murphy's lecture and for Pr Jodie Elliot's lecture.

Pr Trevor spoke on prayer, focusing on four types of prayer. He raised numerous points that I hadn't necessarily considered or focused on before. I was very encouraged by his teaching and enjoyed being in attendance.

Pr Jodie shared on mental health, particularly focusing on anxiety, depression, and psychotic disorders. It was incredibly informative, and I believe of great benefit to all who attended. Pr Jodie shared on mental health to different audiences on numerous occasions during her trip. It is an important topic and I believe her ministry touched the lives of many.

I admired her ability to share effectively and compassionately on something that can be a sensitive topic, particularly in nations like Papua New Guinea (PNG). She was able to increase our understanding of mental health and various mental illnesses. Her overall message of helping each other and being empathetic, particularly towards those who struggle with mental health and illness, was a great encouragement and an important reminder.



Towards the end of their visit, they held a children's outreach program. Many children attended, especially those from Gabi - a village nearby that people from Bethel Centre have been connecting with in recent times. The outreach event was a great success and the children seemed to enjoy themselves. The team did a fantastic job running the program and it was a joy to be part of.

In addition to the team from New South Wales, towards the end of July Pr Craig Jourdain, our CRC National Chairman in New Zealand, came for a visit. At the time of writing, he is still here, and he has been busy ministering and lecturing to various groups. I haven't been able to attend all of his teaching or preaching sessions, but I was able to join in on his lecture in BBS.

He spoke on forgiveness and mercy and it was very encouraging. I thoroughly enjoyed his teaching and was very encouraged by the great response from the people. The night ended in a time of prayer for those who are struggling to forgive. Multiple people responded and those of us who remained were able to pray with those who sought prayer. It was a fantastic night.

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July we farewelled Benjamin and Asinate Wari as they left PNG to begin their missionary service in Vanuatu. We woke up very early and a group of us took them to the airport at 4:00am. They will be based near Luganville on the northern island of Espirity Santo at our World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) property.

In time they will start up a preschool, Asinate is a graduate of Bethel Preschool Teacher Training Course (BPTTC), as well

as relaunching WMFTS. I'm strongly encouraged by their willingness to serve and go out as missionaries.

Chrioni and I were able to spend some time with them before they left for Vanuatu. One Sunday afternoon we went out for lunch, and the following Sunday we had a farewell dinner with our family and Asinate's PNG family. It was very special, and we enjoyed our time with them, particularly the evening ice cream run and drive the four of us went on following our farewell dinner.

Bethel Sunday School is going well. We are over a month into the new program, and it has been well received by the children. I am leading the primary age group with a young lady named Aileen. Peggy and Serah are leading our preschool age group, and Viema is leading our junior youth age group. Aileen, Peggy and Serah are all graduates of BPTTC, and Viema is the course coordinator. It is a blessing working with the team and I am excited to see what will take place in the Sunday school.

In August I will just be working and leading the Sunday school. I will also be counting down the days for mum and dad's next visit! They will be coming to PNG at the beginning of September with Dr Stan and Joan DeKoven. I am extremely excited! I am looking forward to a great week of ministry and fun times.

Thank you once again for reading my update. Thank you to those who are praying for me and for those who are keeping in touch. It is very appreciated.

Many blessings,  
**Mikaela Groom**





## ONLINE PRESENCE

Web: [www.newlifeonline.org.au](http://www.newlifeonline.org.au)

YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCgBgg4l1yAy\\_YQQ5c17STow](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgBgg4l1yAy_YQQ5c17STow)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/NewLifeChristies/](http://www.facebook.com/NewLifeChristies/)

Instagram: [@new.life.christian.centre](https://www.instagram.com/new.life.christian.centre)

## CONTACT DETAILS

Office: 105 Dyson Road, Christies Beach, SA 5165

Postal: P.O. Box 431, Noarlunga Centre, SA 5168

Email: [info@newlifeonline.org.au](mailto:info@newlifeonline.org.au)

Phone: (08) 8384 4814

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

## GIVING DETAILS

### Option One: Online Giving

Visit the giving page on our website: [www.newlifeonline.org.au/giving/](http://www.newlifeonline.org.au/giving/). Press the 'Online Giving' button under the 'Giving' heading.

### Option Two: Bank Transfer

Deposit your funds into the general account and in the reference section please specify if your funds are for tithes, missions or whatever else.

**GENERAL Account Name:** New Life Christian Centre

BSB: 035-053

Account Number: 127 021

## OTHER CHURCH LOCATIONS

### Adelaide Christian Centre

Address: 33 Sturt Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Web: [www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au](http://www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au)

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

### Tennant Creek Christian Family Church

Address: 190 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek, NT 0860

Web: [www.tccf.com.au](http://www.tccf.com.au)

Service Times: 10:00am and 6:30pm

### Faith Center Church

Address: 115 Worley Lane, Walhalla SC 29691, United States

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla](http://www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla)

Service Time: 10:00am