

CONNECT

MARCH 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have a number of events coming up in the month of March. Look inside to familiarise yourself with all that is taking place.

Events on pages 2-3

VANUATU REPORT

Pr Mike and Kelly visited Vanuatu in February. Read all about their trip inside this edition of Connect.

Report on pages 4-5

MIKAELA UPDATE

Mikaela Geno is serving as a missionary in Papua New Guinea. She has written an update for the last few months.

Update on pages 6-7

WELCOME TO NLCC

As we draw close to Easter we are reflecting on 'The Seven Sayings of Christ from the Cross'. Every word of Jesus was unselfish. His heart overflowed the compassion and love of God. May we endeavour with all our hearts to show the same kind of love. He loved not only those close to Him, but also his enemies and abusers. In the midst of His great suffering, He loved!

I'm looking forward to the weeks ahead in the life of the church. Let's pray we can be proactive in reaching out to people to love them and share the good news with them, and invite them to church events and services.

Our building project is progressing well and we hope to be using the building by

mid-year. We have an opening weekend planned for September 21st/22nd.

I'm looking forward to my trip to Papua New Guinea to celebrate the graduation of students on 10th March, a joy to speak at the graduation. It will also be great to see the training building at Bethel Centre.

At the heart of our church is our commitment to global missions. Thank you to those who generously support missionaries and ministries in the nations. Let's grow our hearts for the lost and for people of the nations we are involved in.

Thank you to all in our church who put their shoulder to the wheel to serve together for God's glory.

Pr Greg Crome

MINISTRIES PRAYER

Launch Youth: Launch Youth is held every Friday night during the school term.

Youth and Children (CYC) Sundays: CYC is held on Sunday mornings 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/.

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

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

Missions Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Benjamin and Asinate Wari as they continue their missionary service in Vanuatu. Pray over the new church they are beginning and the preschool that will begin this year.
- Please pray for Mikaela Geno as she continues her missionary service in Papua New Guinea. Bethel Sunday School has started for 2024 and she is busy planning and preparing for the year with her team. Please keep the children's ministry in your prayers.

Church Prayer Requests

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

Special Building Fund Offering

Our goal is \$180,000 | Offerings to date: \$69,045

STILL TO RAISE: \$110,955



GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH: Breakfast and worship at Pr Greg and Joy's home from 8:30am. Cereal, fruit, hot cross buns, coffee, tea provided. Please register by contacting 0417857515.

EASTER SUNDAY 31 MARCH: 10am one hour service.



Easter 2024



VANUATU TRIP REPORT

Mike and I were in Vanuatu for a week from 8th - 15th February. We visited the property that is leased by the CRC in Vanuatu, on the island of Espiritu Santo. There was a missions school being run on the property for many years but it stopped when COVID-19 hit.

In July last year, Benjie and his wife, Asinate, left Papua New Guinea (PNG) to be missionaries in Vanuatu. Benjie is from PNG and Asinate is from Fiji and they have been married for two and a half years. Benjie and Asinate live on the property. There is also another man named Willie who lives there and he has been serving in Santo for ten years.

Our four congregations support Benjie and Asinate financially - ACC, Christies Beach, Tennant Creek and Walhalla.

Mike and I went to Santo to visit them and to see how they're settling in. We are also planning to start a preschool and a church in March so we wanted to take some supplies with us and find out what else is needed before we launch the church and preschool.

We had a really good time. There were a few challenges. It was very hot. And we only had power from solar panels and batteries which didn't quite keep the fan going throughout the whole night! There is a shower in the wash house but a water pump is needed in order for the shower to work so we used a bucket for washing. But there was plenty of water and a flushing toilet. It was pretty good actually.

The coolest place on the property was under the mango tree near the tool shed. When the breeze came, it was amazing. But generally it was very hot and muggy, day and night. One night it was raining so heavy that Asinate and Benjie went outside and had a wash at 3:30am!

Benjie and Asinate are doing great. Asinate loved having another girl on the property. We had a great week together. She is such a lovely young lady. She has a very infectious laugh and is lots of fun. I enjoyed being with her, shopping for food for dinner and helping her prepare for the start of the preschool. We bought chairs for the preschool, a sample uniform for the children, stationery items and we set up a bit of an office for them.

Mike was busy with appointments with the education office, registering the preschool and finding out what is

needed to open new bank accounts for the church and preschool. He did quite a bit of investigation in improving the services at the property - power, internet connection, water supply etc.

Mike also spent time mowing the grass with the other men. Mind you, it was so hot, he only just survived! He was so hot and so sweaty! The property is about 12 acres with heaps of grass. Cutting the grass is a never ending job. A ride-on mower will be very handy up there. The property is beautiful and we were able to tidy it up a bit and get things ready for when the church and preschool start.

Being there with Benjie and Asinate reminded me how incredible it is to see a young couple serving God as missionaries. With the challenges they face, especially the loneliness and being separated from family, it was a good reminder to me to do all I can to help them and support them and to come alongside them as they serve in Vanuatu.

As a church, it's an incredible privilege to support Benjie and Asinate, to invest resources, to take time to visit and to be part of what's happening there in Santo.

We had great times around the meal table. The chairman of the CRC in

Vanuatu, Pr Remy Adams, was also there. He lives in Port Vila but he came to the property to spend time, planning and setting things up. It was really nice spending time with him as well.

For those of you who don't know, Chrioni, our son-in-law, was actually born in Vanuatu. His parents were missionaries to Santo, just like Benjie and Asinate, back in the 1990s.

On this trip, we had the privilege of meeting a lady by the name of Julianne. She is a nurse and she actually helped Chrioni's mum when she was in labour with Chrioni and she looked after him a lot when he was a baby and young child. So we were able to spend some time with her. That was pretty cool.

I'm sure there will be many opportunities for many of us to visit Vanuatu in the future. And all of us can support the work through prayer, communication and financial support. Such a privilege and so worthwhile.

It will be exciting to see the launch of the preschool and church next month. And we look forward to all that God will do through the ministries there in Santo.

Kelly Groom



MIKAELA'S MISSIONARY UPDATE

One of my highlights in January was preaching in a Wednesday evening service. My topic was 'Building A Healthy Self-Esteem'. I love opportunities to preach, and I was very happy to share with all who attended the meeting.

It has been quite a while since I have updated all of you on my missionary service in Papua New Guinea (PNG). I'll do a short recap of the last four months.

January ended with dengue fever taking hold of me for a second time in less than a year! This time I had dengue fever, an ear infection and vertigo all at once. Thankfully I have made a full recovery.

At the end of 2023, we held two events to close Bethel Sunday School for the year. The first event was our Sunday School Fun Day on Saturday 25th November. It was a huge success as the children really enjoyed the day. Our second event was our Sunday School Family Service on Sunday 3rd December. We held it in the evening service. It was a brilliant night showcasing what has been taught and learnt in Sunday school.

Bethel Sunday School began for 2024 at the beginning of February. Our junior youth age group have started term one with Pr Andy Stanley's series 'The Bible for Grown Ups', which goes through how the physical Bible was put together. Our preschool and primary age groups will be covering 'Bible Heroes' in terms one and two. We began with an introduction to the Bible and the following week we taught on Moses. The children were all excited to be back in Sunday school!

After we closed Sunday school for the year, it was time to focus on our upcoming wedding. Chrioni and I got married on Saturday 16th December. We had such a great day and I'm so thankful for everyone that was part of the celebration, especially for those who travelled from Australia. It was so special to me that these people made the effort to come and celebrate our wedding!

I'm really excited to see where Bethel Sunday School goes in 2024. On Saturday 24th February we held a Bethel Sunday School Leaders and Helpers Training Day. A number of our existing volunteers attended, along with four new individuals. I'm so encouraged by our growing team and am excited to work with everyone this year!

The rest of December was fun but busy as we settled into our house. Mum, dad, Joel and Zoe stayed until early January. We had a great time being with them, including a special Christmas at Bethel Centre, which included Christmas brunch in mine and Chrioni's new house! We also had a few game nights with the staff and children around the property.

At the end of February I headed to Singapore for two days before meeting dad and flying to Sri Lanka. I'm very happy that I'm able to travel to Sri Lanka again. I wish Chrioni was with me but we are still waiting on his papers to process!

Mikaela Geno

ONLINE PRESENCE

Web: www.newlifeonline.org.au

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCgBgg411yAy_YQQ5c17STow

Facebook Page: 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

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/. 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

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

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

Faith Center Church

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla

Service Time: 10:00am