



CONNECT

FEBRUARY 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have a number of events coming up this month. Look inside to familiarise yourself with what is taking place in February.

Events on pages 2-3

HUGHES UPDATE

The Hughes family have seen some great recent developments with children and young families. Read their update inside.

Update on pages 4-5

PNG TRIP REPORT

Pr Mike, Rommel, Dino, Roger and Ken recently returned from Papua New Guinea. Look inside for pictures and a report.

Report on pages 6-7

WELCOME

Hi all and welcome to our February edition of Connect!

This month we are commencing a new sermon series across all of our churches. The new series is '40 Days of Engaging People with Jesus', and it will continue into March.

Kelly and I will be coming to Tennant Creek this month! We will be there from Friday 24th February until Sunday 26th February. We are looking forward to joining you all for a great weekend of ministry.

On Saturday 25th February we will be holding a Ladies Breakfast. The breakfast will be held at church and will begin at 8:30am. Kelly will be the guest speaker.

If you have any questions about the breakfast or if you need help with transport, please speak to Pr Jeremiah or Miriam.

I recently returned from Papua New Guinea (PNG). I was there in January with a team of men from ACC and NLCC. A report of our trip can be found on pages 6 and 7.

This month my daughter Mikaela will be travelling to PNG to commence her missionary service at Bethel Centre. It is an honour to see a young woman from our church dedicating herself to long-term missionary service. Kelly and I are very proud parents.

Enjoy reading through this version of Connect. I will see you all soon.

Blessings,
Pr Mike Groom

MISSIONS

Benjamin and Asinate Wari TCCFC commits \$100 per month

Benjamin and Asinate Wari are going to Vanuatu from PNG as missionaries. Benjamin was the principal of World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) at Bethel Centre in PNG in 2022 and he will be taking on the role of principal of WMFTS Vanuatu when the school relaunches.

Asinate is from Fiji. She completed WMFTS in PNG, as well as our new Preschool Teacher Training Course. There is a possibility that a preschool will open on the WMFTS Vanuatu property. When it does, Asinate will be the head teacher and help run the preschool. Please keep them in your prayers.

Bethel Children's Home TCCFC commits \$200 per month

Bethel Children's Home has been in operation since 1998. All of the children come from the Tamil minority ethnic group that has been discriminated against for many years. The children in our homes have been displaced for a number of reasons. Our homes provide children with a safe environment where they are given access to many opportunities that assist them in their development.

TCCFC sponsors two children, one boy (Nithusan) and one girl (Saruja).

Door of Hope Preschool TCCFC commits \$100 per month

Door of Hope Preschool is located in Vavuniya in the north of Sri Lanka. It is predominantly made up of Tamil speaking children.



LADIES BREAKFAST Saturday 25th February

Kelly Groom will be joining us as our special guest speaker for our Ladies Breakfast. All ladies are welcome to come along to church at 8:30am on Saturday 25th February. If you need a ride, please speak to Pr Jeremiah or Miriam.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY Tuesday Nights

Everyone is welcome to join us at church for prayer and Bible study on Tuesday nights. The nights begin at 6:30pm. If you need a ride to and from church please contact Pr Jeremiah or Miriam and they will organise a ride for you.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY Thursday Nights

All ladies are invited to join us for Bible studies at church on Thursday nights. Our Bible studies begin at 6:30pm. If you would like any further information, or if you need a ride, please contact Pr Jeremiah or Miriam.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH Friday Nights and Sunday Mornings

Our youth are welcome to join us at church on Friday nights at 6:30pm. Our children are welcome to join us on Sunday during the church service. If you would like to help out please speak to Ebony (youth) or Delia (children).



HUGHES UPDATE

PR WARWICK HUGHES

January came with its challenges. A number of the congregation have been sick, and some of their family and close friends have passed away.

We attended one funeral of a family that used to be here at Faith Center Church some years ago. The dad pastored the church here for a while. The youngest daughter passed away.

I was very impacted by something the mother did. She walked up to her daughter's body laying in the coffin, laid her hands on the daughter and prayed a very powerful prayer, releasing her daughter into the hands of God. I will never forget the power of God's presence at that moment and how impacting that prayer of that mother was.

It spoke to me of how it is a good way to get closure on a loved one's passing. It spoke to me of helping oneself getting some relief and release from any troubles or burdens relating to the loved ones passing on.

We are excited about our outreaches into the community. Through our outreach, 'Have a Break on Us', we gave out some more bags of goodies this month to another fast food chain staff. They appreciated the blessing and allowed me to pray for them. We will continue to do this into the year and are believing for it to bear some good fruit for the kingdom of God.

Nathan and Mandy Wright have begun a playgroup. Every Thursday afternoon at 2:00pm young mums and dads come to the church property with their children. The children have fun playing on the playground we have here while the parents share different life experiences of raising their children. Some of the guys share some of their work and child raising experiences.

We have the dining hall available for them when it's colder so they can sit around and have a tea or coffee and chat. The young ones keep themselves occupied by playing with what has been set up by Nathan and Mandy. A good number are coming along. We call it our community connection.

We had one of our young children in children's church give his life to Jesus recently at home. It happened on his

birthday and his Grandma led him in prayer.

We called him up to the stage to sing happy birthday to him. It was his first time up on stage. Usually he is hesitant but this time he came up no problem.

I asked him about giving his life to Jesus and in front of everyone he told us that he did. Glory to God! We then we sang happy birthday to him.

I was so blessed. This makes everything we do and put a lot of time and prayer into so worthwhile and very rewarding. Especially for Mandy who puts a lot of effort into preparing children's church.

I attended a prayer time on Friday 6th January here in Walhalla where a number of pastors and leaders gathered together to pray for our community. I attended last year's one and it was good that this year's had more attendees than the previous year. We certainly had a good time together praying.

One of our young congregation members is helping me regularly with some of the ground upkeep and maintenance jobs that need to be done on our property. This has been of great help to me. He is currently waiting to get

a job as he has not long graduated from high school. He has put in for a number of jobs and we are believing he will get a good job soon.

We had the roof on the house our family lives in replaced. It took one day to remove all the old tiles, replace damaged plywood, cover the roof with waterproofing paper and then put the tiles down. A day or two later the company replaced the rotting fascia board at the back of the house and put the guttering back.

Omega, the boys and I are all doing well by the Grace of God. Our boys are no longer boys; they are young men doing okay with school and their leadership role they have with the children's church.

We enjoy our family devotional times. It's very enlightening and encouraging to hear some of the things that our sons come out with relating to the Word of God.

We have filled out paperwork for a Green Card so we can stay on longer here in Walhalla. The visas we received for our second term of three years expire this year around the end of June and beginning of July. Please keep that in your prayers for us. Thank you.

PNG TRIP REPORT

On Monday 16th January, Pr Mike Groom, Rommel Verain and Dino Villanueva from ACC, along with Roger Fitton from NLCC and Ken Greeves, travelled to Brisbane for the night before heading to PNG the following morning.

They were only in PNG for a short time, until Thursday 26th January, but their schedule was jam packed! Some of them worked all day and into the night to accomplish everything that needed to be done throughout their visit.

The main purpose of their visit was to fit out the new training building with internet and network connection, technology and solar power. They also assisted in the setting up of the six rooms - the three upstairs classrooms for ministry training, and the three rooms down below for a preschool classroom, a library and study room, and a staff office space. This new training building will be of tremendous benefit to the work in PNG and beyond.

Despite a few setbacks, and a flash flood, the team were able to accomplish everything they needed to with the help of many people from Bethel Centre. It was great to see everyone coming together to achieve the task at hand.

We will be taking a team to PNG in April to be part of an Easter worship and outreach program. We will write a report and include photos in our May edition of Connect. Keep your eyes out for this exciting upcoming report.



