



CONNECT

MARCH 2024

CHURCH PROGRAMS

We have a number of church programs happening each week. Look inside to familiarise yourself with what is taking place.

Programs 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

Welcome to this month's edition of Connect News. 2024 is well under way and our church ministries are back in full swing.

I trust you are all keeping well in Tennant Creek and that you are continuing to enjoy the leadership of Pr Jeremiah and Delia. They are a great couple and it is a tremendous blessing to have them serving in our church with all of you.

Included in this edition of Connect is a report from Kelly about our time in Vanuatu. It was a fantastic trip and it was great seeing how well Benjie and Asinate are settling in to life in Vanuatu. I want to thank Tennant Creek Christian Family Church for your support of Benjie and Asinate. Please continue to keep them in

your prayers as they prepare to begin their church and preschool this month.

Also featured in this edition is a long overdue update from my daughter Mikaela Geno (no longer a Groom). She has written a report of what has been taking place over the last few months. It's been a while since we have included an update from her. I trust you will enjoy reading about all that she has been up to.

At the beginning of March I will be in Sri Lanka with Mikaela. She flew to Singapore a couple days before me. We met in Singapore and then flew to Sri Lanka. We will be there for a week and a bit visiting Bethel Children's Homes, Door of Hope Preschool and Pr Somanathan. Please keep us in your prayers.

Blessings,
Pr Mike Groom

MISSIONS

Benjamin and Asinate Wari TCCFC commits \$100 per month

Benjamin and Asinate Wari are serving as missionaries in Vanuatu. Benjamin is from Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Asinate is from Fiji.

They are doing a great job ministering to the community they are located in. At the end of 2023 they began a playschool to reach out to children and families in the area. The playschool was very well received.

In 2024 they will be starting a church on the property they live on, as well as a preschool. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in their service in Vanuatu.

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, David and Manju.

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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Cleaning and Children's Ministry

We are in need of volunteers to help clean the church and assist in our children's ministry. If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer, please speak to Pr Jeremiah or Delia.

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).



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.tccf.com.au

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/tennantcreekchristianfamilychurch

CONTACT DETAILS

Address: 190 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek, NT 0860

Email: info@tccf.com.au

Phone: 0452 070 536

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

GIVING DETAILS

Option One: Bank Transfer

Account Name: Tennant Creek Christian Family Church

BSB: 065 005

Account Number: 1076 8547

Reference: Missions or Tithes

Clearly add in the description if your offering is for tithes or missions.

Option Two: Sunday Offering

Missions: Please place your missions giving into an envelope. Write missions on the front and place into the offering.

Tithes: Please place your tithes in the general offering.

OTHER CHURCH LOCATIONS

Adelaide Christian Centre

Address: 27-33 Sturt Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Web: www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au

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

New Life Christian Centre

Address: 105 Dyson Road, Christies Beach, SA 5165

Web: www.newlifeonline.org.au

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

Faith Center Church

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla

Service Time: 10:00am