



CONNECT

MAY 2024

TRAINING UPDATE

Bethel International Training College has officially begun for the 2024/2025 academic year. Photos and a report are inside.

Report on pages 4 and 5

PRESCHOOL OPENING

Bethel Christian Preschool Tokarara is located on our Bethel Centre property. Look inside for photos and an update.

Photos on pages 6 and 7

MISSIONARY REPORT

Mikaela Geno is keeping busy in PNG! An update of Bethel Sunday School and Mikaela's journey can be found inside.

Update on pages 8-11

WELCOME

Welcome to this month's edition of Connect News. I can't believe it's already May! This year is going so fast.

In April I enjoyed a trip to Papua New Guinea (PNG) with Kelly. It was great to visit our folk at Bethel Christian Centre and Bethel Tabernacle of Praise. It was also nice to see Chrioni and Mikaela again. They are all doing well and we had a very productive trip.

I also had an opportunity to visit our church in Walhalla, South Carolina. I enjoyed my time. Pr Warwick and Omega Hughes are doing a fantastic job leading our church over there.

Global Missions has been an integral part of our church for many years. We have

seen missionaries from various nations being sent out across the world. Your very own pastor and his family are missionaries serving in Tennant Creek. We are so blessed by their willingness to obey the call of God upon their lives.

Our Global Missions vision continues to this day through prayer, financial and practical support in the endeavour to pioneer new frontiers for the Kingdom of God.

Included in this edition of Connect News are a few updates of the work in PNG. These include reports on Bethel International Training College, Bethel Christian Preschool Tokarara, Bethel Sunday School, as well as Mikaela Geno's missionary update.

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. In March 2024 they began a preschool on the property they are living on - Bethel Christian Preschool Banban. In the same month they also began a church - Banban Christian Centre.

Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they lead these two new ministries in Vanuatu. It is a privilege to support them as a church.

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).

UPDATES FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Bethel International Training College

Bethel International Training College (BITC) is dedicated to preparing and equipping men and women from all denominations to become effective disciples of Christ.

BITC began in the early 1970s in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG). It is the registered training facilitator for all training programs at Bethel Christian Centre, and is a training arm of CRC Churches International in PNG.

On Monday 25th March, orientation week began for our 2024/2025 intake of students. The morning started off with a procession into the mess where they were greeted by the pastors, their families, missionaries, staff and others who live on the property.

This year there are 36 students enrolled across our four full-time, live-in courses.

- 6 in Frontier Evangelism Institute
- 8 in World Missions Faith Training School
- 4 in Bethel Bible College
- 18 in Bethel Preschool Teacher Training College

Each course is now well underway and the students are settling into life here at Bethel Centre. Please pray for them as they continue on in their studies.





Bethel Christian Preschool Tokarara

Bethel Christian Preschool Tokarara is located on our Bethel Christian Centre property. This is also the location of BITC. The preschool is located in the far left classroom on the bottom level of our new training building. There is also a fenced off area next to the classroom for the children’s playground and bathroom.

Our preschool officially began on Monday 29th April. The day started with a brief welcome service in the mess. Parents, children and Bethel Christian Centre dwellers all attended the opening. The children then made their way to their classroom for the first day of preschool.

The curriculum did not begin until the second week of classes. The first week was full of play, getting to know one another, becoming familiar with the teachers and adjusting to the structure of the preschool.

Mrs Serah Stanley is the head teacher of our preschool (wearing the pink skirt in the group photo). Miss Peggy Harupa is our assistant teacher (far left of the group photo and pictured with children in the other photos). Serah and Peggy are both graduates of Bethel Preschool Teacher Training College (BPTTC). Mrs Viema Vakacegu, our missionary from Fiji and course coordinator of BPPTC, is overseeing the running of the preschool (far right of the group photo holding the child with the green t-shirt).

We have 26 children enrolled for this year. Our limit was 25 but we may increase it to no more than 30 if the demand is high.

Bethel Sunday School

Bethel Sunday School operates under out Bethel Tabernacle of Praise Church in Port Moresby, PNG. Mikaela Geno, Pr Mike and Kelly Groom's daughter and our missionary to PNG, is overseeing the running of the Sunday school.

The Sunday school is separated into three age groups: Preschool (3-6 years of age), Primary (6-12 years of age) and Junior Youth (12+ years of age). Pictured here is the primary age group.

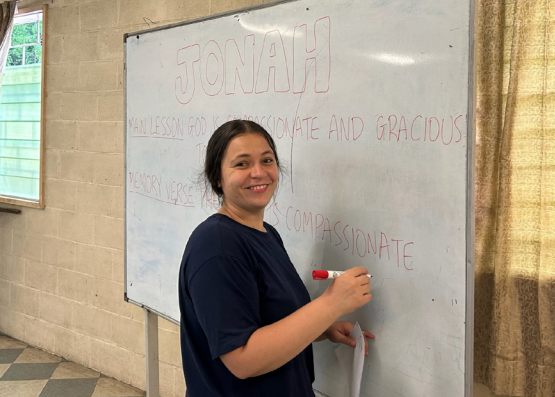
Mikaela oversees the three age groups but she leads the primary age group on a week-by-week basis with a young lady named Aileen Watei. Peggy and Serah (our preschool teachers) lead the preschool age group and Viema (our preschool teacher course coordinator) leads the Junior Youth age group. They are all joined by a dedicated team of helpers each week.

In term one and two, the preschool and primary groups have been focusing on 'Heroes of the Bible'. In March and April they covered Moses, Deborah, Noah, Mary Mother of Jesus, Jonah, Ruth and Gideon.

The junior youth group completed two series from Pr Andy Stanley - 'The Bible for Grown Ups' and 'Guardrails'. In May and June they will look at different Bible study techniques.

In term three all of the age groups will focus on Global Missions. They will be introduced to a different country each week. They will learn about the nation in general and will be presented with the work of the CRC in that nation.





Mikaela Geno

I enjoyed having mum and dad in PNG in April. They were here for just over one week. We had a few outings together, but most of the time they were busy working and completing different tasks. They had a very productive trip!

One morning after prayer meeting, mum asked me where I would be working that day. I told her I would be in the office. She said she would be up in her room working if I needed her. I went to my office and started thinking, 'did mum say all of that because she was hoping I would go to her room and work in there with her?'

I packed up my things and told the ladies in the office that I would be working with mum for the day. I went up to mum's room and asked her if she was hoping I would work with her. She said yes. It was nice working on opposite sides of the desk once again. When I was living in Adelaide, I spent every working day in the same office as mum.

I also really enjoyed having mum in Sunday school with me during the Pidgin service on the Sunday they were here. In Adelaide mum and I were leading Sunday school together so it was very special doing it once again. I also wanted to show her what we have been doing with the children here so she can see how our program is running. We had a great morning!

Outside of mum and dad's visit I have been busy with my CRC Missions finance work, completing different tasks for Adelaide Christian Centre (mainly the Connect News), organising curriculum for

Bethel Sunday School, and a range of other tasks. I am trying to complete as much as possible before I come to Adelaide in May for Josh and Vien's wedding.

I'm very happy to report that **FINALLY** after more than one year of gathering all of the necessary documents for Chrioni to be able to apply for a passport, he has finally received one. It has been a very frustrating process of delay after delay and unexpected requirements popping up here and there.

At the time of writing this update, we are still waiting for his Australian tourist visa to be approved but we believe it should come in time for him to travel to Adelaide with me on Tuesday 14th May. Hopefully by the time you're reading this, it has been approved and we are all set to come!

I'm so excited to bring Chrioni to Adelaide to introduce him to the church and to my family who he hasn't had the chance to meet yet. I'm also looking forward to showing him where I'm from. I know he will have a lot of fun!

I would like to express a big thank you to everyone who continues to pray for my journey here in PNG. And a very BIG thank you to everyone who has been praying for Chrioni's papers.

When I return to PNG after Josh's wedding, I have a few lecture schedules lined up. I will be teaching English to our preschool teachers in training for two weeks in June. I will also be teaching two subjects in Bethel Bible School in June and July. I enjoy my time lecturing in BITC and I'm very much looking forward to it!

ONLINE PRESENCE

Web: www.tccf.com.au

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/tenantcreekchristianfamilychurch

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