

Much has happened since I last wrote in August. It really has been a busy, stretching and delightful time here and I praise God for his loving care, which has enabled me to grow stronger again.

After my friend Kate left mid-August, I travelled with Talua staff and five New Zealanders to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu's (PCV) Assembly on the Island of Tanna. At the opening ceremony the Moderator for the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, Richard Dawson, the Global Missions Director, Phil King, and engineer, Garth Stevenson were all recognised by the President of Vanuatu, Revd Obed Moses, for services to the nation. Each received a medal and the Kiwis were honoured in that the chief vacated his home for us during our stay. More than 300 church, and Mothers' Union reps stayed in or around the small village of Louneil. A village needs two years to prepare their gardens and livestock in order to feed such a crowd. Because people journey from other islands by boat, sometimes the guests need to remain for two or three weeks though the assembly itself is just six days. On the first day you wear the colour of your Presbytery.



Nicola Young, second from the left, is a Kiwi nurse who came to Assembly with a medical / dental team. Her family has been resident and working in Vila for a couple of years but sadly she has become very ill, necessitating their rapid return to NZ. Please cover them with prayer. Neville and Gloria Jones, on the right, have also returned to New Zealand after four huge years of service at PCV, rebuilding and restoring properties on

various Islands post Cyclone Pam. Pray that they resettle in Marlborough well, and are able to quickly connect with family and friends.

Talua recommenced at the beginning of September but the long August break to accommodate Assembly has meant a big push to complete the curriculum. Graduation has been delayed until November 28 but please pray for staff, students and also me that day as I have been asked / honoured to give the talk for the final Ceremony.

As I returned from Tanna I had the chance to visit my sister, Margaret, who lives with her husband on the Island of Nguna, just north of Efate. Mid-September saw the arrival of the first in a wave of guests. Malcolm and Jill Pease from Waikato/Taranaki came for a well-deserved break and took the opportunity to stay with me. Hillary from Gaua Island, a Marlborough seasonal worker, previously worked with Malcolm to import a tractor.



Sara Gordon from Christchurch, and Brian and Ally Mackay from Dannevirke, all spent time at Talua with a view to teaching here at some stage. There is still no confirmed English teacher for 2019 – please pray that someone / a couple will come for one year to this part of God's paradise to support and instruct potential ministers and future community leaders of Vanuatu as they study.

At the same time my son, Josiah, Goddaughter, Jacinta and her Mum, Leanne (former neighbours), came from Melbourne with bags of goodies (& a guitar!). Praise God for that precious time.

I am preaching at Talua on Sunday, November 11, and also on December 2 at the Church of Christ on the Island of Malo, South Santo. Pray that the Word of the Lord will continue to bless those who listen, and that I will get all necessary things done before returning to NZ and a restful Christmas!