



FOUR COVID-19 SNAPSHOTS

Where is God?

Sil Ruddle currently serves in Benin with SIM. She writes

"Much like the rest of the world, things are changing daily. Benin has registered two official cases and instituted, among other measures, mandatory quarantine in a local hotel for anyone arriving by air."



"...So where is God in all this? The thought that keeps coming to my mind is that He is still the same yesterday, today and forever. ...Just a week before our borders closed we had two long term team members arrive back in Benin [and one] was perfectly placed, just when we needed someone, to become our COVID-19 coordinator. Her support has been invaluable."

"I do not doubt that the next few months will be challenging, but I am reminded and encouraged that God is faithful. May he continue to strengthen each one of us to love and serve Him where he has called us to be."

God's Perfect Plan

Richard and Bernie Axon serve in PNG with MAF and returned to Australia in April and were in Government-supervised quarantine in Cairns. While in quarantine they wrote:



"We have been so blessed by God. The hotel is wonderfully catering for Bernie's dietary needs and there is plenty of food, even for our troops.... We were feeling a bit guilty that we should be so blessed... What do you do when God blesses you? Give thanks and praise him."

"What next? There is some work that Richie can do remotely so we plan to stay around the Cairns and Mareeba area, until it becomes clear what is the way forward, so that we are able to return to PNG as soon as the situation has settled. This depends on the Australian government, the PNG government and MAF PNG. Ultimately it depends on our God, who has not been caught by surprise in all this and is still working out his merciful and perfect plans."

Locked down in Taiwan

Vivian To serves in Taiwan with OMF and returned there from Australia in April where she was allowed to do her mandatory 15 day quarantine in an apartment. Her travel from Sydney was on



"...a flight with almost everyone wearing full protective gear, adhering to Taiwan's strict procedures at the airport, and a 5 hour drive all the way to the door of my colleague's apartment."

"Every day my food is passed through the door, and 3 times a day I get a call from officials to check up on my health status (and make sure I haven't escaped!). On a daily basis, I also count my blessings of good health, this spacious room with a view to the outside world and my colleague who joyfully cooks, washes and delivers my food."

"At the end of my quarantine, I will ...spend the remaining Home Assignment time at the Oasis Retreat Centre."

The ministry continues

Karine Woldhuis is based in Australia and serves with SIM in the "For Freedom" ministry that seeks to combat people trafficking.



"Our For Freedom Basics course went live last week and is now available globally! This has been in development for a while, and we are excited it is out there in the real world. I've been continuing with training and development of resources for some of our teams here in Australia and in South America."

"It's a journey to help people begin to recognise and then respond well to potential trafficking happening around us. (Forced labour being used in the making of protective masks is one example of this.) A lot of the preparation for some upcoming training and trips I was working on is now on a longer time frame and like most people, I'm transferring more across the zoom than was already the case."



Talua, Cyclone Harold and Rebuilding



On 6th April Vanuatu was struck by Harold, a category five cyclone, meaning it was severe.

Talua is a priority for APWM as it suffered extensive damage and has closed until May 2021. An initial gift of \$5,000 has been sent to assist the college.

Our Moderator-General, the Rev Dr Peter Barnes, has launched an appeal for funds. At the time of writing we have received \$35,000 in gifts and we praise God for such generosity. The rebuilding work will cost up to \$100,000. Any gifts received beyond that will go toward repairing church buildings.

If you would like to view a video of the damage please go to APWM's Vimeo page www.vimeo.com/410143623

How to Donate

Direct Deposit

Bank: Westpac
Account Name: Australian Presbyterian World Mission
BSB: 032 260
Account Number: 151207
and mark your gift 'Harold'.
Please email finance@apwm.org.au so we can send a receipt.

Cheque

Please send cheques to
APWM National
1 Clarence St
Burwood NSW 2134

(Gifts are not tax deductible)
Please note, if there are any excess funds, these will be separately tracked and used for future cyclone relief in Vanuatu.

COVID-19 and Raising a Partnership Team



Rob and El Falls are currently seeking to build a team of partners as they head to teach at the Talua Theological Training Institute, Vanuatu, in 2021. Normally they would visit churches and Bible study groups to talk about their proposed ministry. Despite COVID-19 they can still 'visit' your church or small group. They write:

During this post-cyclone, mid-COVID crisis, Vanuatu is now more than ever in need of strong pastoral leadership, and support from the Australian Church.

We are in the process of developing a team of partners so that we can serve in God's ministry at Talua.

We would love to join your Bible study or church service or mission committee meeting, via whatever technology you use, to share what God is doing through our brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

It would be good to discuss with you how you can partner with them (through us) in the difficult, yet strategic, days ahead. Please contact us through our website: www.fallsvanuatu.info

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