

*Nambawan!*

## Global Mission's Vanuatu Newsletter



GlobalMission  
Vanuatu

August 2025



The PCANZ's Global Mission engagement with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu in 2025 has been significant. We have supported the PCV after the 7.3 magnitude earthquake in December; several teams from Saint Kentigern Schools and College have taken part in service programmes; an intergenerational team from Arrowtown congregation shared in a children's camp with the Bush Mission outreach; our support for Talua Theological Training College continues; and a team of youth leaders from the PCV attended Presbyterian Youth Ministry's national training event, Connect, in August. Read on for more detailed information about our partnership with the PCV.

***In the photo above:** Members of the Arrowtown team pose with participants at the Bush Mission children's camp on Santo Island.*



Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

[www.globalmission.org.nz](http://www.globalmission.org.nz)

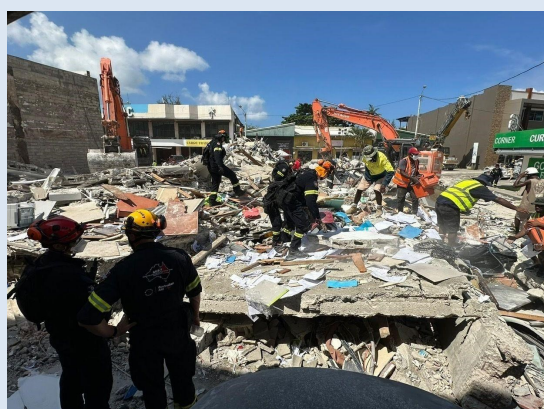


## Vanuatu earthquake December 17 2024

As this is the first newsletter since the earthquake that hit Vanuatu on December 17th last year, it's worthwhile sharing some photographs. These photos give an indication of the severity of the earthquake and the massive impact it had on the Port Vila CBD. The effects of this are still being felt as many businesses were closed and had to relocate. A significant portion of the town centre has been demolished and the recovery will take years.



This is how the Port Vila CBD looks during the demolition work so far ... bit of a ghost town as buildings come down.





### Structural Engineers to Port Vila

Structural engineers Allen Spring and Kim Wealleans spent a week in Port Vila, with Global Mission volunteer Neville Jones from March 1-8, assessing the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu's buildings following December's earthquake. They found that one of the PCV's buildings, a commercial building in the Port Vila CBD needed to be demolished. And while other buildings had sustained some cracking from the earthquake, they advised that no further demolition is required. They recommended repair and maintenance work on multiple buildings and this is a process the PCV will need to work on going forward. Our earthquake appeal funds will contribute towards this work. They were also able to visit some PCV schools and recommended that a pastor's house and kindergarten on one site be demolished. The Vanuatu Council of Churches also asked them to inspect their building, so they were able to serve the wider Christian community as well. We are grateful to Allen, Kim and Neville for volunteering their time and expertise for this project. We received a letter of gratitude from the PCV's General Secretary Rev. Collin Keleb acknowledging the support, and this is included on the next page.



Above: Structural engineers Allen Spring and Kim Wealleans at work inspecting buildings in Port Vila.

Below left, the PCV's Maropa building in the Port Vila CBD was damaged in the earthquake and after inspecting this, our engineers recommended that it be demolished. The result is the empty section, below right. .







# Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

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13<sup>th</sup> of March 2025

Rev. Phil King  
Global Mission Director  
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

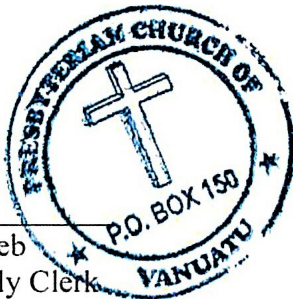
Dear Rev. Phil King,

It is with great honor and respect to express, on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu and the finance committee, our big thank you for the visit and the visual engineering work that took place in most of the PCV buildings which are affected by the 2024, 17<sup>th</sup> December Earthquake.

The reports will help provide a better platform which the church will depend on as it starts to respond to its recovery work and projects now and into the future. We also want to thank the them, personally, Mr. Allen Spring, Mr. K. R. Wealleans and leadership of the long time PCV Friend El Neville Jones.

Having the three men here with us these last few days is a sign of a strong and a long time church partnership, that will continue on into the future as we await the Lord's return. PCANZ will always be in our prayers.

Sincerely,



Ps Collin Keleb  
PCV Assembly Clerk  
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Two PCV cyclone and earthquake recovery projects were initiated after the structural engineers visited Port Vila. Roof repairs were made to two buildings—a PCV staff house, below left; and the Paton Memorial Church, below right.





In July Rev. Carlton Johnstone led a team from his Arrowtown congregation to the Bush Mission outreach in Vanuatu. Carlton has taken teams there before but this is the first time since before Covid-19. Here is a brief report of their visit.



### **Santo Bush Mission 2025**

"Acts 17:28," the leader would shout. The collective voice of 300 people at the Santo Bush Mission Bible Camp would shout back, "In him we live, we move, we exist. Go mission Go!" As arms moved up and down like a wave.

The passion and energy of the singing and prayers of the kids was inspiring.

In July Arrowtown Presbyterian took a team of 19 people, including 8 children to be part of Santo Bush Mission's (SBM) second Children's Bible Camp. Two members joined us from All Nations Church in Queenstown. There were two other church teams from New Zealand as well: Hanouri Presbyterian Church in Auckland and JuSang Rang Church in Hamilton. It was wonderful being part of the camp with these two teams.

SBM bring kids and some of the parents down from the custom villages in the bush that they work amongst. This in itself was a logistical challenge. Some of the drives are 3 hours then there is a two hour walk or three hour walk to the villages. The Bush Mission cooked for 300 people three times a day over open fire.

We had responsibility for leading one of the days. Devotions would begin at 5:30 am and the last evening session would finish at 9pm. We taught songs and the team performed some skits, led them in craft activities and had English speaking sessions. In the afternoon it was games until dinner. We lead an outdoor evening session that involved glow sticks and the kids sharing testimonies about why they follow Jesus. A number of the adults shared some of their story as it connected to the parable of the prodigal son.

The team split into two at the end of the camp to return with the kids to two different villages. One village had very limited water while the other had an abundance being close to rivers and waterfalls. The welcome, care and hospitality of the villages is a gift and generosity and kindness.

It was a privilege to be part of the work of SBM. Pastor Tueni and his team are inspirational in their commitment to making Jesus known and making disciples. As is usually the case, we received far more than we gave. The formation that took place in team members has been encouraging to see. The kids grew in confidence, including praying for other kids. Their resilience was deepened as they learnt things about themselves and what they could do and challenges that were met head on, such as trekking for three hours in a muddy, slippery, single track. This mission trip is such a great intergenerational context. Any church out there reading this and thinking about a mission trip that includes kids, I would highly recommend this one. I'm sure Pastor Tueni would love to hear from you and your interest in the work of Santo Bush Mission.

Everyone's faith was encouraged by being immersed in a context of joy, contentment, simplicity, worship and prayer, and smiles and laughter.

"Go mission go!"

- Carlton Johnstone, St. John's Presbyterian Church, Arrowtown



## Saint Kentigern Schools and College Service Programmes With Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu Schools



Saint Kentigern Presbyterian Schools and College have continued their impressive service programme work in Vanuatu this year. Teams of Year 7 and 8 students from the Boys and Girl schools with staff and parents have worked on projects at two schools. A team of Year 12 and 13 College students also visited this year, marking the renewal of their relationship. The Year 7 and 8 teams worked on projects at Popowoh School on the outskirts of Port Vila, and also at Macses school where they had been previously. The Year 12 and 13 students divided into two teams, with some visiting Onesua and others completing a project at Popowoh. It's amazing to see how much these teams achieve in a short time. And of course the cross-cultural learning and sharing with the local communities is a major highlight of their trips. Thanks once again to Global Mission legends Neville and Gloria Jones who accompanied the teams. Here are some photos from these projects.





## PCV Youth Leaders Programme in New Zealand, August 11-19.

In August, Global Mission sponsored four youth leaders from the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu to attend Connect, Presbyterian Youth Ministry's national youth leaders training weekend. The PCV's national youth secretary Josiah Ewai was accompanied by Timothy Makekon, Serah Stephen and Alina Kalpukai. Connect was held at Willow Park Convention centre in Auckland, and prior to the weekend, the team enjoyed a week of exposure visits which gave them a good overview of the mission context of the PCANZ. These included Presbyterian Support Northern's "Communities Feeding Communities" programme in Mt. Roskill; Laidlaw College; Korean Presbyterian Church of Auckland; and Saint Kentigern College. Serah and Alina were very warmly hosted by Rev. Lorriane Francis and her husband Ian Dittmer - Lorraine was born in Port Vila as her parents Bill and Mary Francis were PCANZ missionaries in Vanuatu on the 1950's and 1960's. The team was able to meet Mary Francis during their visit and this was a highlight for them as they shared stories together. Josiah and Timothy enjoyed the hospitality of the Mary Mackillop Centre in Mission Bay. These photos give a snapshot of their week-long programme in Auckland.



**Top left:** At PSN Northern's community project.

**Top Right:** Korean Presbyterian Church of Auckland.

**Above:** Saint Kentigern College; and with Mary and Lorraine Francis.

**Left and Right:** At PYM's Connect training event.





### Talua Theological Training Institute English Teacher

Our support for the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu has continued with ongoing commitment to many long-term projects as well as the establishment of some encouraging new developments. We have provided English teachers at Talua Theological Training Institute for many years. In 2025 we transitioned to a new model of financially supporting a local English teacher, Melvin Lolo, seen teaching in this photo. We will review this with the Talua leadership to discern whether this new model will meet their future needs. We also maintain a staff house and contribute funding for building and maintenance projects at Talua.



### Scholarship for Vanuatu's First PhD Student

Leinamau Manrogoana (on the left in this photo) is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu and has been doing doctoral studies at Pacific Theological College (now Pacific University) in Suva. Global Mission contributed 50% of Leinamau's fees for the final year of her degree. She will graduate at the end of the academic year in 2025 and return to serve with the PCV in 2026. We wish Leinamau well as she completes the final few months of this significant academic achievement, when she will become the first member of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu to achieve a PhD in theology.

These roles serving with the PCV are unsalaried but Global Mission can help with living expenses for the right candidates. The education consultant would be a short term project.

PCANZ Global Mission Director  
Phil King  
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Applications  
Invited:

Education consultant to help  
with policy development

Business manager, Talua  
Theological Training institute

Tutor- Health Care Assistant

Thank you to everyone who financially supports our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

Donations are always welcome and allow us to achieve more. Online donations can be made to 02 0500 0086963 10. If making a new donation please send an email with contact details for receipts to [katrina@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:katrina@presbyterian.org.nz)

**Nambawan!** is dedicated to the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand's partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. "Nambawan" is Bislama (one of the three official languages of Vanuatu) and means "Number One" or as we might say today, "Awesome!" If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or would prefer email, please advise by return mail to Global Mission, P.O. Box 9049 Wellington 6141, or email Phil King at [phil@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:phil@presbyterian.org.nz).