

Report-- Mission to Vanuatu May 2018

This visit was arranged through N.Z.C.M.S [Church Missionary Society] and A.M.[Anglican Missions] to support Rev. Dawn Daunauda, a former Vicar of Awatere Parish, Nelson with her Mission in Talua Presbyterian Training Institute in Vanuatu.

Funding support of \$7000 was granted from A.M. to buy the materials needed to put a new roof on their community centre. This Centre is used for many activities, i.e. Education--class room and Worship.

This building had to be used despite its substandard condition, including a leaking roof.

I was invited to talk to various groups of the Anglican and Presbyterian churches where \$1600 was also given. Other donations came from people to put towards the travel of some team members.

A call came from a builder in Wanaka who was looking to help and he approached me to arrange this Mission. The call went out and 5 other people responded. Another builder from Wanaka and 3 ladies from Southland.

We arrived in Vanuatu on the 9 May 2018 with over an extra 40 kgs. This weight being, power tools which we managed to get all the way free of charge with a lot of explaining to the airways.

For the next 14 days in extreme heat our builders worked on the roof and empowered the many students of Talua to work alongside them. Our builders managed to adjust materials they had, and extra nails, caps and staples were bought to make the roof withstand the harsh conditions that it might face such as cyclones. It is almost a guarantee that this roof will not come off.

Relationships with the ladies of the village were formed while we helped them make patch work quilts from the materials we took over, using their manual sewing machines.

These same ladies engaged us with their skills of basket making.

The ladies on the team with the help from our builders helped to make Rev. Dawn's, NZ house liveable. Holes, where the white ant had eaten fixed, doors replaced, walls, floors, windows washed, paint freshened up shelves and window frames. The vegetable and flower gardens all weeded. Taps replaced.

It was so much fun getting to know Rev. Dawn and the many friends she has made in the village. To share devotions together and pray, to laugh, walk and swim in the beautiful clear warm sea and rivers. To taste the culinary delights of the area such as the crab, cassava, lablab, taluk and their delightful fruits and vegetables.

Rev. Dawn and myself had a visit with Father James Tamma, Anglican Bishop Elect who will be installed on the 12th August 2018. Father James was happy to talk with us regarding what relationships we could form with NZ and Vanuatu. We were also introduced to Melanesian Brother from Papua New Guinea.

The big project for Father James is to relocate their secondary school St Patricks from Ambae Island where there is a continually erupting volcano to Malekula and Espiritu Santo, which had 27,000 inhabitants.

Rev. Dawn has already formed links with some business people from Nelson who have shown an interest to help with furniture for a kindergarten that will form part of the new school.

Could we all help to support with this undertaking of the relocation of St Patricks School?

Because of our visit I feel our relationships have strengthened with the Anglicans and Presbyterians in Vanuatu and NZ.

Personally, myself I have a clearer understanding of our way forward together.

Thank you to you all for your support of prayers and funds.

Dot Muir for the Team