

The Cross of Solomon Islands

On Sunday 28th May, Helen Barrett received official recognition for her long and outstanding work in the field of nursing, education and community development in Solomon Islands, over a very long time. At a private investiture held in the Parish Hall, Hendra, surrounded by close family and friends, Helen was Invested by His Excellency, the Governor General of Solomon Islands, Sir Nathaniel Waena. Lady Waena and members of the Government House staff and Foreign Affairs Department were also present.



After the Investiture, pictured (from left) Sir Nathaniel Waena, Governor General of Solomon Islands, Helen Barrett CSI, and Lady Waena.

She received the second highest award, namely the Cross of Solomon Islands. (The highest award, Star of Solomon Islands, is reserved for Royalty and Heads of State). Helen is now amongst only a few outside Solomon Islands to receive the Cross of Solomon Islands.

From 1946, Helen served in various nursing locations, including significant time at Fauabu on Malaita, Tasia on Ysabel, and Kerepei on Ugi, and school nurse at Pawa and Alangaula. She travelled extensively on patrols into the bush, often at great personal health risk, to tend to the needs of expectant mothers, to deliver babies, and care for the frail and injured. She was directly involved in the area of nurse education with local people.

She returned to Australia in 1984 but has been actively involved in continuing to assist Solomon Islands with used clothing, books, providing hospitality, and generally being the woman of care that she is known by so many to be.

Congratulations Helen Barrett, CSI, on your award!

Melanesia News



The Melanesian Mission Issue 59, Autumn / Winter 2006/07

Registered Charity No. 1104551

New look cuts costs

For the past thirty years the Melanesia News has been produced in A4 format. Over that time technology has meant that the quality of the newsletter has been able to increase as production costs decrease. Some readers may remember the old 'Southern Cross Log' the forerunner to the 'Melanesia News' which was a smaller and somewhat bulkier newsletter.

As many of you will know, the Royal Mail has recently changed the pricing structure for post in the UK and now size is taken into account as well as weight.

Although the mailing list for the newsletter is not massive (new subscribers are always welcome!), the change in the postal system means that to mail the newsletter in its old format would cost around £300 a year more than reducing it down to the size magazine you are reading now. For this reason alone we feel that a change is justified. The changes also mean that the weight of the newsletter can actually increase.

Therefore we can fit in a few extra pages and still fall within the lowest price bracket for postage!

Do let us know what you think of the new look. Feedback, comments and articles for publication are always welcome.

Dave Friswell, Executive Officer



Dave Friswell/MM(UK)

Reflections on the Executive Officer's first visit to the 'happiest place on earth'
See page 12

In Search of the Lost
Fr Richard Carter's new book about the seven martyred Brothers out now
Details on page 6

Introducing Kate and Asim. New teachers for Pamua School

New Bishop for Diocese of Vanuatu
More news on page 4

From the Chairman

What a splendid Annual Festival we had this year! Many thanks are due to the Head Mistress, Staff and pupils of Wycombe Abbey School for not only providing us with a wonderful venue in which to meet, but also for the warmth of their welcome and practical support on the day. The School has for a very long time supported the work of the Melanesian Mission and in the past has had a very strong link with St Patrick's College, Vureas. Through this many past members of the school have become true friends of Melanesia.

In fact, friendship seemed to me to be one of the great themes of our time together. The Annual Festival is always a time to meet friends old and new and this year was no exception. In particular it was good to have with us Sisters from both the Sisters of Melanesia and the Sisters of the Church, and also Gordon Nanau from Tathimboko, Guadacanal Province, who is undertaking post-graduate study at the University of East Anglia and was able to join us with his family. One notable absentee was one of the truly great and good friends of both the Church of Melanesia and MM(UK),

Canon Desmond Proberts, who because of ill-health was prevented from attending the Festival for the first time in thirty-four years.

'Friendship' wrote the American poet and essayist, 'may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature'. Although he was well-aware that friendship neither happens nor is maintained of its own accord. Among his other observations on the subject were these: 'A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I can think aloud'; 'the only reward of virtue is virtue; the only way to have a friend is to be one'; and 'Keep your friendships in repair'.



Esther Langrish showing Melanesian artefacts to some Wycombe Abbey Students

MM(UK) exists for precisely such reasons at this to deepen, strengthen, extend and keep in good repair the bonds of friendship between the peoples and the Church of these islands and those of the islands of SI and Vanuatu. And friendship does not flourish without personal contact. So it is very good indeed that this year Dave Friswell has been able to visit Melanesia, getting to know the church and its people and enabling them to get to know him and us a little better. The body of Trustees has been strengthened by the appointment of Jo Bezzano who has worked in the Dioceses of

10. Recommend measures for the strengthening and upgrading for the religious life institutions,
11. Ascertain what the role of the MBM should be in the light of the challenges and issues that the Church is having to grapple with,
12. Assess the structures, staffing and support to the MBM in the light of the roles envisaged for the Board of Mission,
13. Recommend measures for the strengthening and upgrading of the MBM,
14. In undertaking the above, consult widely with the religious orders themselves, the dioceses, and the public,
15. Present a report of its finding to the MBM and the Council of Bishops and report to the Executive Council by the end of 2006.

We hope to be able to update readers on the progress of this important review in the life of the Church of Melanesia in the next issue of Melanesia News.

The Trustees of The Melanesian Mission

Chairman

The Rt Revd Michael Langrish,
The Palace, Exeter,
Devon, EX1 1HY
Tel: 01392 272 362
Bishop.of.Exeter@exeter.anglican.org

The Ven. Chris Liley, (Vice Chair)
24 The Close, Lichfield,
Staffs. WS13 7LD
Tel: 01543 306 145
Chris.liley@lichfield.anglican.org

Mr Alan Waters, (Hon. Treasurer)
4 Orchard Way, Kemsing,
Kent, TN15 6QA
Tel: 01732 761 431
alan.eliz@btopenworld.com

The Revd Jonathan Collis,
10 New Square,
Cambridge, CB1 1EJ
Tel: 01223 359 196
j.collis@jesus.cam.ac.uk

Mrs Esther Langrish,
The Palace, Exeter,
Devon, EX1 1HY
Tel: 01392 438 784
esther.langrish@exeter.anglican.org

The Revd Brian Macdonald-Milne,
39 Way Lane, Waterbeach,
Cambridge, CB5 9NQ
Tel: 01223 861 631

The Revd Canon John Pinder,
The Rectory, Station Road,
Liss, Hants. GU33 7AQ
Tel: 01730 890 085
john@jrpinder.freemove.co.uk

The Revd Canon Desmond Proberts,
24 Shelley Close,
Penistone, S36 6GT.
Tel: 01226 766 402
desproberts@yahoo.co.uk

The Revd Canon Tony Sparham,
The Vicarage, 12 Broadway,
Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1NB
Tel: 01625 520 309
tsparham@fish.co.uk

Ms Jo Bezzano
211 Lea View House,
Springfield, London, E5 9EB
Tel: 02088 068 694
johanna.bezzano@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

Task Force of the Melanesian Board of Mission and Religious Orders in the Church of Melanesia

At the 12th General Synod at Airahu the Church of Melanesia (CoM) established a taskforce to review the Melanesian Board of Mission (MBM) and the four religious orders in the CoM. The review, in terms of their administration, management and support provided to them, will enable these institutions to better fulfil God's purpose for them in their ministry and mission.

This is against the back drop of concerns about certain matters relating to the religious orders. It is recognised that these orders have made a tremendous contribution to the life of the people they had worked with and have the potential to contribute much more in the mission and ministry of the Church.

The MBM also endorsed that a review be undertaken of their department. This was due to concern that the department was not able to meet the expectations of the dioceses in certain areas. Consideration will also be given to address specific issues such as environment and ecumenism.

The taskforce will undertake the following:

1. Ascertain the original purposes of the religious orders within the mission and ministry of the Church,
2. Ascertain how the religious orders have lived up to their purpose or conformed to that purpose in their work,
3. Ascertain the challenges and issues that the church is having to grapple with in its missions and ministry and their implications on the religious orders,
4. Ascertain the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the programs of the religious orders,
5. Assess the administration and management of the religious orders in terms of recruitment and selection, training, discipline, management of funds, assets, maintenance of their way of life, self support or self reliance initiatives;
6. Assess the support being provided to the religious orders in terms of financial, technical and other forms of support, both from within the Church and abroad,
7. Assess the co-ordination and co-operation with associate friends and companions,
8. Assess the infrastructures of the religious orders including for building and equipment,
9. In respect of the Melanesian Brotherhood, assess its missions abroad, both short term and other intentions for missions to be set up in other parts of the world,

Temotu, Malaita and Ysabel. The Companions of the Melanesian Brotherhood in Europe have been given a new structure as a Region with the Archbishop of Canterbury as Regional Father; and once again MM(UK) has begun to sponsor Mission partners in response to requests from CoM.

Our Lord said to those who followed him; 'I call you friends'. As supporters of MM(UK) we are called to be both friends of Jesus and friends of one another across the globe too.

✠Michael Exon

Welcome Home

We were delighted to hear that Bishop Peter Fox (former General Secretary of the Melanesian Mission), Angie and the family are happy to be home from PNG.

"The Bishop of Norwich has asked me to look after two parishes in Norwich which are in a vacancy. The parishes are St John's, Old Lakenham, and St Paul's, Tuckswood. The arrangement is for six months, and means we will have a home and an income while we look around at whatever other options may be offered to us. Bishop Graham would like us to continue working in the Norwich Diocese but wants us to have time to consider any other possibilities that might be presented."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bishop Peter and the family.

News from Ysabel Diocese

On 12th August, the Diocesan Bishop, the Rt Revd Richard Naramana, confirmed fifty-six candidates from Riusapa District which is made up of six villages. The occasion was also the celebration of the first year anniversary of the newly established District.

Six of the confirmed were men and women from other churches who were married to people from the area and have decided to become Anglicans. The confirmation took place in the evening and on the following morning the day began with the celebration of the Eucharist. The singing and the whole service was very moving. The people sang their best and the whole worship was active and lively as we praised God to His honour and glory.

There was much feasting and dancing after the service in the island style. Everyone indeed enjoyed the occasion. The day ended with a presentation of a live pig and food to the Bishop and his party.

The Bishop encouraged the people to work together and to plan for the future of their newly established District. People must move away from the 'dependency syndromes' and try to trust themselves that they can do things by and for themselves.

✠Richard Naramana

New Bishop for Diocese of Vanuatu

The Archbishop of Melanesia, the Most Reverend Sir Ellison Pogo, has announced the election of Father James Ligo, Chaplain to Seafarers, Church of Melanesia in Port Vila as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Vanuatu. The election took place at the end of August at the Church of the Holy Spirit at Sarakata in Lugainville, Santo. After prayer and discussion, the Electoral Board of the Church of Melanesia and Diocese of Vanuatu nominated Fr James Ligo to the Council of Bishops, who accepted it unanimously and made the appointment.

Fr Ligo who comes from the island of Pentecost is a graduate of the Bishop Patteson

Theological College (BPTC), Kohimarama in Solomon Islands, where he was awarded a diploma with distinction in 1999. However, previous to his studies for ordination as priesthood in the church, he worked for the Vanuatu government as a Media Officer, and from 1992-1994 was the National Coordinator of the Scripture Union in Vanuatu. Fr Ligo is married to Patricia Kalterea, currently a teacher at the Tagabe Kindergarden School in Port Vila and they are parents of four children. The new Bishop's consecration and installation will be on 15th October, at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Santo. The prayers of the whole Church of Melanesia are with Fr Ligo as new Bishop elect as he prepares for his Episcopal ministry in the church.



supplied by The Mission to Seafarers

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams is to visit Rome in November. Although plans are yet to be finalised it is hoped that the Archbishop will lead prayers for the seven martyred Melanesian Brothers at the Chapel of the Modern Martyrs.



Dr Williams visited the Province of the Church of Melanesia in July

2004 where he was admitted as a Companion to the Brotherhood at Tabalia.

Archbishop Rowan has recently agreed to take up the new role of Regional Father for the Companions in Europe and has also written the forward to Richard Carter's book, 'In Search of the Lost' an account of the events that led to the seven Brothers' deaths.

scanner machine for our Provincial hospital. As you know very well the distance from Ysabel to Honiara has been a problem with transportation cost. Equipping our Provincial hospital can save many lives.

(We are sending a scanner in October - the X-ray machine is proving much more difficult due to weight and installation problems)

The next shipment has been delayed as the ship is laid up for repair in Singapore. It is hoped there will be a sailing on 17th October, which should arrive just about Christmas Day - bearing our gifts.

Items that are particularly appreciated are: medical equipment and expendables; school text and exercise books (especially mechanical and electrical instruction books in simple English.); sewing machines and anything for women's workshops on home economics and embroidery; garden and other tools (including electrical); thin cotton clothing; hospital sheets; books, pencils and school equipment.

If you have anything and can arrange transport to Wilmslow please ring Tony Sparham on 01625 523127 or email t.sparham@ntlworld.com

Visits:

We were thrilled to welcome Keith Joseph with former Brothers Jude and Noel during their visit to England - Keith on a very short trip, but the others staying longer with Richard Carter. Keith has now returned to Solomons to be ordained and exercise his ministry at Tabalia.

In the reverse direction, Barbara Molyneux, Sally Spencer, Victoria Palfreyman and John Freeman are just setting out for the Solomons to represent Chester at the Ordination of Brothers Leonard and Jonathan on St Simon and St Jude's day at Tabalia.

We have been asked to send a party (including a bishop or two) to Monago, Savo Island for the consecration of their new church, St Peter's, in autumn 2007 (or 2008). So some of us are frantically trying to save up.
Tony Sparham

I have to share with you the sad news that Sister Marion Curtis OHP, former Matron of Fauabu Hospital on Malaita is very seriously ill. She has cancer and is not expected to live long. Sr Marion thanks all her friends for the love and support over the years. She is looking forward to the Life beyond death and is facing her passing expectantly. Her death, when it comes, will be announced in the Church Times. She requests 'no flowers' but donations may be sent to OHP for the work of St Helen's House where she worked for many years - the House is a haven for children in extremis, and their parents.

I personally will always be grateful to Sr Marion as it was meeting her when she came to test her vocation that I learned of Melanesia, and subsequently heard God's call to serve there. Please hold Sr Marion in your prayers.

Revd Canon Desmond Probeta (16th September 2006)

Diocese of Chester - Church of Melanesia Partners in World Mission Link

Since the Sisters and Brothers left for Exeter, London, then home to the southern seas in July 2005, we have been continuing with 'establishment' aspects of our link.

Parish Partnerships: Two Chester Parishes are setting up links with parishes on Ysabel.

Sunday School Books: We have the opportunity to supply any parishes or dioceses in Melanesia with an annual course of books for their Sunday Schools. We have sent last year's publications to all the dioceses and to the Provincial Education department for them to consider if they are appropriate for their situations. If so, we shall be asking any Chester (or other!) Parishes if they would like to raise the money for the books and their shipment costs. The ship with last year's books has just arrived in Honiara, so we should know in a month or so.

Shipments: Three or four times a year we send about 150 boxes of various goods out to Melanesia which people from the diocese and elsewhere have given. These are very much appreciated as these emails from Bishop Richard of Ysabel show:-

"This morning the Diocesan Staff had the privilege of handing over the school reading books to Tibubako school. Mr Ben Rubaha representing the Provincial Education was also present at the handing over ceremony. The Headmaster said his school has been privileged to receive such donations. The books will increase the resource in their library. Often they were the last to receive such gifts in the past, but now they have been the first to receive such gifts from the Diocese. He asked me to pass their 'big thank you' to Chester Diocese.

Similarly, some medical materials were sent to the mountainous clinic. The Nurse in Charge was also present at the ceremony.

The Sunday School books will be of great value to the Diocese, since we do not have our own resource available.

For me and my Diocese we are so grateful for the gifts. We value every single item that has been sent to us. With every Blessing . + Richard Ysabel.

And some requests from Ysabel :

"If you do have some materials on Stewardship we will be very grateful to have them. The Diocese will not need to buy timber from Honiara if we can have our own electrical plane saw and tongue and groove electric machines. Buying timbers from Honiara nowadays is very very expensive. At home we have a lot of trees that can easily be milled.

The Premier of Ysabel Province has asked me again if some kind hearted Christians or parishes would fund raise to buy us an X-ray machine and a

Finance Update

Those of you who were able to come to the Annual Meeting in June will remember that I referred to the accounts laid before members for the year ended 31st March 2006. The accounts were in draft, unaudited form because the accounts for the previous year (2004/5) had not then been audited.



I am pleased to report that the accounts for that year have now been audited and the Trustees hope to be able to approve the 2005/6 accounts and send them for auditing at their meeting in October.

We have arrived at this situation due to the sterling efforts of David Dew, our previous Treasurer, who has had the not inconsiderable task of liaising both with the Charity Commission and Companies House. David took over the financial affairs of the Melanesian Mission at a difficult time when Fr Peter Fox left for Papua New Guinea and we are grateful to him for his hard work and dedication over the past five years. We hope he will maintain his interest in our work and continue as a member of the Mission.

Our thanks are due also to Mr Nick Clarke of Baker Hibbert, from whom much patience and understanding has been needed. Baker Hibbert have given notice that they do not wish to continue as our auditors so the Trustees will be appointing new auditors.

So we are now a new charity (No. 1104551), we have our new name (*The Melanesian Mission*) and we look forward to a bright and challenging future.

Alan Waters, Honorary Treasurer

Accounts

If you would like to receive a copy of the audited accounts for 2004/05 please let me know and I will either post or email you a copy.

It is envisaged that the 2005/06 accounts should be fully audited by Christmas 2006. Once again, let me know if you require a copy of these.

Dave Friswell

With the retirement of David Dew as Treasurer of MM(UK) all donations and correspondence should now be sent to the Executive Officer at the following address:-

**Mr David Friswell,
15 Covell Close,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk, IP33 2HU.
Tel: 01284 701 988
david.friswell@btconnect.com**

Please amend your records accordingly. Thanks.

In Search of the Lost

The Death and Life of Seven Peacemakers of the Melanesian Brotherhood

Author: Richard Carter

Price: £12.99

ISBN: 1 85311 780 3

In 2003, a story shook the Anglican world in general and Anglican monastic life in particular. On August 8th, seven members of The Melanesian Brotherhood, an Anglican order of Christian brothers living a simple and prayerful life and known for their peace work throughout the South Pacific and beyond, were brutally murdered as a result of ethnic conflict in the Solomon Islands. They had been taken hostage five months earlier.

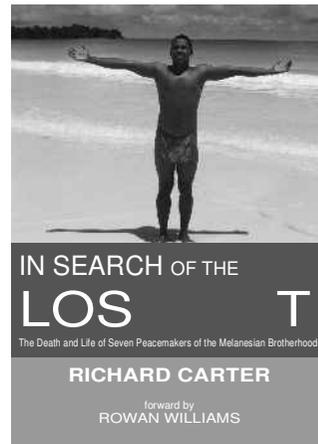
The Melanesian Brotherhood is the largest Anglican religious community in the world with over four hundred brothers and more than three hundred novices, and has received a United Nations award for its peace work. From 1990 to 2005, Richard Carter, a British priest with the Melanesian Mission, was tutor and chaplain to the Melanesian Brotherhood, eventually becoming a brother himself.

This extraordinary, powerful and moving book is based on his diaries from that agonizing time for the Community. It tells the harrowing story of the loss of seven good, young and holy lives and the aftermath of those deaths. It tells the story of individuals and a community trying to make sense of faith in the face of fierce conflict and tragedy. It recounts the challenge of living out the Christian faith when confronted by great fear and loss. It is thus a story for everyone.

Publication Date: 30th November 2006. Canterbury Press

"This is a brave and intimate account of war, tragedy and redemption in the South Pacific. With 'In Search of the Lost' Richard Carter bears witness to a nation's descent into chaos and violence, but he also charts its salvation through the sacrifices of a heroic community of Christian monks. Carter documents the colliding violence and beauty of his island world with disarming honesty and grace. Infused with prayer and rich with detail, this occasionally devastating story is a testament to the power of faith to lead individuals and nations back to the light."

Charles Montgomery, author of The Shark God



They are both committed to socially engaged work and their Christian values and faith in human progress and perseverance drives them as teachers. They have wanted to work together as teachers since being students and have had a particular desire to experience living and working in another country; they will be realising their dreams by working for the Melanesian Mission this coming year.

Kate and Asim will be teaching English and computing skills at Pamua. Although their basic salaries are paid by the Solomon Island Government it costs the Melanesian Mission (UK) over £5,000 to select, prepare, resource and fly out each mission partner. If you, your church, or perhaps your local school would like to make a special link with Kate and Asim and contribute on a regular basis then please do get in touch with me. Technology and/or post permitting we hope to have regular newsletters from Asim and Kate. If you would like to receive these then do contact me.

Please remember Kate and Asim in your prayers.

Dave Friswell

Tertiary Institution Coordinator

The Church of Melanesian has put in place long term plans to build a tertiary institution on a large piece of land they have recently acquired not far from the airport in Honiara. In time this institution will be taking over from Bishop Patteson Theological College, continuing the degree programme that has recently begun.

In addition to the theological studies it is proposed that teacher and nurse training should be developed on the site to assist with human resources needs of both Solomons and Vanuatu. CoM have asked the Melanesian Mission if we can help them find a suitable Coordinator to set this long term project in motion.

The role will include project development from the earliest

stages, physical planning and overseeing the landscaping issues involved in such a project.

The Coordinator will be required to liaise closely with local government and with external donors to the project and establish appropriate management structures.

With the assistance of a Project Manager (to be appointed by the Coordinator) this role, initially for three years, will be a challenging and demanding role.

A full job description is available and further details and clarification can be sought from CoM.

MM(UK) will be able to provide advice, selection, preparation and support for this position.

For more details contact Dave Friswell on 01284 701 988

New Mission Partners for Pamua

Kate and Asim are a couple from North London who are joining the Melanesian Mission this year to teach at St Stephens Community College in Pamua. They are busy packing up their flat and tying up loose ends here in London as they prepare to leave for the Solomon Islands at the end of this month. The change will be a great adventure for them both, having lived in England all their lives. Asim is from Essex and Kate was born and raised in Cambridge. They both currently live and work in North London as teachers and have decided to join the Mission and use their skills and learning in a new and challenging environment. They are offering their services and teaching experience to a different part of the world and in turn hope to learn about other ways of life in another part of the world.



Kate and Asim met at Dartington College of Arts as undergraduates. Kate studied for a BA with Honours in Theatre and Asim did Visual Arts; - they both enjoyed working in community settings whilst studying. They value art as an important educational tool and source of community development and both feel it is important to root art work, whether it be theatre or visual art in a social and community context so it is relevant and useful to society at large.

Since graduating, Kate has been involved in schools in a variety of ways, from performing Forum Theatre in secondary and primary schools to teaching English as a foreign language. She completed a PGCE in Drama whilst working for Tree House - a very special school for children with autism, where she has since worked for over six years developing the secondary curriculum.

Asim has worked as an artist with new media and technology - receiving Arts Council commissions for software and performance art development projects. He has also trained in teaching English as a foreign language and currently works as a teacher of IT, Maths and English for London Probation in East London Boroughs of Newham and Tower Hamlets.

Book Launch

There will be a book launch for 'In Search of the Lost' by Richard Carter on Sunday 26th November at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, London. Richard Carter will be preaching at the 10am Eucharist for the Feast of Christ the King and then the book will be launched in St. Martin's Crypt after the service. All are very welcome to attend both the service and the launch. Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase at the launch and through MM(UK).



Pentecost Sunday saw the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Sisters of Melanesia. The Sisters of Melanesia formed in 1980 and three of the four original Sisters were able to be present at the celebration. The Sunday service also included the admitting of seventeen new sisters and novices. This service was extra special as two of the new novices were from Vanuatu. This is the first time the Sisters have had new members from outside the Solomons Islands and the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia look forward to setting up households in Vanuatu in the future. The Brotherhood choir sang and novices also helped with preparations.

AGM & Annual Festival 2007

Put the date in your diaries now for the 2007 AGM and Annual Festival of the Melanesian Mission. This will take place on 9th June 2007 at a venue yet to be confirmed. We will have a venue by the time the next edition of Melanesia News is published in early April next year - so watch this space!

Sister Anita, CSC will be ordained deacon in Holy Trinity Church, South Wimbledon on 1st October. Please pray for her. She flies out to Melanesia on 4th October!

2006 Annual Report

If you were unable to attend the AGM in June and would like a copy of the MM (UK) Annual Report then please let me know and I will put a copy in the post to you. Contact details on page 5.

Dave Friswell

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to former Brother Titus Teti and Naomi Elliott on their marriage on 9th September 2006. We wish them all the best for their future together.

Obituaries

Basil Le-Pine Williams

From Bishop Willie:-

On 17th February I attended the funeral of a simple, humble Englishman who followed in the footsteps of many missionaries who had gone to Melanesia since 1849. Basil came to us as an engineer to look after the shipyard but he also brought with him his experiences of church life in Cheshire. He had been on PCCs, deanery synod, the diocesan board of finance and responsible for the maintenance of bishops' houses!

Basil came to Melanesia to look after the ships but he soon discovered that the Diocese of Melanesia was to become a new Province. He was asked to become the first Provincial Secretary though I don't think Basil had any choice in the matter!

Basil supervised the inauguration of the new province and the enthronement of the first Archbishop, who sadly died just four months later from cancer. Basil was like a father to the young Bishops who had little experience in running a diocese. He was a true encyclopaedia of church administration!

Basil was a true Christian - he loved his Church, loved his family and loved his work. May his soul rest in peace."

Fay Wright and Veronica Kefu died January 2006

Soon after the last newsletter Helen Barrett informed us of the death of Miss Fay Wright, a teacher who had worked in Melanesia for thirty years and Veronica Kefu, nurse. Helen writes:-

"Fay died just three weeks before Dudley Tuti. Pat Helpin, Anne Lanham and I were able to go to Dubbo for the funeral - Dubbo is 800km from Brisbane. We went one day, had the funeral the next and came back the following day. Fortunately Anne has an air-conditioned car as the temperature was about forty degrees all the way. Veronica was one of the first group to go to Fauabu. Without much schooling she passed a test which showed she would make a good nurse. She started her training then lost a leg, received an artificial one and then went on with her training. She passed with high marks and worked at the hospital for many years before retiring to her home island, Ysabel.

She began sewing and made MU uniforms, shirts and trousers for the Brothers, and helped many people, often taking morning or evening prayers if the catechist was away. She was a very kind, happy and helpful caring person. She was about 67 when she died."

MM(UK) would like to apologise for the photo of Dudley Tuti appearing under the obituary for Ellison Suri in the last edition of Melanesia News.



Dave Friswell/MM(UK)

After being tied up and taken to the village chief they did decide to let me into the village which I have to say was a great relief as the alternative did not sound too inviting.

The school was fantastic. The Headmistress, Mrs Amy Toa was obviously loved by all her students and the children are clearly with enthusiasm.

Although I am sure I could have stayed in the 'Happiest Place on Earth' for a very long time, I knew that the 'Hapi Isles' beckoned me. It seemed strange that after so many years of hearing so many different stories about Solomon Islands that I was actually going to see the place myself.

The arrival at Honiara was interesting as the American Airforce had managed to get an extremely large transport plane stuck by the terminal building - so we came in though 'domestic' instead.

Fr Sam Sahu, Secretary for the Melanesian Board of Mission, was there to greet me. The next ten days proved to put Sol Air to the test and sadly part of my planned schedule had to change. I did however get over to Makira (along with two thousand extra people who were arriving for the Solomon Island Games). There I was able to meet with Bishop Jonnie and visit Pamua School to check out arrangements for Kate and Asim. I travelled to Makira with Moffat Wasuka, Provincial Education Secretary which gave us plenty of time to both get to know each other, put the world to right and even to watch a little of the World Cup.

No visit to the region would be complete without visiting the religious orders and seeing their vital work. It was great to see that alongside theological and pastoral training the CSC Novices are now being given lessons in carpentry too. (Actually they are having a new dining room built and one or two of them fancied giving the builders a hand.) It was a great honour to be admitted as a Companion to the Brotherhood at Tabalia on my last Sunday there. It was also very special to walk amongst the graves of the seven martyred Brothers who lay alongside those who entered the history books many years before.

There are plenty more stories to tell. It seemed a very long way home after being so welcomed and well looked after by CoM. It was great to be home and see the family again - not quite so good to get back to the desk!

Dave Friswell



Dave Friswell/MM(UK)



Dave Friswell(MM)(UK)

From the 'Happiest Place on Earth' to the 'Hapi Isles'

A recent international survey has bestowed Vanuatu as being the 'happiest place on earth'. The Happy Planet Index (HPI) is an innovative new measure that shows the ecological efficiency with which human well-being is delivered. (Check out www.happyplanetindex.org/ to find out more.)

And so after nearly forty-eight hours of travel I finally arrived, happy but tired, in Port Vila. I was met at 1am at the airport by Fr James Ligo (now newly elected Bishop of Vanuatu), given a lovely

welcome, dropped off at a small hotel and given a very full programme for the next two weeks that started at 7.30 that morning.

The next fortnight was full of visits to churches, meetings with people in the parishes, chances to talk with diocesan and provincial officers, and of course opportunities to share food with all my hosts.

My time in the Diocese of Banks and Torres gave me the chance to see the areas where the early missionaries first started work in the islands. The small Rural Training Centre and Catechists training school on Sola obviously achieve great things despite their lack of resources. It was useful to spend time with Bishop Nathan to get a feel for the life of the rural church in these islands. With Fr Stanley Womack, the Diocesan Secretary, I was able to get out to some more remote parts of the island and explore the challenges facing the parishes.

I stayed for a few days at the Mothers' Union rest house in Santo which was lovely. I learnt that when the Archbishop of Canterbury visited the region he stayed at Hotel Santo - so I thought I'd at least pop in to see the place and get a drink. Here I was able to learn my first bit of local pidgin:-

"Hemi no givim credit. Sapos yu wantem dring yu mas paem fastaem"
I find it comforting to know that some things are the same all over the world.

The following day I met up with a small team from New Zealand who are working with the church, helping to develop the coconut plantation on a nearby island. Whilst they went off to the island I went out to Lorevilko, a large mission area for the church. I knew I was to visit the church school, meet the parishioners and the Brothers Household there, but I don't think anything could have quite prepared me for the welcome I received!

Companions of the Melanesian Brotherhood in Europe

After discussions with the Father of the Brotherhood, the Most Revd Sir Ellison Pogo and the Head Brother, the Revd Brother Caulton Weris, the organisation of the Companions in Europe has been developed to make it similar to that in the Pacific.

There is now a Europe Region with Northern and Southern Sections. Each Section is to have a Section Leader, Chaplain, Secretary and Treasurer. In each Section there will be individuals and, where there are sufficient Companions in an area to form one, Groups.

At the Regional level the Archbishop of Canterbury, himself a Companion, has consented to fill the role of Regional Father. Fr Brian Macdonald-Milne is now the Regional Chaplain (no longer the 'Coordinator') and the Assistant Regional Chaplain is the former Brother and Chaplain of the Brotherhood, Fr Richard Carter. It is hoped that the Chaplain will be able to visit the Sections and Groups from time to time and assist in providing information, advice and training where necessary. To make this possible a Regional Fund has been set up. This will be administered by the Regional Treasurer who will also monitor any requests from the Brothers. Any assistance given by Companions in this Region will be channelled through the Treasurer and details will be included in the annual report. Similarly the Regional Secretary

should be aware of visits being made by Companions to the Pacific region. They will keep in close contact with the Companions Secretary in Melanesia and be responsible for the Europe Region Annual Newsletter.

There will be a Regional meeting each year which may be held on the same day as the Melanesian Mission Annual Festival on the second Saturday in June.

A Companions Handbook for this Region is being planned and provision for Companions medals is being made. Leaders normally have silver medals and others wear bronze or copper ones.

As there are so few Companions in the east of England it is intended that they will form a small Eastern Group for the time being.

At the Companions' Great Conference in Solomon Islands in October 2007 these developments will be fully reported and hopefully incorporated into the Constitution of the Companions .

With over 100 Companions in the Europe Region a great deal of support in prayer and other ways is being provided for the Brotherhood. It is hoped that these developments in the organisation will enable more cooperation and mutual support in this Region and ever more faithful work in the service of God's Kingdom both in Europe and the Pacific.

Fr Brian Macdonald-Milne

The Junior Melanesian Mission

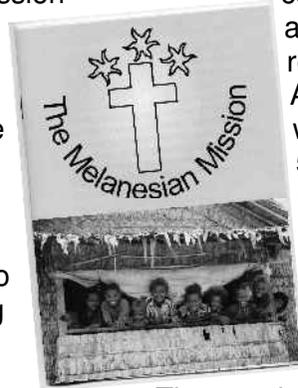
The Junior Melanesian Mission (JMM) is a new venture for The Melanesian Mission (UK). It is for children and young people but it depends on help from adults to make it work.

JMM has been established to enable children and young people to play a fuller part in mission of the church - particularly the Anglican Church of the Province of Melanesia.

Through the regular collecting of money for the Church of Melanesia, JMM helps to keep young people in the UK connected with the church in the South Pacific. Prayer and learning are also important parts of JMM and hopefully your church will be able to pray on a regular basis for the Church of Melanesia and the religious orders working there. This might happen within your church's Sunday School or Junior Church, or at a time in the service where the young people are present. At the end of the year it is nice to have a special part within a service where the efforts of the JMM collectors are recognised.

Each participating child will receive a young person's newsletter twice a year as well as their own record book and JMM collecting box.

Collecting for JMM works by the children asking adults within the



congregation, relatives and friends to give a regular donation to JMM. A small amount each week (maybe 20p or 50p) is ideal. The children write down the names of the subscribers in their record books along with the amount pledged per week.

Then as the children collect their contributions they mark who has given. To start children off it is often helpful to have an adult who is willing to ask others to join in with the scheme. It will be important to explain clearly the aims and objectives of the JMM before adults commit themselves to becoming subscribers.

By having JMM collectors you will soon see that the scheme in itself can bring together children and adults in the church as they actively seek each other out each week - and then talk to each other!

The collecting boxes can fill up with small change quite quickly if a child has a good number of subscribers. This money can be either collected by your church treasurer and forwarded onto MM(UK) at the end of the year, or it can be sent direct to MM(UK).

Like most charitable giving, JMM money can be Gift Aided if the money is given by those who are

UK tax payers. If you pass the money through your church accounts then please help MM(UK) even more by adding the tax reclaim from eligible givers. If you would rather send the money direct to MM(UK) then we can supply gift aid forms for individuals to complete and return to us.

Record book and collecting boxes are available from MM(UK)

Although JMM can stand alone within your church, it is beneficial to involve JMM in all your churches mission activities. By sharing what

JMM collectors are doing at your Mission Group meetings and involving the young people in world church activities, JMM will become much more than a collecting agency and mission will become much more than money.

If you have one or more young people at your church and would like to start collecting for JMM then please get in touch with me. Contact details on page 4. Thank you for your help with making JMM a success.

Dave Friswell

The Shark God

Author: Charles Montgomery

Price: £18.99

ISBN: 0 00 720248 2

Charles Montgomery, the great grandson of a former SPG missionary bishop, grew up with family stories and tales of the South Pacific. Years later, after discovering his grandfather's journals, he set out to trace his ancestor's journey from Tasmania to Melanesia - a journey that was to become not only a test of physical endurance but one that opened a path for Charles' own religious quest.

As he battles with the dichotomy between traditional practices and Christian faith he encounters many who claim they have the 'truth'. As Charles searches for the site of Bishop Patteson's death he discovers the Melanesian Brotherhood (a dedicated group of young Anglican men who take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience) and finds that the miracles that he has been looking for are much greater than talking to sharks!

The journalistic style of the book impels one to keep reading and despite the stripping away of some of the romantic history and myth surrounding the region Charles keeps the magic and the mystery that will no doubt keep the stories and traditions alive for many centuries to come.

