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**Good News
in Anyone's**

Associate Action

Sparkies Spot *by Peter Dunstan*

'SOS! We are getting serious shocks from our electrical appliances, can you help?', was an email Peter Gillespie received from the SIL Director in Vanuatu in December 2014.

And so it was that Peter and Yvonne Gillespie, Stephen and Jayne Burn and family, my wife and I arrived at Port Vila on 1 February. Our task was to eliminate the shocks occurring at the three-story concrete building consisting of six units. Original wiring in the walls was a French non-earthed system with numerous 'topsy-turvy' additions and alterations along the way. It was like an artists palate—a wonderful mix of colours and polarities; yellow, white, green, red, black and various shades of grey, with red wires functioning as black, greens that were really red and black, etc.



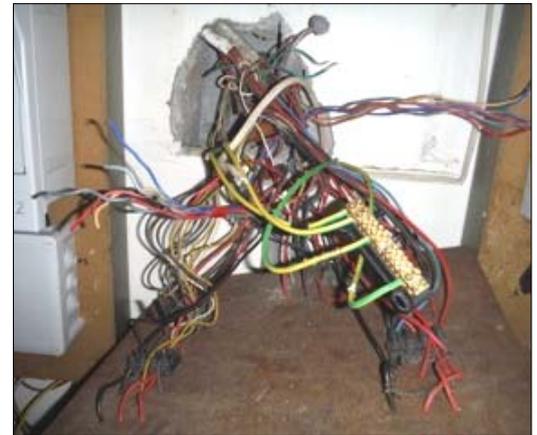
Lewi and Peter installing new switches

It was unanimously decided that we would start again from scratch and run the wires on the front of the walls (covered discreetly by ducting of course). A tour of the electrical supply stores in Port Vila ensued - including a Port Vila version of Bunnings. There was little ducting, fasteners, wire in full coils, suitable fans, switches and outlets left when we had finished our shopping.

We made a good team, supplemented by two local employees, Lewi and Edwin. Stephen worked a double shift (something I may have done thirty years ago!) taking his tools 'home' each night to our accommodation to bring it up to Aussie regulations.

After the first week we realised we wouldn't be able to finish the task of rewiring all six units in the time allotted, let alone upgrading any electrical work on the other three buildings. When we left two of the six units remained to be done and plans were made to return in May.

None of us ever said, 'No sweat!' We were soaked after only half an hour of work! (It was the wet season, and even the locals



A tangled mass of wires

complained it was hotter and more humid than normal.)

We couldn't imagine the devastation that would occur not long after we left. Along came 'Pam' not destroying our work, but increasing it by lifting the roof off one of the other three buildings. We still plan to return in May (DV) to complete the project and help where needed most. I guess though, that post-Pam means there won't be the fresh tropical fruit and vegetables that we enjoyed from the local markets, or our special Saturday breakfasts at the seashore cafe!

All in all it was a great time and I am looking forward to going back again.





Editorial

by Peter Gillespie

This edition features the work done in Vanuatu in February and points to the next team going there in May. It also demonstrates the wide range of skills that can be used in building God's kingdom.

It is often said that disaster brings out the best in people. We have certainly experienced that as we plan our next team for Vanuatu. We have been overwhelmed with the response to our call for builders and electricians. We have 13 volunteers on our next team and have now booked out all available rooms at the SIL centre in Port Vila for May/June.

Cyclone Pam has led to changes in our plans for the rest of the year as we are currently focusing on getting the centre in Port Vila restored. There are however still plans to have teams go to the Northern Territory and to Kangaroo Ground later in the year. (see back page)

During times of change and uncertainty it is encouraging to know that no matter what the circumstances, God is still in control and he will bring to completion the things he has planned. We look forward to seeing how God will work out the plans for the rest of the year for Wycliffe Associates.

New Volunteers

Wycliffe world-wide works with many Christian organisations and global partner in translation. This often involves community development and support work. Helping communities in the basics of survival is often an open door to the gospel and Bible translation.

Verity Ambler

I am a vet and have been working in a rural mixed practice in North Eastern Victoria for the past five years. Since university, I have thought a lot about how I might be able to use my veterinary skills to serve people and share God's love with them. At university, I heard about Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM) that provides opportunities for veterinarians to serve in various locations around the world and was inspired by stories of vets using their skills to serve people both physically and spiritually.

Although I really love my job, clients and community in my town, I have felt God's prompting that this year is the time for me to make a change and take the next step in my journey of faith. Hence I have resigned my job with the view to spending an extended time overseas.

I will be going to South Asia as an associate volunteer with Wycliffe and plan to work in community development, mainly in the area of veterinary help but also to teach English,



develop relationships, share my life and faith and encourage local Christians. I also hope to have the opportunity to work with children and young people.

I am looking forward to what the next couple of years might hold with a mixture of apprehension and excitement for this big change. I just pray that I will follow God's lead and faithfully do whatever is planned for me.

Brendan Jones



I bumped into a friend of mine in November last year and, to cut a very long story short, I happened to mention that I was feeling restless and wanting to do something for God. He asked if I had

ever considered going to Vanuatu. I guess he got his answer when I replied; 'Where's that?'

I explained that it sounded like a good idea but I couldn't go right now because I was working. The next day I was unexpectedly laid off due to economics. Well that answered that one!

A month or so later, all things were looking good for Vanuatu, then just as suddenly as it

started, it was all cancelled. I still felt a leading from the Lord in relation to missions, but now I had no idea where or when.

During this time, someone suggested that I should fill in a profile section on the Second Wind Ministries website. I did so, and within two weeks I received an email from Wycliffe Bible Translators in relation to my profile.

In the few weeks since then, through phone calls and emails, I was offered a role with Wycliffe volunteering in Alice Springs for a few months.

I will be helping out in the book shop in Alice Springs, as well as assisting both indigenous and non-indigenous people with IT issues and placing the audio bible into people's computers and mobile phones.

Along with this I will make myself available to help any other mission groups as required.

Sometimes the only ability God wants is availability.

USED STAMPS

Continue to send stamps to Ann Wiggins at her home address: 6/26 Jackson Street, Croydon, Vic 3136, or to the Wycliffe Office at Kangaroo Ground. Ann's email address is ann_wiggins@wycliffe.org



A Shocking Situation *by Stephen Burn*

Several electrical shocks from washing machines meant that the project to fix the electrical system had become a priority. However when talking to Peter Gillespie, he mentioned he was having trouble finding suitably qualified people.

I was thinking, 'I have suitable electrical qualifications'. Here was an opportunity to make a small contribution to God's work, to see the work happening in Vanuatu, to meet new people and see new sights. So after discussion with my wife Jayne, and prayer, we volunteered as a family to travel to Vanuatu and stayed for a fortnight.

The team met together for the first time at Brisbane International Airport, waiting for the flight to Vanuatu. We met Peter and Val Dunstan 'career' missionaries from Victoria. Over the next two weeks we heard how God had supported them. Their life experiences, and the bond that had developed between them and their example of how good marriage can be was inspirational

We were met at Port Vila airport by Greg Carlson. He managed to fit seven adults, two children and baggage into the one minivan—obviously a multi-skilled individual!

The apartment we were given to stay in was a concrete block building with suitable cyclone window shutters. Inside was comfortably laid out, with plenty of reading material and NO TV! TV can be a major time waster, and it was good to be able to read some of the Christian literature on the apartment's shelves.

The work day usually started with morning devotions, a great way to remind ourselves of who God is and why we were there. The balance of the day



Stephen at work on the power supply

was spent in what seemed like a sauna! The first couple of days were spent determining the scope of work required, then we were able to get into it. The primary objective was to get residual current devices (RCDs) on each power and light circuit, and a good earth to each location. A number of other issues surfaced along the way, such as mixed circuits with some power outlets being fed from the adjacent unit. These were dealt with appropriately!

Meal times were team affairs, with Yvonne organising, suitably assisted by Jayne and Val. After dinner on some evenings we heard stories from Peter and Val Dunstan, Greg and Bethann Carlson and John and Marlene Custer. This was one of the highlights of the trip, to hear how God had called these missionaries to serve him, how God had sustained them on their journey and the encouragement they had received from their service.



White Sands speakers listen to mega voice

Jayne spent the week day's home schooling Anthony and Hayley, something she had not attempted before, and found daunting. After Jayne discovered the Resource Centre on the compound, she was able to introduce a wider variety of activities, much to the relief of the kids!

There were two other families staying on the compound in Port Vila, with one of the mum's conducting PE classes, and she encouraged our kids to join in. Our kids formed new friendships with the other kids, and were soon disappearing to all corners of the compound to hang out with their new friends.

Weekends were a chance to have a look around the island of Efate, plenty of snorkelling and trips to some of the closer islands. Our family had a chance to go water sliding down a hill and 'zorbing' one morning. I must be getting old as it was a bit rough for me, but the kids kept going back for more.

Sunday church was at the International Fellowship. The service format reminded



Stephen and Hayley at the Dedication

me of church attendance in my school days. There was a different speaker each week, but there was a common theme – a passion for the gospel to be preached and spread.

On our last weekend in Port Vila a second Bible dedication service was held to celebrate the translation of the New Testament into the White Sands language from Tanna Island. It was amazing to hear Greg Carlson speaking in the local language, and demonstrating the Mega Voice (a solar powered voice recording of the New Testament in the White Sands language).

The local community put on a meal afterwards – a little different to the standard fare in Australia! There was a time to meet some of the people, including the local church elder George. His parting words to us as we left were 'See you in heaven' – a wonderful reminder of the hope we have to look forward to.

We are now back in Australia, having been kept safe by God, missing Cyclone Pam by a few weeks. It is strange seeing some of the media pictures of the devastation caused by the cyclone, yet having walked in some of those very locations only weeks before with no concept of what was coming. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have had, and are still enduring, the consequences.



Anthony with his new found friend

Work Teams for 2015

Northern Territory

There are plans to work in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs between July and September, dates to be advised. If you are interested in joining any of these teams contact Peter Gillespie (see below)

Kangaroo Ground

October 19—November 6, 2014

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Patio Provision

During our almost 50 years working with Wycliffe we have experienced God's provision in so many aspects. We saw this again recently.



Graeme Kelly, David Ridout, Peter Whitby

The posts and timber-work of the shade-cloth patio on our house had deteriorated. Neville had previously worked with Peter Whitby and WAA workers on several Wycliffe repair projects, so we asked his advice on what we should do to replace the patio.



Son-in-law Peter Kelly

Peter came up with a great plan and he and Neville went and purchased the necessary materials. Peter then told us he was willing to do this work with a team as a WAA project. This was a kind offer involving days of hard work on the hot roof. Working bee help came from a team of men from our Bible study Group who joined in on the heavy lifting.

A big thanks to all! The patio has a real roof and is now finished. It is already being admired and enjoyed by all.

Thanks so much.

Lead Light Windows

The morning sun is shining through the beautiful lead light windows of the front upstairs room of the Wycliffe flats in Brisbane. They have not always been so beautiful!



The ravages of time meant that the paint was peeling off and the windows were difficult to open and close. The lead lights meant that the prospect of cleaning them up and repainting was going to be a long, difficult and tedious job.

Rob Damm and Peter Whitby came to the rescue. With a lot of time, patience, expertise and technology the windows have been restored to their former glory.

Liz Linden, manager of the flats is delighted with the result. 'They not only look good but they fit better than ever' said Liz.

Thanks guys for using your skills to serve the Lord.



WYCLIFFE ASSOCIATES AUSTRALIA

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