



Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Summer 2018 Newsletter

PNGCP is the UK-based mission agency dedicated to raising awareness and support for the Anglican Church in PNG

A FAITHFUL WARRIOR LAID TO REST

After a distinguished life and career, retired-Archbishop Sir James Ayong died peacefully in Kimbe Hospital on 5th April at the age of 74. He is buried at his birth-place and family home on Kumbun Island (pop. 500), in West New Britain.

The son of an Anglican parish-priest, after schooling in Kumbun and Martyrs Memorial High School, Oro, James obtained a professional qualification at Vunadidir Administrative College before entering local government service. He served in West New Britain, then the Southern Highlands where he met his late wife, Gawali. After 14-years' service, rising to the level of Kiap (Patrol Officer), he joined the Anglican National Office as Purchasing Officer and Radio Operator. Two years later, he studied at Newton Theological College and was then ordained priest in 1982, subsequently serving in several parishes throughout the country. He became a Lecturer at Newton College, obtaining a

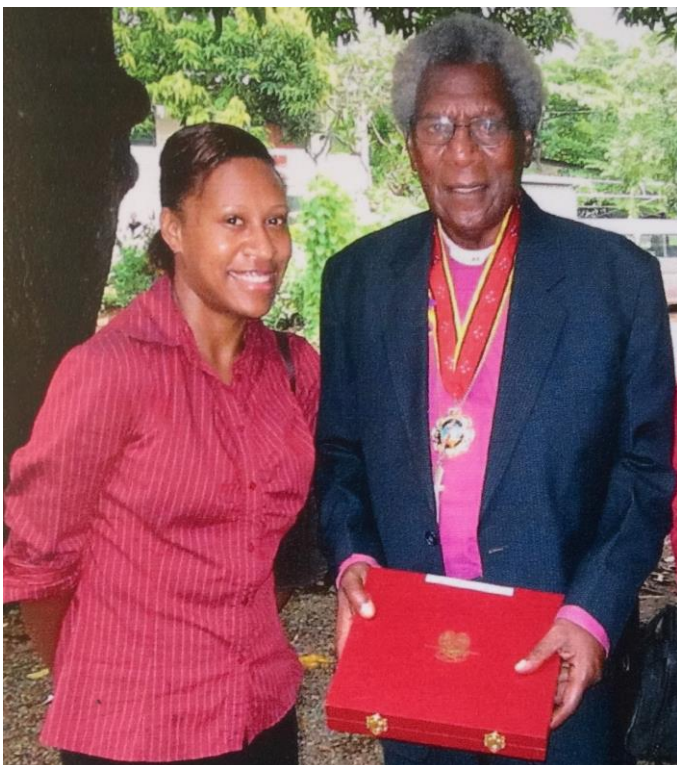


++James on patrol on the Imita Ridge with his two Assistant 'barefoot' Bishops, Denys (!) & Nathan

theology degree at Martin Luther Seminary, Lae, and a Masters degree at Chichester Theological College, England, before becoming Principal of Newton College.

As bishop of Aipo Rongo, based in Mt Hagen, Bishop James was to continue in this diocesan role when elected ACPNG Archbishop in 1996, until his retirement in 2009. Throughout his primacy, he was to prove an inspirational and courageous leader, advocating a move towards self-sufficiency for his young Province, whilst providing an outstanding model of leadership and ministry for his clergy and fellow Anglicans to aspire to. He was also widely respected outside ACPNG and his relationship and sustained dialogue with the leadership of PNG's Roman Catholic Church resulted in the signing of a formal, collaborative Covenant between the two Churches in 2003 that remains unique on the world stage 15 years later. In 2010, retired-Bishop James received the Logohu award of Grand Master for his distinguished service to the government, community and the churches in PNG and abroad by being recognised as Sir James Semon Ayong.

In retirement, whilst increasingly struggling with chronic diabetes, Bishop Sir James lived peacefully in his retirement house on his beloved Kumbun, tending his garden, enjoying island life, supporting his local priest and providing occasional wider ministry when requested by the NGI bishop. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



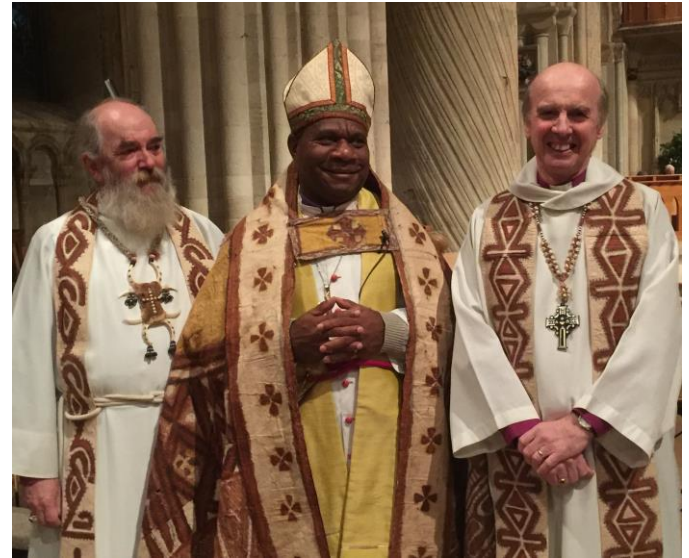
++James with grand-daughter, Claire, on receiving the Order of the Logohu, April 2012

BISHOP DENNY GUKA'S UK VISIT

Earlier this year, +Denny, Bishop of Port Moresby, came to the UK for the annual Canterbury course for new bishops, also attending the 50th anniversary of Norwich Diocese's link with PNG and enjoyed a visit to Dorset arranged by PNGCP Committee member, William Spooner:

+Peter Ramsden writes: "The Diocese of Norwich put on a most fitting and enjoyable celebration of their 50-year old diocesan companion link with Papua New Guinea on 28th January. Bishop Graham James, Dean Jane Hedges, the cathedral choir and Chapter and large congregation welcomed PNG supporters from near and far, including Bishop Denny Guka and Bishop Andrew Hedge from Waiapu, NZ, who had led pilgrims from his diocese with Bishop Jonathan and those from Norwich to PNG in 2015. Bishop Denny travelled the next day to Salisbury and on the way called in on former PNGCP General Secretary, Ted Kelly, who knew his father in Ambasi."

William writes: "I had the joy of spending three days with Bishop Denny, in between his engagements in Norwich and Canterbury. Denny stayed in rural east Dorset, travelling from there to Salisbury to visit the Cathedral and the local theological centre, Sarum College. At the Cathedral we were welcomed by the Treasurer and the Canon Treasurer and, after a scrumptious tea, given an impromptu tour of the College. Locally, we visited a parish church rebuilt in the early 1900s in the arts and crafts style where, reflecting the tastes of previous patrons, High Mass set



Present and past Bishops of Port Moresby: +Denny with retired-Bishops Peter Fox (l) and Peter Ramsden in Norwich

to the 1928 Book of Common Prayer is celebrated monthly. We then drove across Dorset to Hillfield Franciscan Friary where Denny was warmly welcomed for his stay in pidgin by Br Hugh, himself no stranger to PNG. A highlight for me was spending time with Denny, hearing about his family, how he became a priest and, over a pub dinner, meeting a young man who, in sharing with us his hopes for the future, demonstrated that, despite the distance, the UK and PNG face many of the same challenges."

Bishop Denny's UK visit was rounded off by attending the annual Canterbury Cathedral course for recently consecrated bishops from around the Anglican Communion. In between Lambeth Conferences - the next one is in 2020 - these courses give much encouragement and a sense of belonging to a bigger family than one's own diocese and province.



Ted and Ruth Kelly at home with +Denny

PNGCP Supporters' Day - Saturday 22 September 2018

Arrival & tea/coffee from 10.30am

Chapel Eucharist at 11am

Speakers (inc. historic footage and present-day photos):

- Simon Courage - Simbai Return: 1960-201
- Janet Wells – PNG Revisited: 50 years on

Bring your own lunch; tea & coffee provided

St Andrew's House, 16 Tavistock Crescent, W11 1AP

(Hammersmith & City tube to Westbourne Park; turn right out of station; right at the pub on the corner; spot the red-brick chapel straight ahead and entrance is immediately after it on the left; ring entry bell.)

OPENING OF SIMBAI TRAINING CAFÉ

Funded by a grant from The Book Stand, a Luxemburg women's group, Rev Lynn Fry, a Norwich volunteer working at Simbai Vocational Training Centre, describes the opening of a training café for young women from the area, at the heart of the parish in the new Barnabas Hall:

“Very pleased to report the opening of Barnabas Hall & Cafe at St Laurence Parish. Our first batch of students cooked, cleaned and got the cafe ready for our opening morning on Maundy Thursday. Fr Timon Darank blessed the building and, after many speeches, cappuccino, pizza, Simbai pasties and a big celebration cake with bright pink icing were served. By the time we had finished lunch we had orders for 2 Easter cakes and a pizza.

Simbai is on the up. We have new head teachers in the schools; a coffee processing plant and coffee storage being built; a new church on the way; and now a cafe. Good news all round!”



Fr Timon blesses Lynn and the trainees at the café opening



Enthusiastic trainees at the start of a new venture

.... and at the start of June: “The cafe and students are going really well. Full most days with all sorts of people in and spending money: village women who have sold coffee in for a cake; teachers marking and chatting; Jim Kas (ex-governor) and his cronies spending lots of money. Last Friday, Lashmir, on Baking, had to make 8 pizzas in an hour, from scratch. We had our first set lunch group today - 18 of them. We plan to extend our kitchen! So far, we have sold 7 birthday cakes at K25 each. Best thing, we are showing people how to make their own coffee, rather than Nescafe! And we are making a profit, going into a special projects fund for the women. We have enough money to pay wages, subsidise fees and buy gas in for another year. I plan to send two students for work experience at a new cafe in Mt Hagen.”

FOOD GARDENING DEVELOPMENTS IN SIMBAI

Tony Fry describes some of his work as a volunteer lecturer at Simbai Vocational Training Centre:

“Living 5,500 feet up in the mountains at Simbai is cool in the evenings, frost free, with lots of rain in the wet season (November-April) and a lot in the dry season too! High daytime temperatures mean rapid evaporation and crops dry out quickly – but we are malaria-free. People here are subsistence farmers, used to the extremes of the weather and terrain. Rains are torrential and have to be channeled in gulleys straight down-hill to avoid crops and topsoil being washed away. This doesn't allow the water to percolate down into the soil and, combined with the 'slash and burn' clearance of new land for gardens every two years, makes soil erosion and slippage a problem. I have been working with the students to make and use 'A' frames to help mark out contours so that planting can follow these contours to help reduce the soil erosion.

Uncovered, newly-dug soil is especially vulnerable to heavy rains, yet the use of mulches or compost are not local practices, as anything organic is usually burnt. Showing the beneficial effects of mulches and how to make compost is taking a little time. The old kunai grass roofs are usually burnt when replaced. They are heavily carbonized and waterproofed from all the smoke and difficult to compost. Trials we are undertaking, mixing in fresh cut grass and 'night water' to provide nitrogen for the microbes to feed on, look promising.



Trialling new quick-growing kaukau

Kaukau (sweet potato) is the staple food and regularly eaten thrice daily. All gardens have great swathes of kaukau which make good ground-cover, whether in shade beneath cassava and bananas, or in full sun and interplanted with sweetcorn. Planting to harvesting normally takes over a year, so any reduction or loss of crop has serious implications for the family as they have little, or no, money to spend on replacement food. Currently, we are trialing three new varieties of kaukau that can be harvested within six months of planting. We are building up stocks in the college grounds and supplying cuttings to students and villagers. This, together with improved planting methods, should help local food security.

Visibility of the college land means lots of people get to see what we are doing and learn. People are definitely interested, but only time will tell if any ideas stick.”

ACPNG NEWS:

- Heartening news from Kerina Evangelists' College, Tsendiap, in the Western Highlands, from Archbishop Allan's recent visit. Fr George Kasme, a young, enthusiastic priest from Menpa, NGI Diocese, is now Principal, with a new College Council to support him. Fr Adam Wali has joined as Lecturer, with wife, Kalitha, coordinating the Women's Programme, teaching sewing, baking, handcrafts, literacy and running the local Mothers Union. A new single boys' dorm is being built with an Australian bequest; a former MP has funded a new double classroom; and continuing help from the New Zealand Williams' Trust is inter alia helping repair the boundary fence to keep local pigs out of the College food gardens.
- Good news, too, from Newton Theological College where, under the new regime and curriculum and a Grade 12 entry requirement, students are working hard, using the reference-only library as their main study base. A new Administrator has been appointed. College Lecturer, Fr Luscombe Bera, will go for degree studies to St John's College, Auckland when Fr Spencer Kumbega finishes there this year
- Archbishop Allan has chosen Fr Theopholus Garibo, previously a Senior Military Chaplain with the PNG Armed Forces, as his new Archbishop's Chaplain
- Bishop Peter Ramsden will meet with Franciscan Minister General, Br Christopher John, during his UK visit in June
- The election of a New Guinea Islands bishop is deferred until 2019 to upgrade the Bishop's House and rebuild the Kimbe campus church. Archbishop Allan continues his oversight of the diocese, with the Vicar-General running it on a day-to-day basis
- Sister Margaret Anne CHN has died in Australia after a short illness. During her time as headmistress of Holy Name Girls' High School, Dogura, she had a profound influence on the development of the school and in the lives of many PNG women
- Sad news of two further deaths just reported: Susan Young, for many years PNGCP Press Officer; and Archdeacon Russell Baramani in Oro
- Archbishop Allan was hugely appreciative of the £12,000+ PNGCP sent to help in the wake of the massive Highlands earthquakes. This is being used as part of the rebuilding phase to help local communities recover. Grateful thanks to all PNGCP supporters who helped to make this rapid response possible



Retired Bishop James returning home from saying the 6am Office with the Kumbun parish priest

Grateful thanks for their help in compiling and distributing this Newsletter to: Lynn & Tony Fry; Margaret Poynton; Peter Milburn; William Spooner; Janet Wells; Bishop Peter Ramsden; Jasper Rea.

Any comments, queries or ideas to the Editor, John Rea johndellarea@yahoo.co.uk

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