

DELTA DIARIES

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Dear Friends,

...Received a great letter today, the kind that makes your day:

Dear Barb

Thank you for the wonderful DVDs you sent me, which I showed here in Baimuru: *Into the War Zone* and *Law and Justice* (Madeline Kaipu). They touched every heart and people were blessed. This Friday we are going to see *The Lazarus Phenomenon*...I and my team will be going from Mapaio to Kairimai. If you have any further DVDs for my evangelism could I pick them up?

With love: *Rev Mane Houe, United Church Urika Circuit*

Note: Madeline Kaipu is a young lady who grew up here at Kapuna and trained as a nurse but sadly is currently in prison.



A Village Changes for the Better

...A road opening in the swamp? That's what the letter said!!!! The road (and new village) was built with much sweat by a small coastal village called Upaia. The initiative came from the leaders' workshops held last year. We are delighted this village has taken a good step to making their village healthier.

When Barb and team went down to open the road, the two pastors (UC and Church of Christ) told them they had a number who wanted to be baptized. So the pastors were supplied with bible studies and asked to prepare them.

Upaia also hosted one the Easter gatherings. Kaivila (our Hospital administrator) and his Dorothy (Baimuru women's council president) led the team from Kapuna and together with the pastors they baptized over 40 on Easter Sunday. Isn't it interesting that the move to bring change to the outside of the village went hand-in-hand with the spiritual change?

Here is a report from the *Messenger* (Newsletter put out for the Churches in the Delta):

UPAIA VILLAGE

...Youths from Bekoro and others from Aiere and Mariki villages paddled to Upaia for the Easter weekend. Some people had requested to be baptized, so a team went from Kapuna to give teaching and take them through this time...

Kairu'u Church Opening

(and wedding of Pastor Michael and Esther)
...There has not been a church in this section of the village since the 1960s. Michael who graduated from the Four Square Bible School in Port Moresby told us that before starting the church he sought agreement from the tribal leaders, who at first rejected him. He left their meeting in tears.

Later they came to him as they had no peace in what they had done.

He then sought agreement from the United Church pastor and elders of Akoma (the main village).

They said, 'the people of Kairu'u are lost, not one has come to church for years. Do what you can. And so by God's grace he did, and is busy with the church, getting married, and taking the church youth on outreach trips, one here to Kapuna, 20 of them paddling the 40km round trip

The hardest worker on the building is an unlikely candidate, a known drug head (as they are called here). He was at Kapuna last year with a knife stab but survived.

God uses surprising people, don't think he has surrendered yet, the lips are still red (beetle nut), but for sure something is happening in the heart.



...It was a surprise when 46 went into the water, including the Village Chief and his wife! After the baptism in water, the new believers were prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The presence of God was so powerful and many were slain in the Holy Spirit.

One of the Christians was praying with his eyes open and saw smoke filling the shelter where they were praying. He thought someone must have lit a fire and the smoke was blowing in. But later he checked and there was no fire, only God's tongues of fire. God was there!!

Another extract from the Messenger:

...EASTER - KINIPO KIDZ KAMP

Canoe loads of children and Sunday School Teachers from Akoma, Ikinu, Kapuna and Varia arrived on Thursday for Easter camp at Kinipo (about 200 children).

This was the first time we have had such a camp for children and they were really happy. A number of children gave their hearts to the Lord and everyone was blessed. Thanks, Kinipo, for all your hard work and may the Lord bless you.

Hope you enjoy the Ageing Dilemma

*Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not among the dead,
Though I'm getting more forgetful and mixed up in my head.
I've got used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned.
I can manage my bifocals, but, Oh dear, I miss my mind.*

*Sometimes I can't remember when standing by the stair,
If I should be going up for something or if I just came down from
there.
And before the fridge so often my mind is filled with doubt,
Now did I put some food away? Or come to take it out?*

*Sometimes when it is night time with my night cap on my head,
I don't know if I'm retiring, or just getting out of bed.
If it's not my turn to write dear, I hope you won't get sore,
I think I may have written and don't want to be a bore.*

*So remember I do love you and wished that you lived near,
But now it's time to mail this and say goodbye my dear.
At last I stood beside the mail box, (my face it sure got red),
Instead of mailing this to you, I opened it instead.*

The Call to Politics

...At the end of 2007 our newly elected Provincial Governor asked us to join his executive council and take responsibility for Health and Education. Ouch and sweat, was this really us?

It seemed like the good life of watching the bananas grow and feasting on pawpaws was in serious jeopardy.

After some months of uncertainty, we were banished to stay in the swamp. All smiles.

A Little Fun

For our Oz friends: What was the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?

Answer: Andy (And he sang as he...)

For Guy Fawkes crazies: What did the police do to the kid caught with illegal fireworks?

Answer: they let him off

A specialist dictated a letter to a GP. He said: 'The patient is mentally handicapped, low IQ.' The letter to the GP read: 'The patient is mentally handicapped, just like you'!

Family news:

...*Lavara* has a new occupational therapist job and is enjoying traveling the Auckland region to see her patients. Her husband, Jeremy, is creating a new food industry called 'Easy Nosh' to provide healthy easy-prepared food for busy people...

...*Stephanie* is in her final year of a Health Management degree and recently won the Miss Divine Word University contest (not only for looks but brains as well!!)...

...*Janai* is about to graduate from Masters Teachers College...

...*Jadon* is in his first year at University in Auckland taking Design. He is doing very well and just won a scholarship, which will cover three-quarters of his school fees for the next four years...

A Book in the Making

...Dr Lin is busy writing a health book on the things she has learnt over the years.

The first two sections have been typed by visiting friends and medical students from the US, who have all enjoyed typing it and are encouraging her to make it available to a wider sphere than PNG...do we enter the age of technology and put it on the Web??

Anybody out there wise in the ways of webs who would like to help?



...*Shiana* (above) loves playing soccer, and had a pet puppy for a couple of months and taught it to sit and shake hands (we're not allowed mature dogs here so it had to be returned)...

...Thank you for your interest in us swamp people, God is so good...

Love to you all from Lin, Barb, Colin, and family

Thank you to those who have donated to our work this year...bless you

Kiwibank Account: OKS Kapuna
Account number: 38-9006-0327945-00

Please use this account for any donations, or post cheques to: Calvert, 27 Valley Road, Waimauku RD1, Auckland 0881 (Please make cheques out to OKS Kapuna)
....And we still have one supporter who will match any donations...dollar-for-dollar...for the rest of this year!!!

Gulf Christian Services: **Kapuna Hospital**, Private Bag, Baimuru, Gulf Province, Papua New Guinea.

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