

# Contact

*Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship*

*April 2010*

*64th Year Issue No. 246*



# VISION 2010

**Our vision is to fulfill the communication and technical needs of the Church serving remote communities - where others cannot or will not meet the need. We will be a team united in Christ that is well trained and adequately resourced, focussed on delivering high quality products, services and training where they will be of greatest impact to serve the Church as it grows God's Kingdom throughout PNG.**



In our last Contact we updated you on the new agreement between MAF International and CRMF, also that CRMF has looked again at its vision - in other words what we believe are the ministry needs in PNG we should be fulfilling.

Ministry in PNG is at an interesting stage. Some 30 years ago PNG was blessed with many missionaries, but now there are far fewer living in remote areas. This is mainly due to much of the early evangelism work being completed and handed over to the national churches to continue. So the services CRMF supply must be aimed not just at missionaries, but also assisting the young church in PNG. Especially when it comes to technology, as fewer missionaries are here to help.

A vision process first involves looking at the current ministry. What we found was that our current work is highly valued by the churches and missions, especially our large HF radio expertise and frequency network. This was exciting, as this confirmed that even with the growth of mobile phone services, HF radio is still a vital component of ministry in remote locations. HF radio has always been CRMF's main core, and it is expected to remain so.

Other current services that people in ministry really appreciate are our computer support (including sales, repairs, wireless networking, and email options), solar and alternative power expertise, our guest house facilities at Goroka, and training courses that we run for church workers.

So how do we know what will be required in the future? This is difficult to predict as PNG is a diverse country, as are the missions and their existing support structures. However two main opportunities seemed to come to the front:

- Firstly there appears to be a need for us to further develop our basic training courses on electronic fault finding for HF radio installations, solar power, and computer operation. This is not surprising due to many missionaries leaving the remote areas.
- Secondly, due to our closer association with MAF, we have become aware of MAF's "Learning Technologies" branch. This arm of MAF strives to provide access to theological training and mentoring for remotely located church workers. It is not like a distance bible

college, but rather they come along side existing training institutions and help them with ideas of how to reach the remote church leaders effectively, without pulling them out of their bush locations for training. Sometimes technical solutions (such as use of MP3 players, mobile phone, HF radio, computer systems, etc) could be appropriate and helpful, whereas at other times just good story telling techniques would help. A church organisation recently told me that 60% of their pastors had no theological training. We at CRMF are excited by this ministry as we can see a huge potential in a country where remoteness is such a barrier to so many.

The biggest challenge is now to make our new vision happen. The hurdles may be great, but as with any organisation it's the people in it that make a big difference. We have some excellent staff, but like so many other missions worldwide are limited in what we can achieve due to manpower and expertise. We struggle to find new missionaries willing to serve long term with us, and new national workers that have a heart for the Lord and enough basic education to begin a training process.

But we have a great God and it is His work we are called to do. He is faithful and promises to supply all our needs.

Please pray that people will respond to God's calling to serve with us.

*A person competent in IT who could guide and train National staff who would work with the National pastors to help them in this great need. Someone who is gifted in fault finding and repairing radios and other technical equipment is required urgently and also an experienced Administrator who is able to train and supervise our National staff to help them achieve all that they can. These become especially important as we come closer to the time when Norm and Chris retire.*

And above all please pray that we can be faithful to the Lord in everything we say and do, to hear His voice and leading daily, as we seek to please Him alone.

**Michael Wakefield**

**Is God challenging  
YOU  
to be a part of this  
ministry?  
Could you meet any  
of these needs?**

**I have made you a  
light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring  
salvation to the ends  
of the earth.**

Acts 13 : 47

**Then He said to His disciples,  
"The harvest is plentiful  
but the workers are few.  
Ask the Lord of the harvest,  
therefore, to send out workers  
into His harvest field."**

Matthew 9 : 37 & 38

# A RADIO FOR KOTIDANGA



Villagers...



Village on way to Kotidanga...



Fogbound at Goroka



Looking back to Kanabea airstrip from the road to Kotidanga...

Just two days before the end of 2009, Dan and my granddaughter Lucy and I were scheduled to fly out of Goroka, bound for a mountain airstrip at Kanabea in the Gulf Province of PNG.

Our destination was Kotidanga, the home of American Independent Baptist Missionary, Matt Allen, his wife Becky and their two children. Dan was to install an HF radio which would greatly ease the communication challenges faced by these people.

As well as being able to transmit and receive, an HF radio also gives access to a host of other communication channels such as commercial radio and news services - quite a bonus in such remote places.

Kotidanga is also home for Matt's parents, John and Selina, who have taken on very important roles within that mission. John is involved in Bible translation (translating the Word to the local Kamea language) and Selina, who is a registered nurse, operates the local first aid post.

When we awoke that morning there was a thick blanket of fog enveloping most of Goroka. Would we get off the ground in these conditions?

We arrived at the airport at 7am as scheduled but it was about 9.30am by the time the loading of the chartered cargo (*building materials*) was complete and the fog had lifted sufficiently for us to take off.

Dan, Lucy and I were the only passengers with a back row seat overlooking the cargo. It was an hour's flight to Kanabea and a further 40 min drive over potholes and washouts on the road.

With the exception of a few sheets of fibreglass the rest of the cargo (including quite a number of sheets of roofing iron) was portered by the local people from the airstrip, some arriving as late as four in the afternoon.

The Kamea people are small in stature with an average height of about 5ft (150cm). But they are very strong and show remarkable endurance, as was displayed in carrying the cargo over the rough terrain from Kanabea to Kotidanga.

The ground in this area is very clayey and Dan's first choice of a ground site for the radio antenna proved unsuitable so he opted for the roof of Matt's house.

John and a few of the Kamea people sorted out the guy wires and cables on the ground while Dan, Matt and I set about starting to get the antenna erected.

Dan kept a cool head sorting out any problems that cropped up especially working with a couple of novices, but it all worked out and we had the antenna up before dark.

After dinner that evening, it was back to work for Dan and Matt getting the radio installed and set up. It was quite late that night when the tools were laid to rest.

Next morning, I woke to the sound of a trickle in the down pipe and looked out the window to see we were again blanketed in fog. From a personal point of view this was a concern as my wife and I were due to fly out of PNG in a few days.

But Matt told us not to worry as early morning fog usually lifts by about 8.00am, and it did.

Dan's next challenge was to make contact with the outside world, a feat he was not destined to achieve while there, due to commercial interference on the frequencies he was using. But Matt was confident that Dan could sort it out once back in Goroka. This he did, the radio link was working within an hour of our return, it was just a matter of choosing suitable frequencies for that area.

During the return trip John told me of some of the health difficulties they face in this part of the world. He told me of his brush with malaria and typhoid during the previous 12 months. These illnesses are not endemic of that region which is in an elevated area, but, local people travel down to the coastal plains where the diseases are prevalent sometimes returning with infections.

John's wife Selina works in co-operation with a hospital at Kanabea, often sharing supplies of drugs. Recently there was a case of scabies at the hospital but didn't have the necessary drugs, Selina did, so they were able to share.

Thank the Lord that people are working in this area and also that He has provided a much-needed doctor for the hospital as there has not been a doctor there for quite some time.

I would also like to praise God for providing the CRMF team in PNG to do the very important work they are doing there. We pray that He will continue to watch over them and keep them safe in trying times in their day-to-day lives in a not-always safe environment. Also, giving thanks for the MAF pilots who provide safe travel to remote areas throughout PNG.

Without this service many of the installations and missions undertaken by CRMF staff would not be possible, or would be severely delayed.

**Aaron Perrett**

# GUESS WHO'S COMING TO STAY?

Things are different now for CRMF. Instead of being the mission station in the bush for over 40 years, CRMF is now the mission in a provincial capital, close to the shops, airlines and government services.

This means many missionaries, pastors and visitors pass through Goroka on their way to places or they come to Goroka to do their business or for some it is to have a holiday. This year, five of our eleven CRMF houses in Goroka, are not occupied by our own staff. Over the last five years or so CRMF guest houses have been providing yet another branch of our service to the missions and churches in PNG.

But it's the people we meet along the way that make this ministry an enjoyable one for us. We have our regular bush missionaries who come to Goroka every month or so to restock their supplies and to enjoy an internet connection with the outside world. Then there are the visitors from overseas who come on mission trips and work parties. Others come and stay a while at our place while they are involved in other ministries around Goroka. Now, our guest houses together with our new training room facilities are providing a service to the missions and churches of Papua New Guinea.

For me personally this aspect of the ministry of CRMF is most rewarding. I enjoy getting to know people from different countries, different missions, different vocations, yet all united with one purpose to serve the Lord in PNG.

The list is long and varied, recently the PNG doctors came for training and we cooked and housed them. An interesting time – do I give them PNG type foods or our Australian type meals?

Soon after this all our accommodation was taken up for a few days by the Bible Translators Association of PNG who were also using our training room facilities for their seminar.

During the next few months some longer term visitors came. A doctor and his wife with Medical Ambassadors use our housing a couple of times each year for a month or two, while they work with national people in promoting village health, aids awareness and godly living. They took our national CRMF staff for an aids awareness seminar while they were on site.

Next an ophthalmologist arrived from New Zealand. He was here to learn a new technique of cataract surgery from an ophthalmologist (from Cameroon/Germany) who has been here in Goroka for about

3 years and has done well over 10,000 surgeries. The same week another ophthalmologist and his wife working in Zambia arrived to check out PNG and the eye surgery done here.

A church group had a huge gathering in Goroka towards the end of the year with 10's of thousands of people attending. One Australian family stayed at CRMF, they were soon to move to mission work in Nepal.

One Sunday afternoon we received a phone call asking for accommodation for 11 YWAM'ers, from several different countries, on their way to Goroka from Kainantu and needing accommodation. After a bit of a shuffle around and some bed making, they were delighted to enjoy hot showers and home comforts for a few nights after living in a village situation for a few weeks.

There was a bit of a lull over Christmas/New Year, then it all started happening again. The eye Doctor told a patient about our accommodation, so while she had surgery on her eyes this missionary lady stayed at our guest house. Originally from New Zealand, she has been in PNG since 1966! After the surgery, since she could not read or watch TV we "storied quite a bit".

What a special bunch of the Family of God we get to rub shoulders with and serve! And that is not our "real day job" at CRMF, but our accommodation sure is appreciated from what we hear.

*Chris Turtle*



*Missionary families gather supplies for the long journey home*

# A LESSON IN LOVE...



*Jayjay with intellectually handicapped carer*



*Linus reading Christmas story*

However our visit went ahead with the parents and children of those who were severely handicapped. Our staff put on a puppet show, read stories, played gentle games, sang songs, gave the children a bag with all kinds of goodies in it and then had an afternoon tea party with the children and families.

In the Eastern Highland Province alone this centre has oversight of close to 600 children living with their families at home. Staff from Mt Zion regularly visit the families and encourage parents/carers to assist the children in developing some life skills suitable for their disability level. Gradually the live-in schooling is being phased out as children are being integrated into the normal school situation.

The Principal of the school for the last six years Mr Justin Wagame and his wife especially touched our hearts and made us thankful for healthy bodies and healthy children in our CRMF families. This couple have three children Jesse 21, Jason 20 and Bassie 18. Imagine coping with one blind child in the family, but all three of their children are blind and have intellectual disabilities to varying degrees. And yet Mr Wagame has chosen to use his skills to assist other children and parents who are in a similar situation. His wife, Cecilia has a huge task from day to day just being with her children all the time. We noticed other teachers/carers at the centre who were disabled themselves yet they also spend their days caring for the disabled children.

In Papua New Guinea there are few aides and gadgets to make life easier for anyone, far less the severely handicapped.

It was a day, we trust, when our staff learned to give out and to be thankful to God for our healthy functioning bodies. Please pray for the staff, carers and the handicapped children in this nation.

*Chris Turtle*

In recent years CRMF staff have visited places around Goroka at Christmas time just to show we care and to show the love of Christ to people who are often forgotten in society. Our recent visit was to Mt Zion School for the handicapped just a few kilometres outside of Goroka. Originally a live-in school for blind children, it now takes in children with all sorts and degrees of handicaps.

At the time of our visit many of the children who were less disabled were attending the games for the handicapped in Port Moresby.

# STAFF UPDATES

# CRMF FAREWELLS LINA!



Lina Tomagau joined CRMF in January 2002 as an electronics technician. She was the first and to date only female technician we have trained. She completed her 4 years of technical training through Port Moresby Technical College. Lina gained some experience in VHF radio repair but in recent years she moved more into the computer area and for the last two years she was our only IT technician. After seven years with us she decided to resign in December and spend some time at home with her family who live near Ukarumpa. She hopes to take up some further studies later on.

Lina has demonstrated an ability to do her work well and she will be missed by many of our customers. Staff members of CRMF will also miss Lina and we wish her God's blessing in this new phase of her life.

**Chris Turtle**



**Kannah Giok** shares with  
**Shannon Perrett**

Kannah Giok began with CRMF in March 2008 after successfully completing grade 12 at Caritas Secondary High School in Port Moresby. Originally employed to operate the HF Radio and carry out sked time, Kannah quickly moved to assisting customers over the phone and at the front counter. In her first 18 months she progressed to processing Radio Licensing Applications and helping customers who purchased radios to send their application to Pangtel.

CRMF has a policy that every two years they pay for the travel for full-time employees to their home village. As Kannah was approaching her 2-year anniversary she travelled home over Christmas. Kannah's family is from Karkar Island in Madang Province. In order to reach her village Kannah had to take a Public Motor Vehicle (PMV) from Goroka to Madang, catch a boat to Karkar Island and then walk for 45 minutes to her village. Kannah's father was an elder in their village, however he passed away while she was in high school. Kannah's mum still

lives with her dad's family in the village where they grow bananas and taro. While home she spent most of her time with her mum and helping her brothers and sisters with fishing and gardening.

Kannah has come back to a different role, she is currently learning to enter invoices, printing statements, enter phone patch invoices and other new procedures.

She enjoys working in a Christian environment with others who share her strong Christian values. She is a diligent worker and a mean volley-ball player, as we discovered at our Christmas bung! She is actively involved in the Four Square Church in Goroka and lives at their accommodation with her sister who works as an administrator at the church. Kannah is also involved in Awana Youth Ministry.

Although CRMF would be disappointed to have her leave, eventually Kannah would like to pursue further studies in the future.

## ANNOUNCING!

We now have capability for providing receipts by email. If you would like to receive your receipts in this way and help us cut down on costs, please indicate when sending donations.

You are also able to receive Closer Contact (prayer points) by email, this is in the same format as the printed version, so you can print them off at home.

Please let us know if you would like to take up these options, this can be a simple way that you can contribute to keeping down our postage costs. **Please remember to include your email address.**

### AUSTRALIA

5 Court Street, Box Hill, Vic 3128

Phone: (03) 9890 2338

Fax: (03) 9899 6063

E-mail: [crm-f-australia@maf.org](mailto:crm-f-australia@maf.org)

Postal address: P O Box 39,

Box Hill, VIC, 3128

Inquiries : Sheila Stewart  
(Ministry Coordinator)

### NEW ZEALAND

c/- MAF

PO Box 76502

Manukau City 2241

New Zealand

Phone: (64 9) 262 1725

### Representatives

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr Bob Harland

Winmalee NSW 2777

Phone: (02) 4754 5465

#### QUEENSLAND

Mr James Mollenhauer

Rothwell QLD 4022

Phone: 0439 798 600

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

P O Box 1307, Goroka E.H.P. P.N.G.

#### Workshop

Phone: (0011675) 532 2670

(0011675) 532 2673

Mobile: (0011675) 697 2670

Fax: (0011675) 532 2413

E-Mail: [crmfpng@online.net.pg](mailto:crmfpng@online.net.pg)

**Staff:** Dan & Shannon Perrett

Norm & Chris Turtle

Michael & Rachael Wakefield

Linus Edward; Kannah Giok;

Naomi Harie; Koniel Idei;

Agnes Isaac; Jayjay Jagaro;

Peter Jerry; Asiah Kili;

Bryan Matthew; Brian Simon

Visit our Web Site  
[www.crmf.com](http://www.crmf.com)