



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday January 3rd 2021

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Mission Liaison Group Second Life Pasifika

Many of you will have heard, read, or seen of the Cyclone Yasi devastating parts of Fiji. It has been the strongest cyclone recorded in the Pacific with winds close to 350 kph.

John, on behalf of MLG, contacted Rev. Chris Meneilly, who worked in Fiji and whose wife Rev. Esets Meneilly is Fijian. The result of the discussion has been the determination to send at least one container of relief goods to Fiji.

It's expected Australian and New Zealand governments will respond with short-term and longer-term, aid.

MLG will play a central part in a different sort of aid. Coconut palms are stripped in such a way that it will be between 5 and 7 years before they can be back in full production, banana palms and pawpaws are similarly stripped, if not torn right out of the ground. They will bear again more quickly. But the great loss is to root crops which are killed by the wind-borne salt spray. Houses may be uprooted or totally destroyed. If that happens household contents may be blasted apart, clothing and linen blown away and even crockery and cutlery just disappear. Power and water supplies may be disrupted. With power off frozen goods kept by people in urban areas will thaw and be useless, if not used immediately.

**Mission Liaison Group
Second Life Pasifika cont'd.**

So, MLG will set about ordering a shipping container to send to our contacts in Fiji: the Methodist Church. We'll be happy to receive clothing, bedding, kitchenware, schoolbooks—and even non-perishable food. and financial donations to help meet the expected cost of about \$5,500—\$6, 000 for freight and other charges would also be warmly welcome.

Once further information is to hand MLG will be calling for a “flash mob” on a Saturday morning in January to sort and pack goods into cartons and then into the container itself. Maybe we could even beat the record set some years back in similar circumstances when a container was packed and sealed in 31/2 hours!

We'll keep you informed.

Some details about the charity:

- ❖ Address: Unit 24 360 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough Vic. 3173
- ❖ Email: johnkstol@netspace.net.au
- ❖ Charity size: small
- ❖ Who the charity helps:
Families, financially disadvantaged people,
Overseas communities or charities,
People at risk of homelessness/people experiencing homelessness
Unemployed people
Victims of disaster
- ❖ Date established: 1977
- ❖ Operates in Victoria
- ❖ Operates in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tonga and Vanuatu
- ❖ ABN 57 655 904 353
- ❖ Electronic Transfers: Uniting Church Mission Liaison Group
CBA Chelsea BSB 063 118 Account Number 1005 9600

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2020 and
JANUARY 2021

January 3rd Christmas 2
Jeremiah 31: 7-14, Psalm 147: 12-20,
Ephesians 1: 3-14, John 1: (1-9), 10-18
Bible Reader: Marjorie Barry
Prayers for the People: David Runia

January 10th Baptism of Jesus
Genesis 1: 1-5, Psalm 29
Acts 19: 1-7, Mark 1: 4-11
Bible Reader: David Roach
Prayers for the People: The Reverend Bob Thomas

January 17th Epiphany 2
1 Samuel 3: 1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6: 12-20, John 1: 43-51
Bible Reader: Carol Naylor
Prayers for the People: Judy Greer

January 24th Epiphany 3
Jonah 3: 1-5, 10, Psalm 62: 5-12,
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31, Mark 1: 14-20
Bible Reader: Rod Greer
Prayers for the People: The Reverend Bob Thomas

KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.”**

John 1: 1

From Bob Thomas

“I was looking at the statistics on our webpage and it is interesting to note that over 80% of those who visit it are from overseas and about a third of these are from the USA. We are currently getting over 450 “hits” per day, which I think is pretty good for a small town church.”

Bob

Recycled Treasure and Second-hand Book Sale
Saturday January 16th
8.00am—12noon
with a Sausage Sizzle.

Your help needed on
Friday January 15th from 9.00am to help set up
both sales.

Then on Saturday from 8.00am to help sell
“everything” or be the chef on the BBQ
and finally help pack up from 12noon on the
Saturday.

This is our first fundraiser for many months so any
help at any time would be greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yes the year is drawing to close and it is time to put pen to paper
and prepare the Annual Reports.

You may be wondering what you can include in your report as
there does not seem much to say, but once you start thinking it
may surprise you to find that although this past year has been one
we will all never forget, we must make sure that in the future 2020

CHANGED ANY CONTACT DETAILS?

If you have changed your address, phone numbers, or email address
would you kindly send the details to Dianne Sapwell via the church
email address (on the front page of the newsletter).

A new directory will be available in January and it would be great to
have your contact details correct.