

*Update: Vanuatu:*

Last Thursday I contacted those members of the congregation with email regarding the plight of the Vanuatu men that worship at our church while working at Flavourite in Warragul. These men were on a seasonal working visa, away from their families for 9 months while they save as much as they can to support their villages back in Vanuatu.; primarily for their children's education and to build cyclone proof houses.

Since there are no flights out of Oz, and Vanuatu has also closed its borders, the men cannot return home. Although the Australian Govt. had promised to renew visas, the process was so slow that, until the visas could be renewed, the group had no work.

In that email I asked if anyone could help with Coles gift vouchers for food and fuel, or a donation made to the church for ongoing support. The reaction has been tremendous and there is now \$1255 in vouchers and cash. The good news is that 4 of the group, Mawson, Tui, David and Wycliffe have now been reassessed and the visas renewed. They can now return to work. We are still waiting to hear about Tonni. But it will be a short week with little pay at first.

The church executive has allocated \$1000 from church funds to assist with the ongoing care for the boys. This means we have \$2255 to assist with an ongoing care; and I say ongoing because there other issues to be considered.

Three of the group were to return home while there were still flights from Australia. Unfortunately, Vanuatu closed its borders on the eve of their departure and, as they were flying with Virgin Airlines, there has been no guarantee that those airfares will be honoured when they can finally return home. So they may have to pay again.

And when they can return, they will be returning to devastation. Houses destroyed and crops destroyed. The purpose of coming to Australia was to save enough to further their children's education and to build cyclone proof houses. Now the savings will have to be used to renew the crops and to patch up the existing dwellings.

If we can continue to offer support for food and fuel, thereby not eroding the savings, there is a better chance of the group fulfilling the original objectives.

So, if you can help in any way, that would be terrific. Perhaps if you would like to give me a ring on either 56110466 or 0418 863 708, we can discuss the best way.

I fully understand that things are most difficult at this time, so please don't feel obliged in any way.

Dave Morison

- \* The magazine *Crosslight* has arrived at the office. if you have other reasons to be out on Tuesday or Thursday mornings a copy can be picked up from the front door of the church. Otherwise you can read it <https://crosslight.org.au/2020/03/27/new-easy-to-read-digital-crosslight/>
- \* Prayers of support can be requested in the same way as always: contact John & Olwyne Currie 5623 1762 or the office.
- \* We encourage you to maintain a regular financial commitment to enable the church to maintain our worship, witness and service. Direct debit details are available from the office. Keep your envelopes up to date and they will be gathered at a later time. If you normally place cash in the bowl at church, put it in a special box at home and bring it when we once again gather. And if your financial circumstances have changed, it is quite right to change what you make available to the church.

On behalf of the leadership team    Eric Smith    0400 638 936    Mary Rowleron    5623 3135

David Morison    5611 0466 or 0418 863 708