



CONNECT

AUGUST 2023

DEKOVEN VISIT

Dr Stan and Joan DeKoven will be visiting us this month. A timeline of their trip is included within this edition of Connect.

Timeline on page 4

GHANA TRIP REPORT

Pr Mike Groom visited Ghana in July. He has written a report from his trip. Have a look inside for the report and some photos.

Report on pages 6-7

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Benjamin and Asinate Wari are now in Vanuatu! Mikaela Groom has also written another report. See their updates inside.

Updates on pages 5 & 8-11

WELCOME TO ACC

Welcome to this month's edition of Connect News. We have a busy month at Adelaide Christian Centre (ACC) with Dr Stan DeKoven and his lovely wife Joan visiting us later in the month.

We have a number of meetings with them that will be a real blessing for you to attend. Please see page 4 for more details. Register now at the info desk at church, or email the office, for the various meetings with the DeKovens for catering purposes.

I have written a report of my recent visit to Ghana on pages 6-7 for your information. There is also a report from Mikaela our missionary serving in Papua New Guinea on pages 8-11, and an update on Benjamin and Asinate Wari

who have now arrived in Vanuatu from Bethel Centre, Port Moresby. They will be serving as missionaries on the island of Espiritu Santo and are supported by our four local churches.

Please refer to our website for all information relating to our church ministries, including Equip Training College, children and youth ministry, global missions and more.

You can also look online for all the activities and information relating to Adelaide City Care and Adelaide Christian Schools at www.adelaidecitycare.com.au and www.acschools.edu.au.

Blessings,
Pr Mike Groom

MINISTRIES PRAYER

For all details regarding our church ministries, please refer to our church website and Facebook groups.

If you would like to join a mid-week connect group, please contact the church office or visit our website: www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au/connect/connect-groups/

Grow Kids: www.facebook.com/groups/515902745980537

Elevate Kids: www.facebook.com/groups/elevateacc

Empower Youth: www.facebook.com/groups/empoweryouthacc

Engage Young Adults: www.facebook.com/groups/engagesturtstreet/

Missions Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Benjamin and Asinate Wari as they settle into life in Vanuatu. Pray for a smooth transition and a blessing over their ministry during their missionary service.
- Please pray for Mikaela Groom as she continues her missionary service in Papua New Guinea. Please pray for her involvement in Bethel Sunday school that the changes taking place will be a real blessing to our Bethel Tabernacle of Praise church.

Church Prayer Requests

- Please contact the church office if you have any prayer requests.



ETC TEACHING SEMINAR Saturday 26th August

Dr Stan will be sharing in a teaching seminar for our ETC students and anyone else who wants to come. The cost is \$25 each (ETC students are free) and the theme is Basic Christian Counselling. It will be held at ACC beginning at 8:30am.

YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING Tuesday 29th August

All young adults are welcome to enjoy a night of fun and fellowship at the Grooms house from 6:30pm. The cost of the night is \$10 each. There will be a time of ministry with Dr Stan and pizza will be served for dinner.

LADIES DESSERT NIGHT Friday 1st September

All ladies are welcome to come along to ACC from 7:30pm to enjoy a night of fellowship with Joan. The cost of the night is \$10 each. Feel free to invite your friends for what is sure to be a great night!

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday 2nd September

All men are welcome to come along to ACC from 8:30am to enjoy a morning of great food and ministry with Dr Stan. The cost of breakfast is \$10 each. You are more than welcome to invite your friends to the breakfast.



DR STAN & JOAN DEKOVEN

Dr Stan and Joan DeKoven will be with us from Friday 25th August until Sunday 3rd September. There will be a range of programs and events taking place during their visit.

Basic Christian Counselling Seminar Saturday 26th August 2023

\$25 each (Equip Training College students are free)

8:30am Registration and coffee
9:00am Welcome and introduction
9:15am First Session - Principals of Christian Care Giving
10:00am Break
10:05am Second Session - Counseled to Counsel
10:50am Break - Morning Tea
11:15am Third Session - Kingdom Counseling (Part 1)
12:00pm Break
12:10pm Fourth Session - Kingdom Counseling (Part 2)
1:00pm Questions and answers
1:30pm Close (take away lunch)

Sunday Services Sunday 27th August 2023

Adelaide Christian Centre at 10:00am and 5:30pm.

Young Adults Gathering Tuesday 29th August 2023

Grooms house at 6:30pm. \$10 each.

Tips for Dealing with the Pressures of Ministry and Leadership Wednesday 30th August

Adelaide Christian Centre from 12:30 - 2:30pm. \$20 each.

Tips for Dealing with Anxiety and Depression Thursday 31st August 2023

Adelaide Christian Centre from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. \$10 each.

Ladies Dessert Night with Joan Friday 1st September 2023

Adelaide Christian Centre at 7:30pm. \$10 each.

Men's Breakfast with Dr Stan Saturday 2nd September 2023

Adelaide Christian Centre at 8:30am. \$10 each.

BENJAMIN & ASINATE WARI

Benjamin and Asinate Wari are missionaries to Vanuatu. They are based near Luganville on the northern island of Espiritu Santo at our World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) property.

After a long wait, they left Papua New Guinea (PNG) on Wednesday 26th July bound for Vanuatu. They spent one night in Fiji with Asinate's friends and family before travelling onto Vanuatu on Thursday 27th July

Benjamin is the son of Pr Ai Wari, one of our senior pastors at Bethel Tabernacle of Praise in Port Moresby. He has been part of the church his whole life and has served in various different capacities. He was working full time but decided to give up work to enter into full time ministry prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He spent a few months in the Philippines as a short-term missionary prior to the pandemic. He was based in our church

in Pasig initially and also ministered in other churches. In 2022 he operated as principal of WMFTS at Bethel International Training College (BITC).

Asinate is from our Sigatoka CRC church in Fiji. She went to PNG as a student in 2018 and completed WMFTS before enrolling in Bethel Preschool Teacher Training Course. She graduated as a preschool teacher in 2020 and spent some time assisting Viema Vakacegu, another missionary from Fiji, in the running of the course.

Benjamin will take on the role of principal at WMFTS Vanuatu when the school is relaunched. He will also be responsible for maintaining the property.

There are plans to begin a preschool on the WMFTS property which Asinate will be heavily involved in. She will be our head teacher and will be responsible for the running of the preschool.

Our four churches are contributing to the Benjamin and Asinate's missionary support. Please keep them in your prayers as they adjust to life in Vanuatu and begin working in the ministry there. We will hear more from them in the coming weeks and months.



GHANA TRIP REPORT

Recently I travelled to Ghana in West Africa. This was my first visit to Africa, and I was really looking forward to it. However, it was a long way from home. I left Adelaide on Monday 10th July and 33 hours later I arrived in Takoradi via Accra and Dubai.



My purpose in going to Ghana was to visit Pr John Boateng, his family, their church - Cross Outreach Church International, their Bible school - Institute of Discipleship and Ministry Training (Adelaide Christian Centre, New Life Christian Centre and Bethel Centre, Port Moresby financially support the school), and their primary school - Terri International Christian Academy (an associate school of Adelaide Christian Schools).



It was lovely to be greeted by Pr John and his lovely wife Mercy at Takoradi airport. After a meal together we arrived at their home and were greeted by five of their six children.

The following day I was welcomed to Terri International Christian Academy by the children and staff. I loved seeing the joy on the children's faces and was entertained by their enthusiastic dancing. It was also an honour to inspect their Christian Cadets as they paraded.



It is a great partnership we have with Terri International Christian Academy and Adelaide Christian Schools and we continue to look forward to our ongoing partnership into the future.

Pr John and his team, including the Bible school students organised a three night night crusade at one of Pr John's four outreach churches in a rural area about 60 minutes from his home. The first night was very wet with heavy rain but we preserved and a number of folk gave their hearts to the Lord.

Over the three nights more people attended and many people were ministered to in prayer. I enjoyed preaching in the open air and was enjoying the freedom of their worship and dancing. Mind you, I didn't join in and reveal any of my moves! And they were loud, the Lord is hard of hearing in Ghana (haha).

Pr John arranged to take me about 60 minutes away to the coast to visit the Cape Coast Castle. This was an emotional experience. To be in a place where the depravity of human wickedness was so evident, it was emotionally disturbing and moving to me.

In 1664 the castle was conquered by the British from the Danish and Dutch. Originally used for trade in timber and gold, the castle was later used in the transatlantic slave trade. In the late 18th century it was rebuilt and used as the seat of the colonial Government of the British Gold Coast in 1844.

The guided tour we had was very informative regarding the horrific conditions the slaves lived through. They accommodated up to 1,200 at a time, 800 men and 400 women. Just horrible and traumatic - evil!

On the Saturday night I spoke at a marriage seminar. About 30 couples were

in attendance. It was a good night and I enjoyed my time with everyone and the interesting questions that were asked by those who attended.

Sunday morning was a great time celebrating with everyone in Pr John's church. They are a lively bunch and very receptive. There was a great spirit within the meeting which is a credit to Pr John, Mercy and their dedicated team for their leadership.

The remainder of my time was consumed with a lot of discussion with Pr John strategising for the future involvement of Bethel Centre in Port Moresby, our four churches and Adelaide Christian Schools. Whilst dealing with a very bad bout of diarrhea for yours truly!

Mercy's cooking and their hospitality was fantastic, and I was most welcomed and felt right at home. The Boateng family are a great family, and it was a real joy to spend time with them in their home. I am looking forward to more visits in the future.

It is an honour for Adelaide Christian Centre and New Life Christian Centre to support the Bible School and for Pr Barry Silverback, Pr Greg Crome and Pr Warwick Hughes to lecture in Institute of Discipleship and Ministry Training regularly via Zoom.

Please continue to pray for Pr John, Mercy, their family and their team as they navigate through the numerous difficulties they face within their various ministries.

Blessings,
Pr Mike Groom

MISSIONARY UPDATE

Near the beginning of July, our preschool teachers in training held a cultural presentation night. They had to choose a province to research and prepare a presentation on. I was privileged to attend the night and take photos. It was an awesome experience! The students did an excellent job. It was cool to see them dressed up in their traditional clothing and to hear about the special cultural practices and traditions unique to each province. I really enjoyed the night.

In July we had a team from New South Wales come to visit Bethel Centre. Four of them are from Narrandera and three are from Condobolin. One of the greatest aspects of their visit was their ability to gather crowds of people to enjoy tea and coffee and great fellowship! Whenever people walked past the visitor's flat, they were invited to sit and talk and enjoy a drink and some snacks. I was encouraged by their welcoming nature and desire to genuinely get to know everyone they came across.

Throughout their visit there were a range of activities and events that took place. Although I was not able to attend everything that they were involved in, I genuinely enjoyed the ones I was part of, particularly the welcome fellowship evening, Bethel Bible School (BBS), and the children's outreach event.

The welcome fellowship gathering was held in the missions hall. It was a fantastic night filled with talking, singing, dancing and great food. It was nice to sit around

in a fun environment enjoying each other's company. Most people from Bethel Centre were in attendance and it was encouraging to see everyone mixing together with the team.

BBS runs on Monday and Thursday evenings. I really enjoy the atmosphere of BBS and I happily attend lectures when they are open to the Bethel Centre staff and congregation members. During the New South Wales team visit, I attended Pr Trevor Murphy's lecture and for Pr Jodie Elliot's lecture.

Pr Trevor spoke on prayer, focusing on four types of prayer. He raised numerous points that I hadn't necessarily considered or focused on before. I was very encouraged by his teaching and enjoyed being in attendance.

Pr Jodie shared on mental health, particularly focusing on anxiety, depression, and psychotic disorders. It was incredibly informative, and I believe of great benefit to all who attended. Pr Jodie shared on mental health to different audiences on numerous occasions during her trip. It is an important topic and I believe her ministry touched the lives of many.

I admired her ability to share effectively and compassionately on something that can be a sensitive topic, particularly in nations like Papua New Guinea (PNG). She was able to increase our understanding of mental health and various mental illnesses. Her overall message of helping each other and being empathetic, particularly towards those who struggle with mental health and illness, was a great encouragement and an important reminder.

Towards the end of their visit, they held a children's outreach program. Many children attended, especially those from Gabi – a village nearby that people from Bethel Centre have been connecting with in recent times. The outreach event was a great success and the children seemed to enjoy themselves. The team did a fantastic job running the program and it was a joy to be part of.

In addition to the team from New South Wales, towards the end of July Pr Craig Jourdain, our CRC National Chairman in New Zealand, came for a visit. At the time of writing, he is still here, and he has been busy ministering and lecturing to various groups. I haven't been able to attend all of his teaching or preaching sessions, but I was able to join in on his lecture in BBS.

He spoke on forgiveness and mercy and it was very encouraging. I thoroughly enjoyed his teaching and was very encouraged by the great response from the people. The night ended in a time of prayer for those who are struggling to forgive. Multiple people responded and those of us who remained were able to pray with those who sought prayer. It was a fantastic night.

On Wednesday 26th July we farewelled Benjamin and Asinate Wari as they left PNG to begin their missionary service in Vanuatu. We woke up very early and a group of us took them to the airport at 4:00am. They will be based near Luganville on the northern island of Espirity Santo at our World Missions Faith Training School (WMFTS) property.

In time they will start up a preschool, Asinate is a graduate of Bethel Preschool Teacher Training Course (BPTTC), as well

as relaunching WMFTS. I'm strongly encouraged by their willingness to serve and go out as missionaries.

Chrioni and I were able to spend some time with them before they left for Vanuatu. One Sunday afternoon we went out for lunch, and the following Sunday we had a farewell dinner with our family and Asinate's PNG family. It was very special, and we enjoyed our time with them, particularly the evening ice cream run and drive the four of us went on following our farewell dinner.

Bethel Sunday School is going well. We are over a month into the new program, and it has been well received by the children. I am leading the primary age group with a young lady named Aileen. Peggy and Serah are leading our preschool age group, and Viema is leading our junior youth age group. Aileen, Peggy and Serah are all graduates of BPTTC, and Viema is the course coordinator. It is a blessing working with the team and I am excited to see what will take place in the Sunday school.

In August I will just be working and leading the Sunday school. I will also be counting down the days for mum and dad's next visit! They will be coming to PNG at the beginning of September with Dr Stan and Joan DeKoven. I am extremely excited! I am looking forward to a great week of ministry and fun times.

Thank you once again for reading my update. Thank you to those who are praying for me and for those who are keeping in touch. It is very appreciated.

Many blessings,
Mikaela Groom



ONLINE PRESENCE

Web: www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au

YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/c/AdelaideChristianCentre

Private Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/SturtStreet/

Public Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/adelaidechristiancentre/

Instagram: [@adelaidechristiancentre](https://www.instagram.com/adelaidechristiancentre)

CONTACT DETAILS

Office: 33 Sturt Street, Adelaide SA 5000 | Open Tuesday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Email: office@adelaidechristiancentre.com.au

Phone: (08) 8212 2322

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

GIVING DETAILS

Option One: Online Giving

Visit the giving page on our website: www.adelaidechristiancentre.com.au/give/.

Press the 'Give' button under the first option and follow the next steps.

Option Two: Bank Transfer

Account Name: Adelaide Christian Centre

BSB: 065 005

Account Number: 0090 3471

OTHER CHURCH LOCATIONS

New Life Christian Centre

Address: 105 Dyson Road, Christies Beach, SA 5165

Web: www.newlifeonline.org.au

Service Times: 10:00am and 5:30pm

Tennant Creek Christian Family Church

Address: 190 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek, NT 0860

Web: www.tccf.com.au

Service Times: 10:00am and 6:30pm

Faith Center Church

Address: 115 Worley Lane, Walhalla SC 29691, United States

Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithcenterchurchwalhalla

Service Time: 10:00am