



# PAIA NIUSLETA

MELANESIAN CLUSTER

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## EDITOR



Dear all,

For the last few weeks, I have been going non-stop. I've been driving here and there, flying here and there, working with this person and that person. I'm continually trying to be a

better person.

Then I realized that it was difficult to make time for what is most important. Spending quiet time with God. Investing time in just loving my community and appreciating all the blessings we have – each other, our relationship with God, our health, food to eat, family and friends, our ministry.

So this weekend I slowed down. I deliberately just sat with myself, playing, talking and loving myself. And I spent a lot of time praying and thanking God for who She is and all She has done. I spent time praising Her and admiring how great She is.

So often, I am ready for the next steps in God's plans for my life. So often, I want to work for Her. To do something, anything, to feel like I am moving forward.

And then I came to this passage in Luke 10:

"Lord, don't you care that my sister Mary has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

I am so often like Martha. Fretting and thinking and working over all the details, the plans, the preparations, when really only one thing is needed – sitting at the Lord's feet and listening to what He has to say.

What about you? Do you deliberately spend time just listening to God? Or are you busy with the preparations?

**-Joachim K. ToRavit**

## In this issue

## Page

<b>Papua New Guinea Goes to Geneva</b> <i>-Moy Hitchen</i>	1
<b>Network of Callan Services Conference</b> <i>-Damien Price</i>	2
<b>Livelihood Workshop</b> <i>-Sr Lorna Kava...mfjc</i>	3
<b>Novitiate Experience- Zambia</b> <i>-Andrew Mara</i>	3
<b>Notice Board</b>	4
<b>Jokes</b> <i>-Gerry Buzolic</i>	4
<b>Recipe</b> <i>-Phil Grundy</i>	4

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOES TO GENEVA

On May 11, 2011, the Government of PNG was due to meet the United Nations in Geneva for a historic occasion. In fact, with Mr Somare's troubles at the time, the PNG delegation that's normally in in New York represented the government. The meeting was the **Universal Periodic Review (or UPR)**, where the Human Rights Council of the UN checks PNG's record on human rights. This was the first time in history that all the nations on Earth have had their human rights reviewed, over a 4-year period (2008 – 2011).

As you'd expect, the PNG Government had written a report on how well it was protecting people's rights. The Human Rights Council had also written a report on PNG's record on human rights. But there was a third report tabled that day too, called the Stakeholders' Report – it was based on the reports of many NGOs (Non-Government Organisations), who are in touch with many people 'on the ground' in PNG. Edmund Rice International had sent information that was included in the Stakeholders' Report.

What information did we send? Thanks to Callan Services and the Marist Brothers, we were able to talk about the Right to Education for all Children in PNG and

the Rights of People with Disabilities. Not many people in Geneva have ever been to PNG. So, before the meeting, we went around to visit various government embassies here, and talked to them about PNG, its achievements and its problems, and the need to protect people's rights there.

What happened? PNG received **146 recommendations** (to improve its human rights record) from the other countries present at the UPR. It has accepted 75 of these already, rejected two of them (about stopping the death penalty), and is considering 69 other recommendations. It has already promised to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (as we requested) and is 'considering' eight recommendations on ensuring free primary education for all children (which we also requested).

It's now up to all of us to find out who, in PNG, will implement these recommendations, and how we can support them, for the sake of the people we work with in PNG. In another four years (2016), PNG returns to Geneva, for its second UPR. What are the improvements in human rights we want to hear PNG reporting, in 2016?



**-Moy Hitchen, Edmund Rice International, Geneva**

### CALLAN SERVICES CONFERENCE

From the 02-04 of September I had the honour of assisting Mary Murphy work with some of the leadership of Callan Services and other service providers with some work around spirituality. The goal I had set myself was to broadly sketch the theological / spiritual framework for ministry with people with disabilities. We examined the Church's deep belief in the **innate dignity of every person** regardless of colour or creed, status or state. To develop this engagement with the innate dignity of each person we looked at the work of Fr Henri Nouwen and Jean Vanier; both of whom had worked in the L'Arche communities where

differently abled people share community life with apparently 'normal' people.

Nouwen suggested that so often our society says;

***"You are what you do!"***

***"You are what you have!"***

***"You are what people say about you!"***

He then pointed out the fallacy of this saying that ultimately 'we are the beloved of God'! We are loved totally and unconditionally – just as we are!

This was then linked to the work of Br Philip Pinto, the Congregational Leader of the Christian Brothers. Here the importance of 'coming as guest' into the lives of those we meet was laid out as our starting point. This, in term, leads to our choice to be deeply present to the people of our day and that our presence says – often without any words, "You are special, you are lovable, you are beautiful – just as you are!" From this presence flows compassion which in turn leads to our ultimate liberation. Philip challenged each of us "to put the other at the centre of our lives!"

I found these three days to be extraordinary. I have never worked with a group so open and willing to engage with the material put before them. As we shared about 'guest', 'presence' and 'compassion' one sensed that the leaders present really lived this. The room truly became 'holy ground' as people shared story about the 'fire' they experience both within themselves and in ministry – as they sensed God at work in their lives and in the lives of the beautiful people whom they came into contact with. Truly – much heart work was engaged in during these days as we built on the spiritual tradition and story laid for us all by those who had gone before us and dreamt the dream that is today; Callan Services.

It was an honour and privilege to be present and to sense God's presence in the sharing of story, the dreaming of dreams and the acceptance of our own fragility in the work of the Kingdom. I would like to

thank everyone involved for their warm welcome, sense of fun and acceptance. May our God of the journey continue to bless the healing hands of all involved with Callan Services!

*-Damien Price*

#### LIVELIHOOD WORKSHOP IN MADANG



We had a two day workshop from the 11-12 October which involved five representatives from Wewak, Rabaul, Mendi, Mingende, Goroka and four staff from Callan Services National Unit.

The purpose was to give the participants some input around the setting up of the projects as well as the livelihood component within the CBR matrix, listen to their stories about livelihood projects (LPs) in their Centres and to organise and create their action plans for initiating the LPs.

The workshop is funded by CBM New Zealand AID, whose focus is directed towards working with people with disabilities (PWDs) in gaining a livelihood, have access to social protection measures and are able to earn enough income to lead dignified lives and contribute economically to their families and communities. The CBM New Zealand Aid had asked the Callan Services to facilitate this livelihood program which will be funded by them at five resource centres.

The outcome was excellent with the development of Guidelines for implementing Livelihood Programs and Criteria for selection of people with disabilities (PWDs) for training and start-up capital. In the afternoon of Wednesday each Centre's representative had their action plan written out for implementation when they return to their respective Centres.

I found it very helpful and interesting with the fact that the participants had interesting shared experiences from their respective Centres that helped us learn from

and plan this new LPs with new insight, knowledge and skill. It was also an opportunity where we all shared our stories and struggles and encouraged each other in the light of the learning acquired.

The participants expressed that it was a worthwhile workshop where ideas have been shared and input given to equip them in taking on this program and its implementation. Because it is one of the components within the CBR matrix, it would be good to organise a CBR conference where CBR officers could have inputs given and discussion around the CBR programs at the Centres.

*-Sr Lorna Kava .....mfic*

*Coordinator Callan National Training Services (CNTS) in Health*

#### NOVITIATE EXPERIENCE- Zambia

The time of our two year novitiate has been like a journey in the desert for both Willie and me after we left Papua New Guinea. But the difficulties and challenges that both of us experienced have slowly become like the stepping stones for us to pursue our desire to serve the poor and the marginalized, through the consecrated life as a Christian Brother.

There are many programs that slowly unfolded as we continued the two years Novitiate, but the most important activity that sets our hearts on fire was our prayer life. During personal and community prayer it helped both of us to get in touch with our own feelings and emotions and try to make sense of what it really means to be a consecrated person in this busy world of continuous discovery. We are like the woman standing next to the foot of the cross with great expectations as we read and make meaning out of every word from the scriptures and other available resources. Our continuous searching and reflecting on the word of God through sacred scriptures has broadened our minds to accept new ideas about the bigger God, the God who extends love and compassion to all of creation and mankind.

We learned to be brother to all and build right relationships with everyone regardless of our country of origin and different cultural backgrounds. Ministries in the hospital, Home based Care ( H.B.C), Schools and Mother Therese’s hospice have been another moulding factor that continued to form us as well as our previous jobs as primary school teacher and builder /carpenter. These ministries have influenced us to experience God’s love and presence in the ordinary, especially when we saw and had to deal with people suffering from HIV/AIDS and other contagious diseases.

This has also made us determined to explore further the practical side of being brother to others. We hope and pray that the continuous unfolding of God’s love can enable us to see Christ present and appealing in the ordinary. Therefore, our commitment to the ministries can be extended to the wider community as we hope to begin our brotherhood journey together with everyone.



We are very appreciative for the brothers, friends and families who keep us in their prayers and have helped to reach this far.

**-Andrew Mara**

#### NOTICE BOARD

- ✓ Andrew McBeath, after 7-years in PNG teaching at St Mary’s Secondary School in East New Britain, left for Australia on the 02/11/2011. Andrew will be dearly missed by the school and the brothers. Andrew, thank you so much for your tireless contribution to this country.
- ✓ Mark Varbongoi came back home to Vunakanau after spending some days at St Mary’s hospital. Mark we keep you in our prayers.
- ✓ In the next few days PAIA NIUSLETA will have a special edition with the recent plane crash that affected the DWU Campus and the nation as a

whole. Please keep the students, staff, and families of DWU in your prayers.

#### JOKES

The police found and arrested two young people the other day. One was drinking battery acid and the other was eating fireworks.

They charged one ... and let the other one off.

**-Gerry Buzolic**

#### RECIPE

##### SCONES

##### Ingredients:

- 2 cups self-raising flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons or 60 g butter *or* margarine
- 1 cup milk

##### Method:

1. Have a hot oven in readiness.
2. Grease an oven slide.
3. Sift flour and salt.
4. Rub butter in lightly with tips of fingers. (Food processor is handy)
5. Pour nearly all the milk in at once.
6. Mix quickly into a soft dough.
7. Turn onto floured board; knead lightly and quickly.
8. Roll and press out to a round shape about 2 cm thick.
9. Cut with plain round 5 cm cutter.
10. Glaze with milk.
11. Cook quickly - 8 to 10 minutes - in a hot oven 230-240<sup>N</sup>C.
12. Enjoy

**-Phil Grundy**