

UnitingWorld Update May 09

Experience programs

Experience programs still have urgent placement needs for which we are receiving expressions of interest.

1. URGENT NEED for an architect/architectural draftsman to teach at a Vocational Education College in Tonga (any time commitment from 3 months to 2 years considered).
2. Carpenters/builders: Mwanzi, Zambia - Orphans and Vulnerable Children's project.
3. Printer: Tonga
4. Librarians: the Pacific

If you think you may have the skills and passion to explore these possibilities, please contact:

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Relief and Development

Watch out for events in your region launching our new name.

On Tuesday 28 April Queensland supporters of the overseas work of the Uniting Church gathered at Indooroopilly Uniting Church in Brisbane to celebrate the launch of UnitingWorld.

Rev. David McGregor and a wonderful multicultural band of musicians from the Indooroopilly Church led the gathering in a unique blend of worship from around the world.

National Director, Kerry Enright, called on those present to join UnitingWorld in connecting communities for life and a new era of international engagement.

Bruce Mullan, Associate Director Church Solidarity (Pacific), outlined the range of partnership opportunities with our church partners in the Pacific.

Joy Balazo, Associate Director Peacemaking, shared about lives changed as a result of the peacemaking work of Young Ambassadors for Peace in Papua New Guinea and Ambon, Indonesia.

A Leadership Roundtable for Ministers and Leaders in the Uniting Church was also held. Kerry Enright and Bruce Mullan engaged the 18 leaders who gathered on why the church should be both local and global in its focus and how to do it.

Pack and Go Appeal

UnitingWorld is currently raising funds for our Pack and Go Appeal.

Funds raised will assist Uniting Church volunteers to serve in one of our partner churches overseas, including contributing to the costs of airfares, accommodation and other expenses. For more information please visit the [UnitingWorld website](http://unitingworld.org.au).

Give the Gift of Life Appeal

UnitingWorld's Relief and Development Unit is currently raising funds for the Give the Gift of Life appeal.

The program aims to equip communities in East Timor with the tools they need to transform their lives. This includes health care, micro-credit programs and training in agriculture and animal husbandry. To learn more please visit the [UnitingWorld website](#).

Church Solidarity

Timor Leste

Rev. John Barr participated in a seminar on Gospel and Culture in Dili, Timor Leste (East Timor) in late April. During this time a consultation with our partner church (Igreja Protestante iha Timor Lorosa'e) took place involving support for future synod programs.

West Timor

Rev. Dr Tom Therik died in Kupang, West Timor, just before Easter. Tom was the former Rector of Artha Wacana Christian University and a leading minister in our partner church, Gereja Masehi Injili di Timor. Tom received a MTh from the University of Sydney and a PhD from the Australian National University.

West Papua

Our partner church, the Gereja Kristen Injili di Tanah Papua, reports there were a number of violent attempts to disrupt the recent national elections in Indonesia. This includes random stabbings and shootings, placement of bombs in public places, arson attacks on the local university and an explosion in a major fuel storage facility. The perpetrators of this violence are unknown but many suspect they are provocateurs from outside the region who are intending to create terror and undermine peace building efforts in the community.

Sri Lanka

Contacts from partners in Sri Lanka report that more than 2,300 civilians (including 500 children) have been killed in the conflict in north-east Sri Lanka in recent times. Church agencies are working in IDP camps to care for the sick and wounded. The military is adopting a policy of wiping out the LTTE. Contacts in Sri Lanka believe this is a 'forgotten war' as agencies are being prevented from reporting on the situation and little international concern is being expressed.