

Richard & Andrea Carver

Fiji
Australia
Papua New Guinea



Labouring in Missions since 1991

April—May 2012 Newsletter



Students during the Chapel Service

Bible College Forges Ahead!

It was with great excitement that we started our 2012 Bible School year. There had been no full-time Bible School for over 5 years, with only short courses and a few night classes in the intervening time. However, everyone knew that with the size

of the church here and the needs of the country, full-time school was the only way to get the job done. After all, the whole point of the last 4 years of Thanksgiving Day Offering and Fundraising was to see the Bible School up and running after a long period of dormancy.

During the middle of February, Youth from the Eastern Highlands Region came together for a series of workdays to construct a temporary Dormitory out of bush materials. We call it “temporary”, because it will have to do the job until we get our permanent, cement-block dormitories constructed. With skilful hands and ready knowledge of the task at hand, we had youth, ladies and men come to cut, split and weave bamboo, split hardwood timber into posts, and assemble a temporary dormitory with sleeping quarters, dining area and kitchen.

A few days after the dorms were completed, we conducted interviews for the students. In total, we have enrolled 22 students for this year, with 7 boarding students from around the country (the rest being day scholars). About half of the students are current pastors, with the rest being leadership of some sort in their local churches.

News in Brief:

- *Bible School in PNG begins with 22 students in the 2012 year.*
- *Construction of Temporary Dormitories to house our 7 boarding students.*
- *Classes run 5 days a week, with a total of 25 lessons taught.*
- *Anticipated Graduation at our next year's*



Student Portrait, with teachers myself and Andrea (left), and Bro. & Sis. Paitadra (right)

We started classes on March 12th. Classes are five days a week, 8:00 am to 1:30pm, with a total of 25 lessons per week. Currently there are four teachers; myself and Andrea, and Bro & Sis Paitadra. The intention is to condense the normal 2-year course down into one very intense year, and graduate the students during our next General Conference.



The Bible College Students looking very professional during our 2012 General Conference

During this year's General Conference (April 2012), the Bible School for the first time in many years conducted a Bible School Promotion during the prime time of Conference. The work of the Bible School and the students were presented to the Conference crowd, and five of the students came to the platform to address the congregation. This stirred a great deal of interest about the Bible School, and many people were filled with pride to see the young men who have dedicated themselves to learning more of the Word of God. Since that time, we have had pastors from around the country bringing food items and toiletries for the boarding students to help make their stay more comfortable. During this time also we took applications for next year's student intake... more than 105 people have expressed the desire to attend next year!



Laura & Timothy help us prepare for the beginning of Bible School by helping collate notes and get the students' folders ready.

Words cannot express how the present students are fully immersed in their classes. There is a great feeling of joy and thankfulness that they are the "firstfruits", the first graduating class for PNG in many years. They are a fine group of students, thrilled about attending Bible School, and already it is turning out to be a wonderful year. We are also very glad to have our General Secretary as one of the first to put his application in! I am so glad to see the amazing things that are happening as a result of the Bible School, and it's impact is wonderful.



Husband and wife team Pius and Miriam lend a hand at splitting the bamboo for the flooring.

We need your prayers, especially as we begin construction work on our permanent buildings shortly. Pray also for the teaching staff, because there is so much to be done, and we are overstretched as it is. God bless you all and the Bible School in PNG!

Richard & Andrea Carver, Laura, Timothy & Hannah



Photos of various stages of the construction of the Temporary Dormitories made from bush materials (with bamboo flooring, right)