



## World Project PNG

Val Gribble (Australia) and the GFS training team (This time The Revd Cheryl Selvage and The Revd Sue Wilson) have returned from another trip to PNG and it was the final trip financed by the last World Project. Val writes:

One day refresher workshops were held in Port Moresby and Popondetta dioceses and it was exciting to find so many parishes now using the Sunday School program. It was then on to a new diocese, Aipo Rongo, in the Highlands of PNG to introduce the program at a three day workshop. Thirteen participants were chosen to represent their areas, some had walked long distances (one for six hours) to get to the nearest airstrip to fly into Mt Hagen. They live in very remote areas. There was enough money left in the project to fund their travel and GFS Australia assisted with other costs.

Parishes had given Cheryl and Sue and I money to use where we saw a need and as these participants had absolutely nothing to work with we were able to purchase stationery and books as a pack for each district. (Walking back to their parishes with heavy packs was fine with them as they greatly appreciated the gift) With 285 children in one Sunday School it will not go far but will be an encouragement to those who did the training. All had never had any training before and it was a fun five days as we lived, played, worked and prayed together. Wonderful new bonds were made.

The Bishop also wants to introduce GFS into his diocese, working with the many young women struggling to find a place in society. He will begin with a pilot branch and GFS Australia will work closely with him to offer assistance.

The small church in Mt Hagen is also the Cathedral, dedicated to St Michael and All Angels so it was extra special to be there for their patronal festival. The Sunday School children brought a gift of a Meri Blouse and skirt to Cheryl, Sue and I and asked us to wear them to Mass on the Sunday. The purple Meri blouses are the uniform of the Sunday School.

As we gathered for our last night together we received the very sad news that the wife of the Archbishop had died suddenly during the day in Popondetta. We knew Mother Wasita Kopapa so well, she was a good friend to GFS and to Cheryl and I and always attended the Popondetta training. We ask for prayers for the Archbishop and his family and the whole national church of PNG as they mourn for this special person.

GFS is now high profile in PNG. We are recognised by the Anglican church and because we are willing to go the extra mile, visit isolated places, live in villages, we are now well respected. The assistance of the World Council with two projects had helped considerably towards this recognition and we thank you all.

