

## Supporting Workers in Mission -

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### SWIM NEWS – September 2023

## EXCITING GROWTH & MISSION POTENTIAL

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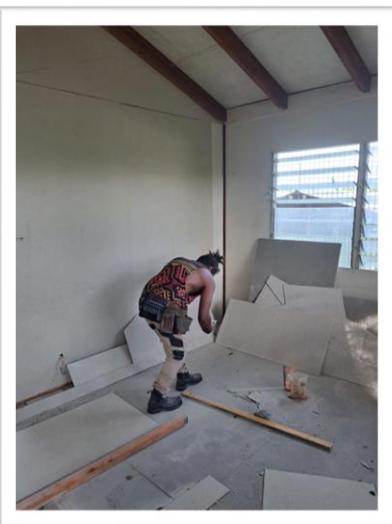
#### Exciting Additions to SWIM Staff

Much needed skilled workers have been employed on a trial basis for building and mechanical maintenance on the SWIM base. The vehicles all need regular maintenance and it has been the combination of LLT and the leadership on the ground tasked to find the right employees who can not only fulfil the tasks enabling SWIM to function but, most importantly, to fit into the Christian missional focus of SWIM.

Eddie has been sent to us by God and is doing a stellar job of administration! He supervises the tradies and makes sure things are completed in a timely manner.

#### Renovations and Repairs

Termites have taken their toll on some of the buildings at SWIM!



**Norman Doing More Finishing Work on House Number 8**

This has been an ongoing problem, and as Jack Visser commented to me a few years back if they get their teeth into any processed wall board or chipboard its all on, like demolishing icecream and pavlova (so to speak) with glee!

Gradually the piles (support timber) of most of the

longstanding buildings have been replaced with concrete!

Fortunately, termites can't get their jaws around concrete! Most recently, the SWIM staff have been making steady progress on A large house where a staff family lived for many years.



**Newly Painted Walls and floors ready for a refit**

All the inside wall board (masonite) has been stripped off completely and replaced with what we in NZ call “hardiflex” concrete composite wall sheets. A bit more expensive but no more dessert for termites on our walls!

Ceilings, walls and electrical wiring have all been replaced now and internally the house looks like new inside!



***John the new Mechanic working on the Pajero***

The blue truck and the SWIM vehicles are in constant need of maintenance and of SWIM’s new employees has proved himself invaluable with this task. LLT and SIW have both approved keeping the blue truck and this will be a great asset for group and materials transport.



***Maintaining the blue truck ready for future teams***

On a Thursday afternoon 70 plus young men gather to play soccer on the SWIM base. With their love for the game the drawing card they enjoy the training and then have a devotional pointing them to Christ as the true coach of their lives. This ministry is flourishing!



***The Youth Soccer Ministry is Flourishing! New Balls Brought in from Australia***



***New computer complete with a printer!***

SWIM's relationship with the hospital school has been sure and steady over the years and the children who come for treatment and need to stay in the children's section will benefit greatly from this asset.

### **New Computer for the Hospital School**

This has been an ongoing challenge to procure a computer which was promised to the school back in 2020. Obviously the school was closed during the lockdowns and only recently is now ready for installation.



***New computer installation and handover***

### **Solar Power Repair**

The solar power that supports SWIMs power needs has required time and attention and even more so when a recent earthquake broke several battery covers. LLT looked at the option of going onto the main Honiara power grid which proved very expensive and also impossible to connect to our solar wiring. The only way forward was to look for a repair solution.

The generators are now both working as backup to the solar. We are praising God for this solution!



***Electricians sorting the solar system & generator connections***

### **Update on Pastor Andrew, Ben Priya and Ephraim**

Pastor Andrew is recovering from his heart attack and needs to rest. SWIM is allowing him to take time out to regain his strength and to be ready to mentor Pastor Ben when he arrives at SWIM later in the year. Rev Andrew Fanasia, the SWIM base Pastor in Honiara in your prayers as he is currently admitted at the National Referral Hospital's medical ward. Rev Andrew Fanasia has an existing heart condition and recently developed a pneumonic lung, which has caused him shortness of breath, hence had to be hospitalised.

Rod Pete (SIW Chair) caught up with Pastor Ben down in Sydney and we had a good opportunity to share the progress of the medical assistance being given to Ephraim. I am

pleased to report that Pastor Ben and the family are well and will continue to be accommodated at Ronald McDonald House at the Westmead Children's Hospital.

All required surgery for Ephraim has been completed on his eyes. Some time ago Ephraim underwent eye surgery in the Solomon Islands and the result was less than ideal. The medical team are avoiding further surgery on Ephraim's eyes and are using correctional optical lenses to correct the remaining vision impairment. This process takes some time and has resulted in the need for them to remain in Australia until around November.



***Pastor Ben, Priya and Ephraim***

### **Bethesda Wins a Games Mascot Contract**

Pete Steuie's Report



Although I didn't have much time to visit all classes and the farm site as the teachers were busy attending their workshop conducted by Susan Larsen, I did manage to visit the home economics' class where the students display their finished products that they made from the practical sessions they had learnt in classes. This is very interesting and encouraging to see.

In late 2022 Bethesda was invited to do a presentation at a Honiara Rotary meeting about the work being done at Bethesda



***Susan Larsen with the students proudly holding their workshop Certificates***



***Close up of SOLO***

Disability School. As well as teaching the students in many different areas of practical and education skills, the women at Solmere (who train students and women in sewing) displayed many of the products they make. Market bags, shirts, dresses and of course Sol Dolls.

It happened that one of the Rotary attendees took a liking to the dolls and asked if they could make them for the upcoming Pacific Games to be held in the Solomon Islands in November 2023.

After some toing and froing Bethesda was awarded the contract to make the games mascot, SOLO, to be presented to each medal winner at the games. That's 2,500 hand made dolls,



***A New Nissan Navara for Bethesda a kind donation from a generous Australian Lady***

quite a task! Progress is on schedule with more than half being delivered to date. There are currently a dozen local Solomon Island ladies (plus one man) working hard to ensure the deadline is met, while maintaining a quality product. They are doing a great job.

We also took possession of a new Nissan Navara kindly donated by an Australian lady who heard about Bethesda and the training it does for students with a disability, which she has a passion for – we are extremely grateful for this generous donation.



***The Sewing Team at Bethesda***



***SOLO Dolls in boxes Ready for Shipping***

We recently had more than half of our new batch of 400 chickens die on us due to some sickness, so our egg production has taken a huge hit. Given this is our major source of income it means that things are very tight financially at the moment. We have a new batch "in the wings" but they aren't due to start laying until Christmas.

The other project we are working on is the complete strip and rebuild of one of the staff houses on site. It has been totally eaten by white ants and so that is a huge job in removing all internal panels and replacing them with "non white ant food" – ie: cement sheet and new flooring.

We'd appreciate your prayers as we move to completing the mascot dolls on time, look forward to the second year students graduation in October and an improvement in egg production.

Praise Points:

- We thank God for Pastor Andrew's continuing health and strength.
- Bethesda is grateful to God for the SolDoll contract bringing in much needed income.
- SWIM is encouraged by the growth of the soccer youth outreach bringing 70+ young men every week.

Praise Points:

Prayer Points:

- Please keep Pastor Andrew in your prayers.
- Pray for the speedy recovery of Ephraim and the safe arrival of Pastor Ben and Priya to the SWIM base from Sydney.
- Please pray into the continuing fruitfulness of both SWIM and Bethesda going towards and into 2024.

Huge Blessings and Much Love from

**SIW & SWIM LOCAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**