

Wisdom's Kundu



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Closing of the Jubilee year!

Special points of interest:

- Personal Experiences
- Advent reflection
- Christmas Wishes

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My dear Sisters and Novices,

Our Golden Jubilee year of presence in PNG has officially come to a close and now we are into the stage of '**Wisdom of Tomorrow**'. The coming General Chapter with its challenging theme of '**Open Wide your Tent**' will certainly set the stage for this "tomorrow", in fact with our discernment and the resulting decisions being put into practice we are already moving to a different tomorrow to give Wisdom more chance to dwell with us.

In the photo below you will see those of us who were present at the final celebration at the men's house in Kiunga holding a chain of names of all those who have worked in PNG in the name of the Daughters of Wisdom over these past fifty years. We were holding something precious in our hands and remembered everyone with much love.

Looking back on this Jubilee year, we have certainly been affirmed by the peo-

ple as to our presence among them; we have surely helped to make a difference to better their lives; we ourselves have been enriched by this sharing of life and energy

The great news of Sr. Agnes DW, a nurse and midwife, from Malawi being interested to come to work in PNG is really a jubilee gift from Blessed Marie Louise who is looking down "on this vine she has planted" and a Christmas gift from Wisdom. Thank you our dear sisters in Malawi.

Let us use this time of Christmas, New Year and our Regional Chapter to cement relationships with Jesus Wisdom and one another so that together we can "**open wide the space of our tent, lengthen our ropes and make our pegs firm....my love for you will never leave you and my covenant of peace with you will never be shaken, says the Lord.**" *Is 54.*

Sr. Marie



Celebrating the Seed of Wisdom

On the 19th of August, Sr. Julienne and I went to celebrate with the people of Lower Bamu in Aniadai where Sr. Pierrette worked in 1970 to 1980.

While sitting in the dinghy following the Bamu River I was asking myself, "Will the people remember our mission? Do they have some memories? When we arrived in Bamio, a village across from Aniadai my questions were answered. I saw about five canoes already pulled to the shore and I asked some children what was going on. They said, "People will leave the village tonight to go to Aniadai for the celebration tomorrow". The next day the church was

full of people, young, old and children. All of the celebration was extremely beautiful and full of life. All the hymns were sung in their own language highlighted with their traditional dances. This celebration was combined with the Sacrament of Confirmation which was received by many.

Bishop Gilles was the main celebrant. In his homily, he said that the Daughters of Wisdom had committed themselves to come to PNG in the early 60s and worked in various parishes, and one of them was lower Bamu area.

After the celebration, we had food sharing followed by entertainment. They danced and sang until ten

o'clock in the night. I was very touched by their enthusiasm. I believe that the seed of Wisdom has taken root in this area, even with the complex geographical situation in our diocese. It is a big challenge for us to go back and follow up where we have planted the seed of Wisdom.

Many old people mentioned the name of Sr. Pierrette and the work she had done with them. We thank those who have continued the mission and a special thanks to Frs., Alex and Napolian, who visit these people periodically and help the Seed of Wisdom to grow.

We are grateful for what our sisters have done! *Sr Veronica.. DW*

Wisdom makes her rounds

"Wisdom makes Her rounds, delighting those who seek Her. She appears to us on the way; She greets us with compassion..."

The words of this song – so familiar to me – have taken on a new meaning during my short time here in Papua New Guinea.

I have been privileged to glimpse "Wisdom's rounds" in the warm welcome of so many people, in the untiring dedication of our Sisters, in the eager yearnings of the Novices and in the pastoral services of the local Church committed to

walking together and growing in solidarity.

In the faces of the boys from the streets in Port Moresby and the new mothers in the hospital at Matkomnai, as well as in the witness of the staff at Good Samaritan Center, Callan Services and the Diocesan Formation Center, Wisdom appears to us on the way with compassion and joy.

For the experience of this richness – present in the midst of all the daily struggles of life – I give thanks to our Gracious God.

Sr Evelyn. DW



I give thanks to God!



Advent: A Time of Hope

It is said that when there is life there is hope. This has an even deeper meaning in reverse:

While there is hope there is life.

Hope is strength.

Hope sheds light into despairing hearts. It inspires the will to live.

It is the doctor's most powerful ally.

It sheds against defeat and failure.

It revives ideals and renews dreams.

As long as there is hope, no situation is impossible.

Advent summons us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

St. Joseph's Church Bulletin

Merry Christmas to all!

Wishing you all
a bright and beautiful
Christmas Season
And every
blessing in the New Year.



**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Angeline

Our Apostolic Experience

On the 31st of May, 2011, we (Berlinda and Beata) departed for Kiunga from Port Moresby for our apostolic experience that would last for five months. Before that we had a wonderful Jubilee celebration in Kiunga on the 12th of June. This was the occasion where all the DW Sisters united with the entire people of Daru-Kiunga Diocese who expressed their gratitude and joy to God for their mission in Western Province, PNG since 1961.

After that, we went to our respective apostolic communities; Berlinda joined Marie Louise Community and worked in St John's Parish. Beata joined Montfort Community and worked in St Gerard's Parish. The sisters were enthusiastic and ready to welcome us. At the same time, our spirits leapt with joy that we would share our life with each one of them at the passing of each day.

It was a new experience for us to work in the pastoral field. At first we had no clue how to go about it but were anxious to learn more by experiencing it. Eventually, we came to enjoy and like the work. Our doubts were solved one at a time as we freely opened our mouths to speak, question and to explore together with the entire team members.

Berlinda was given some responsibilities: Sunday school, Altar Servants, and teaching Catechism in the schools from the ele-



mentary to high school. Beata helped prepare Sunday Commentaries, taught First Communion Lessons and attended parish meetings. She also participated in many parish activities. Beata states, "I was moved with compassion when I met the poor people during my patrol Down Fly for three weeks. Hence, I spent my time talking and listening to their needs."

We are thankful to our sisters in the two communities who were supportive of our work. When our apostolic experience was finished, we moved to Wisdom Community in Kiunga.

Then, we had almost three weeks of sessions with Sr Jeanne about the *Women in the Church and the Society, the Rule of Life,* and the *Cost of Discipleship*. We enjoyed it because we reviewed what we have had already to refresh our minds and hearts. At the sisters' gathering we finished up with a role-play about wounded humanity in our society.

Finally, we had a two weeks session with Sr Evelyn who came from USA. The topic was *'The Dimension of the Paschal Mystery of the Charism.'* This truly urges us to take up the challenge of our life simply following the steps of Jesus, to live as a true servant of God. Nothing is expected in return, we are only to be available and do the best we can to the extent of our God-given tendency to serve Him alone. We felt that this is a fundamental motive of our hearts and the entire conscience of our being today. God gradually unravels to us the mysteries of Himself in His own time and space. Therefore, our apostolic experience was a grace-filled moment for us when and where we sipped and savored Christ as He really is.

Now we are back in our novitiate in Port Moresby since 29th November.

Berlinda and Beata (DW Novices)

Day of Discernment November 26, 2011.

In any group, the time comes when the need is felt to "take stock" and see where we are going. Religious Congregations are no exception. On November 26, 2011, with the help of Sr Evelyn Eckhart, former Provincial leader of our USA province who was here to give courses to our novices, we reflected on what we are presently living in our Region and tried to see together where the Lord is leading us. Looking at our personnel, at our houses, at our desire to reach out to the needy in remote areas and thinking ahead with our Melanesian sisters we proposed four plans: A-B-C-D (C f

report of meeting sent to each community) which are currently being studied by the Regional Team and will be proposed to the Congregational Team.

All of us were touched by the gentleness with which Sr Evelyn guided our reflections. All of us are concerned by the decisions and with prayer and confidence in the Lord we await the outcome of this day, knowing that Jesus Wisdom will give us the grace to live the detachments asked of us for the growth of our Region.

Sr Denise Hamann

Love and Wisdom

As children of God we need to know what **LOVE** and **WISDOM** is for us.

When God made Adam and Eve His ultimate goal was for our holiness and happiness forever, but our disobedience led to suffering. Nonetheless, God's love was always constant.

We didn't love God, but God loved us first and it was His love that made flesh and bone in us.

God loved to make bonds between Eternal Wisdom and humankind, so that people could

understand the secret of secrets to live in holiness of life. Wisdom is for us, and we are for Wisdom because Wisdom's friendship for us arises through creation.

However, through disobedience our relationship with God was cut short. But Mary in her humility treasured all God's graces and was faithful. She became the "Tree of Life" and Jesus the fruit, restored our friendship with God.

Respect, humility, patience, obedience and faithfulness are the contributing elements of love and **LOVE** is the greatest of the commandments.

Through this recollection day experience, we will come closer to Jesus and live as he lived, if we faithfully and habitually act out of love. Surely we will see Jesus face to face after this world.

Let us give time to the Trinitarian God by being prayerful, through the most pure heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She will bring us closer to Jesus, and He will help us deepen the experiences we have shared during our time together.

Friends of Wisdom

Lighting the Lamp

We want to acknowledge the arrival of the first three Daughters of Wisdom that came to PNG 50 years ago.

We were in darkness, when the three sisters came they brought the **LIGHT**, with the special **MISSION** they offered us; as Teacher., Nurse and Pastoral Worker, helping the women to cook and sew clothes.

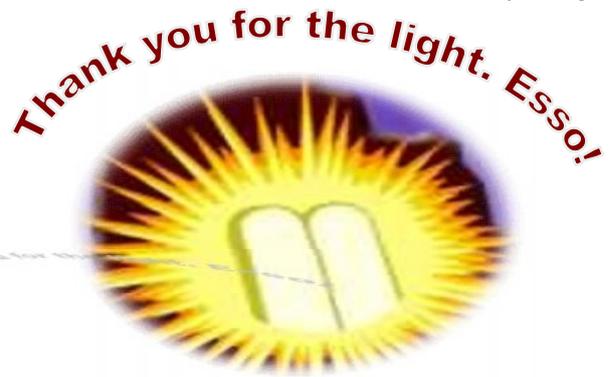
Now we can see that we are part of the **LIGHT**. Some of us are Teachers, Nurses, Pastoral workers today.

We, the Saint Mary's Small Christian Community of Matkomnai led the entrance procession during the Jubilee celebration; Sr Violaine lit the candle showing what the sisters have done in our land, they

brought the Light that we keep alive until now.

Therefore, we appreciate this day, as a special memory for us. We thank the Lord and everyone.

St. Mary's ssc group



Experience with the Street Children Project

After working with the street and settlement children in Port Moresby for about a year and half, I am moving to Kiunga. The experience with the Street Children Project helped me learn many things.

I had a lot of fun with the children we help. There were times they (especially the boys) showed lack of respect to their companions and teachers so that a few times it triggered frustration in me. Their behaviour worries me for the years that lie ahead of them. I hope one day

these children will be good citizens of this country. Being with them for the past year, I feel a part of them and therefore sometimes I am concerned for their lives. I hope their behaviour will improve with the help of those who are assisting them.

There were times, we would tease each other. These jokes and conversations were fun but built a stronger relationship with them. eg. The girls would tell me, "yumi wan blut" (we are one blood) meaning to say, we are no difference but a family. I feel happy because they feel we are a family in the school. I learnt a

lot in this Programme. eg. gained courage and confidence, knowledge and understanding how settlement people live, and I learned to tolerate the children's behaviour etc. This experience was a significant step in my life and has uplifted my personal perception of settlement dwellers. I believe that Wisdom was working in my life. I enjoyed helping the children especially cooking for them. I thank Sr Marilyn and the other staff for being good friends and family in our mission together. God bless you always.

Sr Angelina DW