

## GENERAL

It is close to a year now after we left from the leadership ministry in our province. You did not hear any more about the progress of our Gerehu project. I would like to give you an update of what had happened, what is happening and what will happen these days.

Sr. Mary Drum was asked by Sr. Dorothy to oversee the project and so when Mary left Vunamalml she came to live in Gerehu. She is working extremely hard with a lot of paper work with PNG Forest Products where our building materials are coming from. PNG Forest Product is in Lae and recently they have a yard and office also in Port Moresby.

Mary is working with Mr. George Warkarat, our technical project manager, NCDC building board, the project structural engineer and many, many others including business companies in Port Moresby and funding agencies. As you might have seen on our local newspaper," it is very difficult to make business in PNG". Many times Mary spends a lot of time following up on email, phone calls and standing in front of the officers wanting to know what is going on. Mary is now very familiar with the phrase "come back tomorrow" or "it will be ready by next week". This is still going on. It can also be frustrating but thanks for your prayers. We thought the buildings would be up already this year unfortunately this is what we have.



Mary went to Lae in August to check all the timber materials and thankfully PNG Forest Products is also working hard to get all these materials to Port Moresby, (at left Sr. Mary pictured in Lae beside some of our timber). We have received two big consignments and we are now waiting for a smaller one, hopefully next week it will arrive. At the same time all the other materials which includes items such as all the hardware, plumbing and electrical items, roofing and all the bathroom fittings, fans, chairs and mattresses etc have been sourced by PNG Forest Products in Port Moresby and are now being transferred to our storage site.

With all the documentation from the building board almost finalised and the site preparation work progressing we are inviting tenders now for the final phase of the project, to put up our buildings. This process involves lots of paperwork but we hope to bring this to a close soon.

## FUNDING

Sr. Alex is also here working on the project finances. Since we got a lot of money from donors, we need to present a very professional financial plan and report. Alex is working with our project auditor on this. It is not always easy but she continues to monitor, and enter all the figures into the books. We have set up an IBD with Bishops Conference in Port Moresby for our project and also our operating account with the ANZ bank. We thank Alex for this important task.

We have very many people who are supporting our project, and without whom it could never go ahead. These fall into the following main categories:

- **Overseas Donor Agencies;** e.g. Italian Bishops' Conference, Misereor, Missio, Sumser Children's foundation, Kindermissionswerk, Archdioceses of Paderborn and Kö In, Diocese of Muenster, MSC Mission Office Australia,– with a few other applications still in process from Australian Church agencies

- **Overseas Congregational Support and Personal Benefactors of the sisters**, e.g. we have received funds from Province Latina, Australian, USA, Korean and German Provinces and personal benefactors of our sisters from Germany, especially Sr. Friederika, and of our sisters in Australia
- **PNG Contributions -Church, Business and Diplomatic sectors.**
  - MSC Srs PNG Fundraising -we are very grateful to each local community for your fund-raising efforts throughout 2010, 2011 and this year, any further contributions you are able to make are still welcome.
  - PNG Dioceses, e.g. Archdioceses of Rabaul, Port Moresby and Mount Hagen and the Dioceses of Mendi, Kimbe, Kavieng, Goroka and a personal donation from Archbishop Reichert
  - PNG Business Sector - Mr. Fabian Chow of **Lae Biscuit Company** has given us the use of part of his land, near Tete settlement to store our building materials while the project is in progress and assisted with a forklift operator for the first freight consignment. This storage yard is safe; a Manus man by the name of Mr. Komet is living in the yard with his family. In the freighting of our materials we have been helped with a significant discount by **Bismark Maritime** shipping, some donation and some discount in services by **East West Transport** and **Bishop Brothers Equipment Hire** who have donated the services of their crane and crew to unload timber from trucks, the container lady of **Tradecorp** gave us a discount for the purchase of containers, **Brian Bell, Boroko Motors, Hardware Haus, Agmark, Hydraulink, Badili Hardware, Bros Engineering, GV Designs and Drafting Services, Construction 2000 Ltd, Gapi Consultants, DFK Hill Mayberry, QBE Insurance (PNG) Ltd. MDL Express Freight** and **Benson Plumbing** have assisted us with discounted services to date, as well as **PNG Forest Products Ltd.** Others have indicated a willingness to donate other materials as the project continues, according to our particular needs.
  - Diplomatic Sector – we have received help with appliances from the **French Embassy** and other applications for tanks, pumps, solar security lighting, standby generator, various furnishing needs are currently being assessed by the **British** and **Australian High Commissions** with other missions to be visited early in the New Year.



So far we have received no assistance from the **PNG Government** sector, although some applications/promised commitments are still under consideration.

Through all the contributions received **we have raised just over K3 million**. The cost of the all the materials and delivery to our storage site, for both buildings including finishings such as paints, tiles, solar hot water kit, fire protection kits etc, as well as basic furnishings which includes beds, study desks, chairs, mattresses, fans, bathroom/laundry fittings and kitchen joinery has cost just under K2 million. As building costs in Port Moresby continue to rise due to the LNG project we expect that the construction costs may be a little over K1 million so we are continuing with our fund-raising efforts until we have secured at least another K300,000.

## SITE WORK



As you are well aware the buildings are going to be located next to our existing convents where we had the garden, now there is no longer a garden. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> of October the Bros engineering company came with their bulldozer and truck, graded and cleared the area. All the mango trees and other trees are now down for firewood. At the moment the workers are just finishing the security fence on the site. We are also waiting for the plumber to finish relocating the sewerage lines from our house and

Lwanga school and Eda Ranu to remove the police water meter and line from our land from where it was incorrectly positioned when the Gerehu suburb first started. We have building board approval to proceed with the site excavation and backfilling work so that we be able to lay the concrete slabs for the buildings.



Everyone living in Gerehu community, short term and long term, is very helpful. Some go to the yard to make sure the timber are placed well and covered, others move out the logs after the work of the chain saw, while others take care of the workers, Sr. Freddy is busy sewing things for the new building, especially the curtains at present. Thank you.

We are in progress but it is very slow. Once we have the sewerage relocated we will have the excavation and backfilling, which simply means making sure the soil, is safe for the foundations of the building. This will be done under the supervision of the Structural Engineer. When that is done the work on the foundations of the building will commence. Hopefully, the construction will then proceed more quickly so that by mid year we hope the buildings will be close to completion.

I will give you the update of the building progress as we go on. From all of us at Gerehu. I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a happy new year. 2013

Sr. Hubertine and all in Gerehu community



# Proposed Multi-purpose Complex for MSC Sisters



This congregation of Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart was founded in 1900 to assist the people of Papua New Guinea.

From the very beginning, they were oriented to a "mission without limits", open to respond to the challenges and needs of the time, with a special option for the poor and the excluded.



**Aerial View**

- Proposed High Set 12-Room Complex
- Proposed Two-Storey Multi-Purpose Complex
- Existing Convent

Their remarkable dedication enabled them to raise fund for the design and construction of their two new buildings at Allotment 6, Section 358, Gerehu Port Moresby.

NIU HOMES offered them the best solutions for their needs: The High Set 12-Room Complex and the Two-Storey Multi-Purpose Complex.



**Bird's Eye View**

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