

*Bula, Gude, Kona mauri, Talofa lava, Welkam, Yuorait!*

**'An Older Brother Shares his experience of being a Melanesian Marist Brother'**

**PERSONAL PRAYER AND SELF DISCIPLINE SUSTAIN MY CONSECRATED LIFE AS A RELIGIOUS MARIST BROTHER. NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT.**

By Bro Henry Uguni fms



My Religious consecrated life as a Marist Brother or any so call dedicated life will die hard without personal prayer and self-discipline. I urge you my brothers at this gifted time of ours to set time and open our lives and embrace these two elements in our daily lives. There is no two ways about it.

I tend to think, feel and believe that for a long time being called a Marist Brother is just empty, dry and useless and just only an embarrassing name to be called by everyday by teachers, students and those I work with if personal prayer and self-discipline are absent in my daily life.

Certainly, if personal prayer and self-discipline are not practise and realize in my daily life as a Marist Brother, I will witness and experience chaotic situations in my life in the community with my brothers and apostolic work. I will blame others for my failures. I will ignore my religious responsibilities. I will experience lot of draw backs and lifeless routine in my Marist Brothers Religious community.

I tend to find relationship, energy and light from outside than from within my community the least. I tend to live and sort out my religious commitment as a Marist Brother from my head rather than from my heart. All these confusions blur my Religious life because of the lack of personal prayer and self- discipline.

Even though I already made my final vows I still question my vocation. How much more if I am under final vows without PP and SD to survive and make right judgement in my life. As a District we are losing more men this way. Lack of personal commitment to PP and SD

In reference to the scripture Jesus prays every day in Lk's Gospel (3.21, 5.16, 6.12, 9.18, and 28.) The disciples noticed that Jesus prays every day and ask him to teach them how to pray. Am I not Jesus' called disciple? Our Founder Champ gnat gave us the three pillars of prayer, study and work. Do I adhere to these as little brothers of Mary? Or Am I desire to dedicate more of my time to earthly things such as betlenut chewing, smoking, beer, and fb, loud music than to set aside a special time for PP and SD in daily life as a Marist Brother.

As a member of a team responsible for the pastoral care of the Brothers, I was enriched with the loyal commitments of some of the brothers to PP and SD in our Marist communities. PP and SD are no way near for most of our brothers as well so to say frankly. As I came across one to one in our conversations and self- strengthening dos and don'ts, I realised that this is a serious spiritual hunger for most of us both senior and junior brothers in our DM.

I don't want to paint a negative picture for us in the DM. But I believe that this trend of spiritual life, if it is lacking amongst our brothers it weakens our survival as a Religious group



and no way of new vocations coming forth. Here brothers, I don't undermine what you have inherited and learned as your Christian values and Morales, but we need to do more in our prayer life. Otherwise I be no different from any lay person in the street.

By human nature I am weak, lazy and careless. Thus far is why my spiritual nature needs personal prayer and self- discipline in my life as a Marist Brother. It is life worth living.

***Br Henry speaking to a group of Come and See aspirants at Laumansa, Tenaru. Henry is passionate about about having other young men from the Solomons following his footsteps. And so should all of us.***

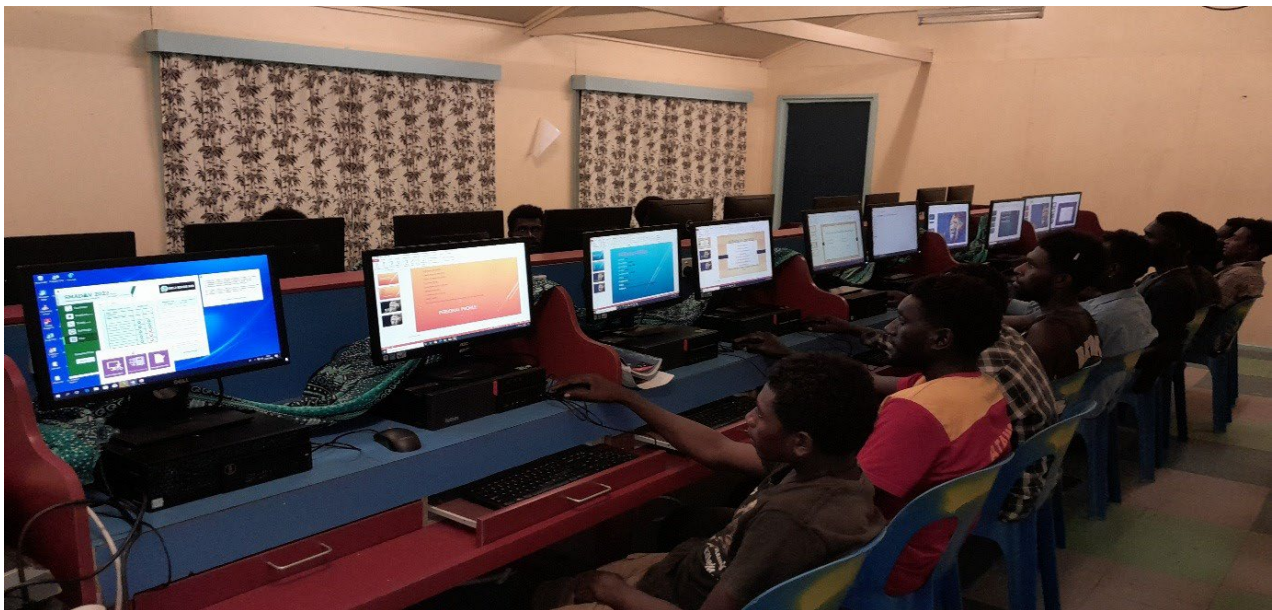
**Mr Benedict Tooming reporting on some of the recent developments at St Joseph's High School, Mabiri, Bougainville.**



## **IT and computer development**

### **Computers**

The students commenced using the computers in computer lab. 1 in term 3 of this year. Twenty computers are being used. They are powered by a 5000w inverter which was air freighted from Australia. It has been working well and we have confirmed that it is working well. Still waiting for inverter for computer lab. 2. Below are the 20 computers operational currently.



Students in computer lab. 1. All 20 computers is used by the students. The computers are services and repaired by computer technician sponsored by the project on contract basis for 3 years.



## Staff houses

The staff house construction is progressing well. The Vocational 2 students have graduated. 7 graduates came back to continue with the project. They are working with 3 leading hands and the supervisor. The graduates will be paid accordingly within the staff houses labour, at the completion of the project.

**This is how they look now.**

Staff house # 1 end view



Staff house # 2

Staff house # 2 end view



*Staff house # 3*

## Brothers attending the HESED Program in FIJI



Brothers Anitelea, Epalle and Fereole with Br Chris Poppellwell.

## SACHED HEART COLLEGE ADELAIDE VISITS FIJI



*Br Kees and the community at Vatuwaqa, with the Moce family hosted the Sacred Heart College Immersion Group for over a week.*

### Prayers Please ...

Recently, Steve Vaea stated that his older brother Semi's wife gave birth to twins, unfortunately both died...  
Brothers who are sick ... Br Iulio Suaesi.

John Hazelman fms  
Delegate of the Provincial to Pasifika