

Norried & Doris Chaisson Assemblies of God missionaries to Nauru

P.O. Box 291, Republic of Nauru (via Brisbane, Australia) E-mail: norried.chaisson@agmd.org

A.G.W.M. account number: 2282713

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Dear Friends and Partners in Mission,

Current challenge: One major concern for Pacific nations in the 21st century

One of the primary challenges to Pacific missionary ministry for the 21st century is of syncretism. Ask the greater majority of Pacific islanders if they are a Christian and they will answer in the affirmative. Christianity has become part of culture. A subconscious shift in perception has occurred. The church substitutes for the meeting house. The priest or pastor supplants the shaman and sorcerer. The bishop or superintendent serves as proxy for the regional or island-wide chief.

Pacific nations are in a fluid worldview. Influences which years past were by each visiting sailing vessel, then steamer; now are replaced by telephone, or arrival of the next airline flight, or more so for those in town areas as quick as the stroke of a keyboard while on the internet. For some people the changes are too fast and result in social problems. Many of today's Pacific islanders look ahead towards the technological, glittery, materialistic world and covet what foreign nations are experiencing. Yet at the very same time they look backwards to what and who they are, their old customs, their roots and want to hold on to and experience their former practices. New foreign gods yearned for; old spirits through animism never forgotten, ever spoken of, seemingly within the blood. In recent years these have been encouraged to be revived through governmental, civic, and sadly even church programs.

The drive towards the new, joining the world scene, experiencing the global village is a strong temptation that many, especially youth, university students, or the government and business leaders traveling overseas are tasting as sweet to the flesh. This is imported syncretism of Christianity with modern, false gods.

In recent years there is a nationalistic, cultural revival taking place. Renew the old customs and practices. Bring emphasis and respect back to sacred tambu sites. Re-carve the former spirits in wood, paint them anew on canvas or walls for all to see. Recover the former dances and chants, teach them to the young. The move to show themselves (and those who visit as tourists) their beginnings is overwhelmingly accepted as good and the right thing to do. Yet in most cases these traditional animistic ways of pandanus leaf, wood, or bamboo now wrapped in shining plastic call forth, invite, and welcome back the demonic spirits that kept the people in spiritual darkness since they ended up here from the plains of Shinar. This is domestic syncretism of Christianity with animistic spirits. There is therefore a dual syncretism: modern along with ancient.

We as missionaries must have discernment and be carriers of Biblical truth. What cannot be explained in the natural realm can be explained in the spiritual realm. We must be language proficient and culturally sensitive and so Holy Ghost anointed that we see with our spiritual eyes and not our physical eyes. Our prayer and fasting must be essential, not optional. We must return to the basic Christianity of the New Testament. In confronting syncretism high theology has no relevant place, it is back to the basics. We need an infusion of apologetics to properly and Biblically "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

The lost must clearly and in a cross-cultural context hear the Gospel. The converts must be systematically taught solid doctrine to become disciples. The disciples need continual

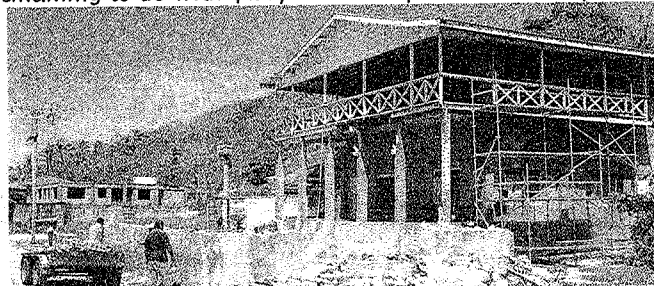
nourishment of Biblical truth to mature. Our future ministers, whether in the church or at a Bible school, need to carefully and methodically be taught the foundational building blocks of the faith. Our ministerial ranks should have continual remembrance of the fundamentals of the Pentecostal faith. Our national brethren should be mentored to be continually filled in the Spirit.

We missionaries have a delicate, tactful assignment to efficiently and effectively defend our Assemblies of God fellowship, ministers, members, and adherents from this significant issue of syncretism.

Each Pacific generation needs it's own Pentecost. We cannot rely on the moves of the Spirit in past years. Several of our nations have experienced a true Holy Ghost revival in the past that affected their nation; others have never experienced one. We need revival for this generation. Now is the time! Please be praying with us concerning this matter.

Phase 2 Project #5567: Anibare Assembly

Work began in late April. See the progress photo below compared to our last one in Newsletter #84. There is much remaining to do with \$18,000 in help needed to complete it.



Anibare Assembly construction is underway. We need *your* help with the remaining \$18,000.



Norried & Doris. Photo taken on their 30th wedding anniversary, July 13, 2009

Needed: Evangel Magazine & Tracts

Salvation tracts, cult tracts, Evangel's. E-mail for details.

Just \$49 Short In Monthly Financial Support

Just \$49! Can you help us? Contact A.G.W.M. Thanks!

Prayer Requests

[1] September prayer date birthdays: 5th Doris, 24th Norried. [2] Pray: \$18,000 needed now to complete Anibare Assembly. [3] Pray for spiritual growth, a new love for His Word, and a discerning heart for Nauru A/G leaders and pastors. [4] Pray for church members and for new souls. [5] Continue to pray for more physical rain and the much needed spiritual Holy Spirit rain. [6] Pray for Doris' and Norried's continued good health. [7] We are now over halfway through our term. God has blessed our labors with much spiritual fruit. Continue in prayer for Holy Spirit's blessings, anointing, and gifts upon us as we minister in this new field. We thank each of you for your prayers and financial support.

In Jesus' grip, *Norried & Doris*