



Cyclone Pam 2015

Build Aid MISSIONS

September 2015

Gift of a truck, Cyclone Pam and more!!



In late 2014, thanks to the generous Presbyterian Church in New Zealand and to a very pro-active Facebook campaign, BuildAid was able to purchase and ship a Toyota Landcruiser to Vanuatu. This vehicle has been and is to be used by teams working in the North Ambrym. The truck has been such an enormous help in both carting building materials and often people to and from the work site. On occasions it is used for local transportation but that is not its primary purpose!

Work at Megamone School commenced at the start of 2015, although initially there were significant delays in materials and the truck arriving! Not long after the footings were dug, Cyclone Pam struck! This changed our role and the work on the school was by necessity postponed. Ian was able to leave the island just

before the cyclone hit but returned within 36 hours, chartering a small plane to provide reconnaissance to local authorities, journalists and families searching for loved ones. We were inundated with texts, emails, phone calls from families and friends looking for any word on survivors and damage!



Once on the ground he was able to check on those we knew and worked with, and then start to cut a path from the beach to the remote Megamone.

Several kilometers of fallen trees and landslides later, he arrived to find all well and while there was some significant damage, everyone was alive and well. Hardest hit were of course family homes but also schools. Family homes in these areas are relatively easy to rebuild and villagers can do this unaided.

Rebuilding classrooms and restoring schools was a much harder and more expensive and labor intensive proposition. Many schools need to be rebuilt, repaired. Buildaid is committed

to seeing this happen! We are working closely with the Ministry of Education to ensure that all schools in North Ambrym affected by the Cyclone are useable as soon as possible. In the meantime work has resumed over the past few months at Megamone. A new double classroom is almost complete and teacher's accommodation and another classroom are in planning stages.





Local man standing in front of his family's home post cyclone



Local villagers waiting on the beach post cyclone for food and water relief to arrive from the



Making a new road to Megamone after the cyclone and subsequent rain washed away all access! Making use of bags of cement that would have otherwise been ruined



Megamone Classrooms in the process of being built!

Material Delivery Challenges

Building materials are always a challenge to get to North Ambrym. We have to rely on suppliers in Port Vila actually getting what we have ordered/selected for purchase from there yard to the docks and then on to a ship for transporting! Then we have to wait (and pray) that the items all arrive, they aren't delivered to the wrong beach and aren't left strewn everywhere!



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Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be involved? Volunteers are needed to join with us in November or December this year. You don't have to have any particular building skills and there are opportunities for women as well as men to come along.

Next schedule of team trips to Vanuatu!

6th – 22nd November Team 1 Megamone (Team confirmed)

20th November – 6th December Team 2 Megamone

4th December – 20th December Team 3 Megamone

1st January 2016 – 17th January Megamone

15th January – 1st February Megamone



Pray for

New volunteers

New church and individual supporters

Balance in our lives