**Introduction**

This work is part of a research agreement made between Dr. Annelin Eriksen and the Vanuatu Cultural Centre in 2006 and renewed in 2010, which specifies that Annelin Eriksen will, as part of her service to VCC and Vanuatu in return for research permit for the project: *Christianity, gender and the dynamics of the state in Melanesia, a study of Christian movements in Vanuatu*, funded by the Norwegian Research Council, make a survey of active Christian churches and ministries in Port Vila.¹ Rose Andrew has been a research assistant and partner in this work and Dr. Knut Rio has contributed valuable help. The design and layout of this report has been created by Eilin Holtan Torgersen.

The editing and printing of this report has been funded by the Bergen Pacific Studies Group and the project *Pacific Alternatives. Cultural heritage and political innovation in the Pacific*, both at the University of Bergen, Norway.

The project was announced through Radio Vanuatu and received valuable help from the Ministers Fraternal. Our intention was to include every church and ministry, however small and new, into this list. Although we were able to get in touch with, or otherwise get information about, a number of different churches and ministries in Port Vila, this might still not be a comprehensive list.

This presentation of churches in Port Vila is based on interviews with church and ministry leaders in July and August 2006 and from January until May 2010. Usually we were able to make appointments with the Pastor of the church or ministry, but on some occasions we did not have the chance to meet with the Pastor, and we made interviews with other prominent members of the church/ministry.

In the presentations we have tried to present stories as closely as possible to the way they were told. Some pastors emphasised visions and spiritual influence in their presentation of the churches origin story, others were

¹ This report does therefore not give an overview of all religious communities in Port Vila, but the Christian ministries and churches.
more focused on political issues and leadership disputes. During the interviews we asked the pastors about the kind of Christian tradition their church or ministry belonged to. As the survey reveals, a large number of the new churches and ministries consider themselves to be Pentecostal. By this it is implied a belief in the second coming of Christ and baptism in the Holy Spirit. Another issue which was often emphasised by the representatives of Pentecostal churches was water baptism. Although these issues were often explained at length by the pastors and church officials during interviews we have not emphasized these factors in the presentation of the churches, but chosen only to categorize them as Pentecostal if the pastor or church official underlined this in the interview.

On some occasions we did not succeed in getting in touch with the relevant pastor or other church official, and have thus not been able to include much information on these churches in this report. However, the names of the congregations and the names of the pastors as well as the location of the church are listed.

During the interviews we asked about number of members, and these numbers have been noted accordingly in this report (but only in those cases where the pastors/church officials were able to estimate number of members). However we have not ourselves conducted any survey of membership numbers for individual churches.

In the presentation of the churches we have chosen to organise them in accordance with the geographical location. We thus list every church and ministry-branch in the geographical areas we have chosen to focus upon. These geographical areas are the ones which have a high density of churches and ministries. We thus concentrate on: Town centre, Freswota, Ananboru, Seaside, Nambatu, Namatri, Tebakor, Manples, Agathis, Blacksands, Malapoa, Beverly Hills, the road to Pango, “Half road” Erakor, and also the area around Teomoa (the latter is included in spite of its distance from Port Vila because the centre draws a large amount of members from the urban area).

In this presentation we have emphasised to a greater extent the new churches and the indigenous (often called “the breakaway”) churches, and have not considered too such a large degree the more established ones, as the Catholic, the Presbyterian, the SDA and the Anglican Church since the history and presence of these churches are well known. These churches are only listed in accordance with their geographical location.

The presentation has three parts:

1. An alphabetic list of churches
2. A presentation of the churches based on geographical location, including photos
3. A presentation of some church genealogies and para-church organisations
PART ONE

ALPHABETIC LIST OF CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES IN
PORT VILA

1. Anglican

2. Apostolic Vanuatu, Pastor Stanly Moli

3. Apostolic Faith Ministry, Oliver Saksak

4. Apostolic Life Ministry, Pastor Jimmy Moli

5. Assembly of God- Evangel temple, Pastor Atnello

6. Bible Church, Pastor Sandei Ishmael

7. Catholic

8. Center Ville Christian Center Inc, Pastor Phillip Daniel

9. Christ Baptist Church

10. Christian Mission Center (Every Home for Christ), Pastor R. Bori

11. Christian Outreach Center, Pastor Walter

12. Church of Christ

13. Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints:
   * Port Vila First Branch
     President: John Nichola
   * Port Vila Second Branch
     President: Eyong Basil
   * Blacksand Branch
     President: Edmond Gila
   * Erakor Branch:
     President: Henry Basil
   * Mele Branch
     President: Kerol Terifaki
   * Branch long Etas
     President: Henrik Vano

14. Church of Nazarene

15. Cornerstone Christian Center, Pastor Thompsen

16. Devine Healing Ministry, Pastor George Yasyas

17. ELOHIM family Assembly, Pastor Hezekaih Loloi

18. Father´s house (Triumphant church), Pastor Sandy Obed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19.</th>
<th>Family Worship Ark Healing Ministry, Pastor Jeremiah</th>
<th>35.</th>
<th>Presbyterian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Glorious church, Pastor Samuel Joshua Daniel</td>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Tabernacle Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Grace Church of God, Pastor Phillipe Toboe</td>
<td>39.</td>
<td>SDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Elim, Manples</td>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Sowing Faith Seed, Pastor Ken Mansi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Himford, Holy church b/g ol Nation</td>
<td>41.</td>
<td>Survival, Pastor Aaron Richard Gallom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Life Revelation Church, Pastor Moses John</td>
<td>42.</td>
<td>Today’s Youth Ministry, pastor Gordon Haines Garae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Living Word House, Pastor Gordon Haines Garae</td>
<td>43.</td>
<td>United Pentecostal Church International, Pastor John Tangalobani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Living Wota, Pastor Neru</td>
<td>44.</td>
<td>Upper Room, Pastor Robert Timakata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Melanesian Brotherhood (Anglican)</td>
<td>45.</td>
<td>Vanuatu Fellowship blong ol pikinini blong God, Pastor Hardy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>NTM</td>
<td>46.</td>
<td>Vanuatu Indigenous Seven Day Adventist Church/Self Supporting SDA, Pastor John George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>New Covenant Church (Revival), Pastor John Henry</td>
<td>47.</td>
<td>Vanuatu Revival Fellowship, Pastor Joseph Licht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Pentecostal evangelical fellowship, AOG breakaway, Pastor Raymond Clay</td>
<td>48.</td>
<td>Word Breakthrough, Pastor Peter Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Potter’s house, Pastor Rodney Lambak</td>
<td>49.</td>
<td>Word Christian Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>Praise and Worship Ministry, Pastor Yanick Jimmy</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART TWO
A PRESENTATION OF CHURCHES IN PORT VILA BASED ON GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

TOWN CENTER

Catholic, Cathedral Sacre Coer
Praise and Worship Ministries

Information based on interview with Pastor Yannick Jimmy, March 2010.

Background:
Jimmy leads a branch of the Praise and Worship ministry in Port Vila town. They have been holding their services in Club Vanuatu, but after the renovations they have been looking for a new place. The branch in Port Vila is part of the Mele Praise and Worship church led by pastor William Malas.

The church has branches on Santo, Malekula, Efate and Tanna. It is a Pentecostal/spiritual oriented church, and healing is an important activity in the church.

Praise and Worship is part of the World Breakthrough network and part of the Breakthrough Bible School (with Upper Room, Seed faith, and Word Breakthrough). They are calling for a “new season for the church”: a new dimension. They call this dimension Apostolic Reformation Grace.

Spiritual Warfare is also an essential part of the work of the church. In 2006/7 they took part in a large campaign where groups from the church prayed in different selected points around town.

In the Port Vila branch of the church there are about 14 households that actively take part in the church. Pastor Jimmy himself is from Tanna, but the church in Port Vila has members of very many different islands.

Pastor: Yannick Jimmy
(and William Malas in Mele)
**Presbyterian, Malasitapu**

Malasitapu

Plate on the wall of the church

**SDA, Epacho**

*Pastor:* Esau Tawali
Freswota 1

**SDA, Mautoa**

*Pastor:* Kevin Isaiah
Freswota 5

**Living Wota**

*Main church:* Freswota 5
Information based on interview with Jude Neru, July 2006. Living Wota considers itself a Pentecostal church.

*Background:*
Pastor Jude Naru was for a long time a key member of the Renewal church. As part of his work for the Renewal church he had travelled widely to evangelize. He visited almost every island in the archipelago. Neru formed his own church after having received a vision about a new church movement. He broke away from the Renewal church in 2002.

*Pastor:* Jude Neru

Welcome sign for the Living Water Ministry
**SURVIVAL**

**Main Church:** Freswota 5  

**Background:**  
The Survival church was established as a breakaway branch of the Revival church (now New Covenant Church) by Pastor Aron and brothers from Nguna in 1996. The church built a primary school in Freswota 5 in 2007 funded by an Australian mission organization, Evidence.

The church considers itself a healing ministry and a Pentecostal church, being founded by a breakaway group from the Presbyterian Church on Nguna after a dispute about healing practices.

**Branches:** Nguna, Tanna and Malekula

**Pastor:** Aaron Richard Gallom

---

**LIFE REVELATION CHURCH**

**Main Church:** Freswota 5  
Information based on interview with Pastor Moses January 2010.

**Background:**  
The church is a breakaway ministry from The Survival and was founded by Pastor Moses in 2007. Sometimes the Life Revelation church and the Survival church will have combined services. The church has branches in Port Vila, Erakor, Nguna, North Efate and on Santo. The majority of the members have a background from Nguna, but the church has members from a number of different islands as well.

They consider themselves a Pentecostal church and Pastor Moses considers spiritual warfare and divine healing as essential activities of the church.

**Pastor:** Moses John

**Members in Port Vila:** About 60
Father’s House (Triumphant church)

Main church: Freswota 5
Information based on interview with Pastor Obed, July 2006.

Background:
Pastor Obed received bible training and a bachelor degree in missionology in 1998 at the New Covenant Bible College, Auckland, sponsored by Auckland Christian Fellowship. He had then been working for Christian Mission Center, an organization founded by Pastor Reynold Bori after the American based mission organisation “Every Home for Christ” had a crusade in Vanuatu in the 1990ies. This was a teaching programme which engaged existing church groups and ministries. In 1992 Obed went to Fiji and studied at Every Home for Christ Bible College, and in 1993 he worked as a Christian Mission Center -church planter in Vanuatu.

The CMC experienced internal dispute and disagreements on leadership at the end of the 1990ies, especially between the two branches in Port Vila, the Salem and the Eklesia. In 1999 the Eklesia branch was recognised as the legitimate CMC branch by the executive committee of CMC, and the Salem branch broke away from the CMC ministries. The Triumphant church was created by the leaders of the former Salem church in 2002.

In 2008 the church changed name and became the Father’s House.

According to Obed, the church can be characterised as a Pentecostal church.

Pastor: Obed Sande Malto, from West Ambrym

Members: less than 100

**Anglican**

Church: Freswota 4
Anglican sub-center

**Apostolic Faith Ministry**

(We were not able to make an appointment with Oliver Saksakor or any other church official)

Main church in Port Vila: Freswota School
Director: Oliver Saksak

**NTM**

(For more information on NTM, see NTM Agatis)
Church: Freswota 5

**Devine Healing Ministry**

Main church: Freswota 2
Information based on interview with the Pastor’s wife, Deborah, February 2010.

Background:
Pastor Yaiyas was for a number of years Assistant Pastor in the Christian Mission Centre lead by Pastor Raynond Bori. However, after his wife, Deborah, had been sick for a long time, without anyone, doctors or healers, being able to find the underlying cause, she had an encounter with the Holy Spirit. Her sickness was lifted from her in the way “a cloud breaks”, Deborah told us.

After this experience Deborah initiated a new ministry, and called it the Divine healing and Deliverance ministry.

The church is a healing church based on Pentecostal Christianity.

The ministry was founded in 2009 and is steadily growing. According to Deborah the number of members in early 2010, about a year after the foundation of the ministry, was at least 200.

Pastor: George Yisiyas
Today’s Youth Ministry

Information based on interview with Pastor Haines, January 2009.

This is an inter-church program for youth led by pastor Gordon Haines Garae. The program started in 1996 in Ambae and has today its headquarter in Port Vila.

Pastor Gordon has organised camps and educational programs on several islands as well as urban areas.

Pastor: Gordon Haines Garae

Living Word House

Location: Freswota 3
Information based on interview with Pastor Haines, January 2009.

The church was founded by Pastor Gordon Haines Garae in 2000.

Pentecostal church

Pastor: Gordon Haines Garae

Members: About 50

Church of Christ-center

(For more information on church of Christ, see Church of Christ Ananboro)

Location: Freswota 2
Elder: Hudsen Saly
**Pastor Raymond Clay**

**Main church:** Freswota 5  
Information based on interview with Pastor Raymond Clay January 2010.

The church is considered to belong to the Pentecostal tradition.

**Background:**  
This church was founded by Pastor Raymond Clay in October 2004. Pastor Raymond Clay was previously a pastor in the AOG church in Tebakor, the Evangel Temple. He was also the very first Ni-Vanuatu pastor to be ordained in the AOG church in the early 1970ies. Although the ministry exists independently of the AOG, Pastor Raymond Clay is very concerned to underline that they do not consider AOG as a competing congregation. Rather, the Pentecostal Evangelical fellowship is an extension of the AOG church, according to Clay. He explains that the background for their break with the AOG was the last election at the general Assembly for the AOG church. Clay himself quite unexpectedly did not win this election and his supporters were dissatisfied with the result. They therefore suggested that he formed his own ministry so that he could continue leading a congregation.

**Location:** Although most of the members live in Olhen, Pastor Raymond Clay at first rented the Hall at Fresh Water Primary School, and services and church meetings were held here. However, the church bought a piece of ground in Freswota 5, funded through fund raising and tithing, and in 2006 they started the services in a church building which in 2009 was still under construction.

**Pastor:** Raymond Clay  
**Members:** About 75

---

**Presbyterian Reformed**

**Main church:** Freswota 5  
Information based on interview with Ken Zylstra, January 2010.

A new church recently set up by Australian missionary Ken Zylstra as outreach of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia and New Zealand, in conjunction with the Presbyterian Reformed church in Vanuatu (branches in Malekula and Tanna).

**Members:** 10-15 (the church was just starting up at the time of our visit)  
**Pastor:** missionary Ken Zylstra
**United Pentecostal Church International**

**Location:** Freswota  
Information based on interview with Pastor John Tangalobani, January 2010.

Pentecostal church

**Background:**  
The church was brought to Vanuatu by missionary Rev. Makanini, an American residing in Fiji. The Branch in Pango was the first to be established by Pastor James Kalmit in 1983. Today there are branches on this church in Port Vila in Pango, as well as in different villages around Efate and on several islands.

**Pastor:** John Tangalobani

**Members:** About 200

---

**ANANBORU**

---

**Four Square**


**Background:**  
The Four Square church arrived in Vanuatu in 2001. Franklin was the founder of the church here. It was the Sydney branch of the Four Square church that funded the church planting. Pastor Franklin was initially invited to Vanuatu by a ni-Vanuatu revival pastor, Toboe, and the former chief president of the Malvatumauri, Chief Tom. In 2001 Franklin held a crusade in Port Vila in association with Toboe and Chief Tom. The church is a Pentecostal denomination.

Today the church has 105 branches around the archipelago, but their main work is on Tanna, where they have 90 branches. Initially the Port Vila branch was renting the Anabouru school (French school) but they now rent the VNCW-guesthouse and is planning to build their own church building.

**Pastor:** Luke Franklin

---

**United Pentecostal Church International**

Information from interview with Pastor John Tangalobani, January 2010

New church building under construction in 2010

Reverend Sherry, missionary US

**Members:** About 1000
**Church of Christ - Sarabulu**

Information based on interview with Elder Sam, January 2010

**Elder in charge of the church:** Elder Sam, from Ambae, Chairman of board of elders

**Background:**
Church of Christ was founded in West Ambae, in Nduindui, by returned Blackbirders. The church spread to Pentecost, Maewo, Malo, Tutuba, Mafea, Santo and then to Efate and Port Vila. The first church to be established in Port Vila was Church of Christ - Sarembeto at Seaside, near Independence Park (see Church of Christ - Sarembeto). Church of Christ Sarabulu broke out of the Sarembeto main congregation in 1990 and established an independent and autonomous congregation in Ananboru. Every congregation is governed by a board of elders. There is also a national board of elders who decides on national issues.

Church of Christ in Vanuatu is also represented in Church of Christ World Conferences.

**Members:** about 100

![Church of Christ: Elder Sam and wife](image1)

**Church of Christ-Sarembeto**

(For more information on church of Christ, see Church of Christ Ananboro)

Members: about 200 (based on interview with Elder Sam, Sarabulu, January 2010)

**Vanuatu Revival Fellowship**

**Main church:** Seaside Paama
Information based on interview with Pastor Joseph Licht, February 2010

Vanuatu Revival Fellowship is a Pentecostal church.

**Background:**
The Vanuatu Fellowship Church is part of the Australian based Revival Fellowship church.

The Port Vila branch is located in the seaside area, but there are also branches in Santo, Tanna and in Malekula

**Pastor:** Joseph Licht

Vanuatu Revival Fellowship
**Anglican**

Subcenter

---

**Presbyterian**

* Paama Seaside  
* Tongoa Seaside  
* Futuna Seaside

---

**Nambatu**

---

**Potter’s House**

Information based on interview with Jeremine Tari and Margaret Tamata, July 2006

**Background:** The church was established in Vanuatu in 2002. The first pastor was Mel Montayo, who set up the church before returning to the US. They had their first meetings at the Rossi Hotel, and later at the Club Vanuatu, before they established themselves in Nambatu. The church is a Pentecostal denomination.

They have presently more than 300 members in the Port Vila area

**Pastor:** Rodney Lambak

---

**Upper Room**

The main congregation meets weekly in Tampea Hall  
Information based on interview with Joseph Robert, July 2006

**Background:** The church was founded by Robert Timakata in July 2000. Timakata was among the first converts to the AOG church when this church was established in Port Vila in the 1970ies, and one of the first to go to Bible school in Fiji. He was a pastor in the AOG church for 30 years, but had some difficulties fulfilling his visions within this denomination. After some disagreements, the AOG church removed his pastor credentials, and he broke with the church. Timakata later joined Reynold Bori’s CMC movement. However, after a dispute he founded his own Pentecostal oriented church; the Upper Room.

**Pastor:** Robert Timakata
We Care Ministry

Branch of AOG, see AOG Tebakor for information on AOG church.

Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints

Information based on interview with Public Affairs Director: Katimal Kaun, January 2010

Background:
Missionaries from the U.S. and Tonga arrived in 1973 and established a small congregation. The missionaries were deported in 1980, by the first independent government, but allowed back in 1989. Since then, missionaries have regularly arrived, mainly from the U.S. and Polynesian countries.

Port Vila District:
* Port Vila First Branch
  President: John Nichola
* Port Vila Second Branch
  President: Eyong Basil
* Blacksand Branch
  President: Edmond Gila
* Erakor Branch:
  President: Henry Basil
* Mele Branch
  President: Kerol Terifaki
* Branch long Etas
  President Henrik Vano

Members in Port Vila District: About 2000

SDA, Portoriki

Pastor: Kaio Timothy

Signpost for the SDA church
Catholic, Paray church

Father Benedicto

Himford, Holy church blong ol nation

Himford

Presbyterian

Nangirei
Glorious Church

Main church: Ohlen Freswind
Information based on interview with Isaac James (secretary), Matthew David and Meryan Mareta in July 2006.

Background:
The church is a breakaway ministry from the Survival church. It was founded in 2000 as a result of a vision. The church is a healing and miracle church, and can be classified as a Pentecostal church. The pastor is without official training (he did not attend Bible school), but the church believes that everyone can receive messages from God and be able to share those with the congregation.
The church has presently branches on several islands; including Banks, Santo, Ambrym and Tanna.

Members: between 300 and 400 (incl. Banks, Santo, Ambrym and Tanna)

Pastor: Samuel Joshua Daniel

SDA, Freswind

Pastor: Loleth Worwor

Cornerstone Christian Center

Main church: Ohlen Freswind
Information based on interview with Pastor Thomp- son in July 2006

Background:
Pastor Thompson was part of the every Home for Christ -crusade in the late 1980ies and early 1990ies. He also studied at the Joy Bible institute (AOG) in 1990-91 before he continued his work for the Every Home -crusade as Central and Southern supervisor. In 1994 he founded the Gospel Outreach ministry, to reach people who were yet without a church. He became affiliated with the Australian based Christian Revival Crusade in Vanuatu and founded the Christian Cornerstone Center in 1997.

Branches:
Santo: Bethel Christian Center
Malekula: Foundation Christian Center

Pastor: Thompsen
New Covenant Church (Revival)

Information based on interview with Fred Moses July 2006

Background:
The church was born through the revival movement that swept Vanuatu in the late 1970ies. According to Pastor Fred Moses he received a vision on the 29th of September 1978. The vision was to build a new church which would enhance the revival process in Vanuatu. Thus the church should be called Revival. Pastor Fred Moses was originally a Presbyterian pastor, trained in Fiji, in New Zealand and in Australia. He also took a course in evangelization in Switzerland.

Fred Moses vision was to build a church for Vanuatu, an indigenous church. According to him the Presbyterian Church is not the right church for the people of Vanuatu, because it originates in another country. His vision entails a new church which encompasses all ni-Vanuatu.

Pastor: Fred Moses

Presbyterian

Location: Ohlen Whitwood and Pakaroa

Pastor: Saimon U Lovo

Tabernacle Fellowship

Pentecostal church

Background:
Breakaway church of the New Covenant. It was founded in 2003. Members mainly from the Shefa province.

Pastor: Mark (from Tongoa)

Christian Outreach Center

Location: Ohlen Freswind

Pastor: Walter
(See also link to Christian outreach Center web page, p. 30)
**GRACE CHURCH OF GOD**

Information based on interview with Philipe Toboe, February 2010-02-16

Pentecostal church

**Background:**
The church was founded in 2002, but Pastor Toboe does not see himself as independent from other churches. He was raised in the Presbyterian Church on his home island Santo and feels that he still is part of the Presbyterian Church. He says he never broke with the church. However his calling is to visit and teach in all denominations. He has therefore spent time with the Anglican Church, Church of Christ, AOG, Apostolic and the Catholic Church to spread the charismatic revival movement.

Toboe has been part of the revival movement in Vanuatu since its initial phase in the early 1970ies. Although the AOG and the Apostolic engaged in spiritual worship at the time, not many in the mainline churches knew about the revival movement. Pastor Toboe attended crusade meetings where the Holy Spirit “cup sided” at Onasua High School in 1972, Malapoa Collage in 1974 and at the teachers training collage in 1974. There had been much talk and worry in the Presbyterian Church about the revival movement, and at General Assembly in Mele in 1976 they had discussed the issue. Several students at the Onasua high school and Teachers college defended the revival, and the church had ended up not condemning it.

Toboe has travelled widely as a revival preacher, to the Solomon Islands, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. He was a preacher in the Kwaio area of the Solomon Islands in 1984.

**Members:** Today Grace church has about 30 to 50 committed members.

**Pastor:** Philipe Toboe

---

**UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL**

**Location:** Olhen Freswind

Information from interview with Pastor John Tangalobani, January 2010

**Members:** About 100

**Pastor:** Robert Davis

---

**APOTOSTIC VANUATU**

**Main church in Port Vila:** Ohlen

Information based on interview with Stanly Moli, February 2010

**Background:**
The church was founded on Ambae in 1949 by John Lulu and missionary Mr. Mann. John Lulu was originally from Noumea and came to Ambae to evangelise. However, after a while, he wrote to the Anglican Mission board in Australia for help and asked them to send a missionary who could look after the congregation he was building up in West Ambae, in the village of Wallaha and Vilakalaka. John Lulu had learnt...
about the Anglican Church from a mission magazine he held, Herald of Grace. The mission board had replied and informed Lulu that they already had a man based in Port Vila and that they would send him and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Mann, to Ambae. Mr Mann, who at the time was in charge of a petrol station (where Ceterpoint/Spar is today), brought his family along and moved to Ambae. However within a month he was dead, reportedly from Malaria. However, the Apostolic church was built and has since grown and today have ministries on several of the islands.

**Pastor:** Stanly Moli

---

**Catholic church, Centenary**

Under Sacre Coer Parish

**Apostolic Life Ministry**

**Main church:** Tebakor/Malapoa

Information based on interview with Jim Moli James, March 2010

**Background:**

Jim Moli was formerly a member of the Apostolic Church, which is led by his cousin brother Stanly Moli. However, according to Jim Moli, he, and a small group of 7 members, were released by the Apostolic church in 1993 after disagreement on the matter of “blessed marriages”. In Jim Moli’s opinion only proper marriages can be accepted by the church. He therefore founded the Apostolic Life Ministry: a church which is strict on matters of morality and marriages. Moli argues that it is the church’s responsibility to bring up “responsible citizens”. The young of today in Vanuatu need to know about commitment, according to Moli. However, ALM still has combined services and cooperation with the Apostolic church. ALM built their main church in Malapoa, on land bought from a man from Ifira. They have also built their own television broadcasting centre. They broadcast the American TBN (Christian 24 hour television) to the Port Vila area, and they broadcast radio.

Their aim is to build a Christian nation; to build a church, broadcasting, Christian schools, Christian hospitals and Christian colleges. They are still working towards the latter three of these aims.

The ALM is represented in all the provinces of Vanuatu, and has also started church planting overseas; in Fiji and in New Caledonia.

The church is run by an Executive Council a President and Jim Moli is the Chief executive of the ALM church

**Pastor:** Jim Moli James
Assembly of God, Evangel temple

Main Church: Tebakor
Pentecostal church

Background:
The Assembly of God Vanuatu was started by a U.S. missionary in 1968. Pastor Raymond Clay was the first ni-Vanuatu pastor to be ordained. He led the church for decades until he founded his own congregation (see Pentecostal evangelical fellowship above).

Pastor: Atnello

NTM

Location: Manples

(See NTM Agatis for more information about NTM)

SDA, Kaweriki

Pastor: Phillip Morris

Elim

Information based on interview with pastor Douglas, July 2006

The church was founded by missionaries form Korea in collaboration with pastor Douglas. Pastor Douglas was for a long time associated with the AOG church, first as a pastor of a branch on Ifira, and later as a pastor in the Evangel Temple in Tebakor. However, he broke with the church in 1999 and joined the Korean mission.

Presbyterian

Matatempoa

Kokorako
**WORD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP/ JESUS ONLY**


**Background:**
Founded by Sero and wife, Agnes. First the church was called Jesus Only.

**Pastor:** Sero (originally from Fiji)

---

**NTM**

**Location of headquarter:** Atakis
Information based on interview with Pastor Alick Haupman and Pastor Preston Armstrong

**Background:**
The church was founded by an Australian missionary, Neil Thomas, who arrived in Vanuatu in 1976 as a missionary for the South Pacific Evangelist Fellowship. After a while he founded the Holiness church in Vanuatu in collaboration with Pastor James Kalnut. The church bought a piece of ground in Nambatu in the early 1980ies and built a church here. In 1983 Neil Thomas was deported from the country by the government led by Father Walter Lini. His brother, Kevin Thomas, arrived and was in charge of the mission work in Vanuatu. They set up a mission school in Nambatu, Kauman Bible College.

In the early 1990ies the name of the church was changed into Grace church. However, just a few years later the church changed name again, now calling it the Neil Thomas ministry.

Today the church has branches in all of the provinces, and 15 centres in Port Vila and surrounding areas, including Mele and Pango.

NTM also runs a bible college and a nursing centre at Agathis.

---

**TAGABE**

**ANGLICAN**

Main center of the Anglican Church
**Bible Church**

**Main church:** Tagabe  
Information based on interview with Pastor Sandei July 2006 and wife Dora February 2010.

**Background:**  
The church was founded as a breakaway congregation from the New Covenant church (before Revival) after a leadership dispute in 1993. After the break, Pastor Sandei Ishmael received a vision in which he pictured a new church which would be based on a true reading of the Bible. The congregation was also helped by American missionaries from the Evangelical Bible Mission in 1995.

The church has branches on several islands, among them Tongoa. The congregation in Port Vila is steadily growing including the women’s ministry, the youth ministry and the Sunday school. The church hopes to be able to run their own primary school based on the teachings of the Bible in the future.

**Main pastor:** Sandei Ishmael

---

**Christ Baptist Church**

**Location:** Platiniere estate  
Information based on web-page (see http://fbc-wa.org/Hirtzels/index.html)

Missionaries from US set up the church and built a primary school.

---

**Word Breakthrough**

**Main church:** Platiniere estate, Tagabe  
Information based on interview with Peter Miller, February 2010

**Background:**  
The church was founded as a breakaway fraction from the Presbyterian Church by Peter Miller. The reason for the breakaway was theological disagreement on the understanding of baptism. Miller did not conceive it as right to baptise infants. Adult baptism is better because grown ups can take responsibility for their own actions and thus realize the true meaning of baptism.

The congregation is independent but is part of a larger network called World Breakthrough Network, where also Upper Room, Seed Faith and Vanuatu Fellowship blong ol pikinini blong God are part. These churches therefore sometimes have combined services and join each other’s praise and worship. The church considers itself Pentecostal in its orientation.

**Pastor:** Peter Miller

**Members:** 70-80
Sowing Faith Seed

Information based on interview with Pastor Ken Mansi, March 2010

Background:
Ken Mansi was originally from a Church of Christ community in Ayunaleleo village, Malo. After a dispute in the church, his father has broken with the congregation. As an adult, Kensi wanted to start his own church for his community; a Christian Community Center. He had a number of members in his village, and they built a school. Ken Mansi himself moved to Vila but his congregation was still growing on Malo. However, after a while the members of the Christian Community Center joined Pastor Raymond Bori’s Christian Mission Center, based on Santo.

In 1999 the Apostolic Life Ministry in Port Vila asked Pastor Mansi to become pastor of an ALM congregation in Eram. He was in charge of the church for 17 months. He had then experienced some conflict with the leaders of the ALM church, on the issue of divorce. A specific case of a love affair between a married man and a woman brought the issue up, and caused tension between the leaders of the ALM church who would not accept the couple and Mansi who had argued that as the state allows for divorce, so should the church. As he did not follow the doctrine of the church, he broke away and founded his own church in 2001; Sowing Seed Faith.

There are no records of number of members. However, the church is growing and building a kinder garden, and has plans for community development in the mainly Tanna dominated area around the airport.

Pastor: Ken Mansi

Presbyterian

Clifidon

Catholic

There is currently a piece of land intended for a catholic church in Blacksands

SDA, Olwi

Pastor: Phillip Morries

Church of Nazarene

We were unable to reach Pastor David, and have no further information on this church.

However, see link to mission page below, p. 30.

26
Renewal Church

Information based on interview with Harry Faye July 2006

**Background:**
The church was founded a short time after the Santo rebellion by some of the leaders of the Nagriamel movement. Harry Faye from Ambae was the key person. Harry was originally a member of the Apostolic church, but was, according to himself, not a dedicated Christian. However, during a choir rehearsal one evening in the late 1970ies, he received the Holy Spirit and has ever since been a strong Christian leader. In order to prove to his followers the power of the Holy Spirit he performed a miracle at the time: he prayed that a glass of water would turn into wine before midnight and declared to his followers that if it did, this would be proof of the divine influence on his church. According to Faye, just before midnight the water turned into wine, and this was acknowledged by several witnesses.

The church has branches on most of the islands today.

**Pastor:** Harry Faye

Vanuatu Fellowship blong ol pikinini blong God

**Church:** near AOG Blacksands
Information based on interview with Pastor Hardy, April 2010

Breakaway from NTM.

**Background:**
Pastor Hardy and a group of NTM members broke out of the NTM church in 1998 after a period of disagreement around leadership issues. The new pastor in charge of the NTM headquarters in Port Vila, chosen by Neil Thomas (residing in Melbourne), Katikalotiki from Pango, was not a choice easily acceptable for Hardy. He had wanted another choice: a man more suitable for church life and a man “whose heart was close to the bible”. As Neil Thomas and the leaders of NTM church did not listen to his opinion, he founded his own fellowship.

**Members:** 50/100

**Pastor:** Hardy

![Pastor Hardy and son](image)

AOG-branch

(See AOG Tebakor for more information)
Information based on interview with Hezekiah Loloi in March 2010

**Background:**
The church is inspired by Jewish traditions and language. The name, Elohim means “God Almighty”. Pastor Hesekiah joined the conference Feast of the Tabernacle in Israel. When he returned he set up his church intending to develop and train people in Vanuatu in traditional Jewish ways of worshipping. He set up his church at the same time as he initiated a teaching programme called The Tabernacle of David. This is a teaching programme where members of different churches can apply. Once accepted as pupils, they learn a number of different “protocols” which must be followed in order to worship. For instance a particular dress code where women wear headscarves and men wear long robes. There are also rules about when one can attend prayers. Women who have their periods for instance, or people who are sick with diarrhoea, cannot take part. In order to meet God, one needs to humble oneself, to prepare and to show respect.

Thus Hezekiah is founder of both the church, Elohim, and a bible study school where he gives a worship foundation course. Both of these institutions were founded in 2007

**Branches:** Pentecost, Santo, Aneitium

**Pastor:** Hezekiah Loloi

---

**Freedom of worship-center**

(Freedom of Worship, Half Rod Pango for more information)

**NTM-brach**

(See NTM Agatis for more information)

**Eklesia (CMC)**

The Christian Mission Centre was founded by Pastor Reynold Bori after the Every Home for Christ crusade in the 1990ies. The headquarter was located in Luganville, and the branch in Port Vila was called CMC Salem. However, a dispute between several of the leaders, among others pastor Sangsong and Pastor Timakata, ended when the Salem branch of the CMC broke out of the church and pastor Timakata founded the Upper Room church.

**Pastor** Sangsong Kaiti
Church of Christ Beverly Hills

Pastor: Sam Temar  
Members: About 50

Presbyterian

Brian Memorial

“Half Road Pango”

Freedom of Worship

Information based on interview with Pastor Seola Kaltal and wife, July 2006

Background:
This ministry was founded by a group of people who first broke away from the NTM church and joined the Praise and Worship ministry and then finally established their own congregation after the pastor, Seola, received a vision about a new church which would enable real change in people’s lives. The ministry was founded in 1999. They have about 30 members but are steadily growing. There are today three different centres of Freedom of worship in Port Vila: Malapoa, Erakor Bridge, and “half road Pango” (close to where the pastor and his family live).

Centres are also being established on Tanna, Malekula and Santo

The pastor emphasised that this ministry is especially for those who do not feel any special attachment to any particular church, but just wants to join for worship. Therefore the name of the congregation is Freedom of Worship.

Vanuatu Indigenous Seven Day Adventist Church / Self Supporting SDA

Information based on interview with Pastor John George, February 2010.

Background:
This church broke away from the SDA church in 1997 as a result of dispute over the use of tithing. The idea was to build a self-supporting ministry where the money collected should be used on this church and not be sent overseas.

There are five branches of this church in Port Vila area:
- Pango: Headquarter church and first Self-supporting Ministry. Pastor: John George
- Erakor
- Teoma
- Roundabout bridge
- Blacksands

The Pango church also has a clinic run by the church.
Family Worship Ark Healing Ministry

Information based on interview with Pastor Jeremiah Mariasua, March 2010

**Background:**
Pastor Jeremiah never did any Bible studies but received the gift of healing in 1996, when he first heard the voice of God speak to him. Jeremiah then felt the need to reach people through healing, and although he first was a member of the Presbyterian Church, he joined Pastor Aron’s Healing ministry the first year after receiving his gift. However, he received a vision from God telling him to found his own church. At first he started his ministry in the Independence Park area, but after a while he moved to Mele, and then to Agathis. Jeremiah told us that God had spoken to him one day during church service. He had told him that an old man would offer him a piece of ground on which he could build a proper church. After church service, as he was shaking people’s hands, an old man had told him that he had a piece of ground he wanted to donate to the church. Then God had told him that he would receive three messengers. One day, when he was working on the church site, two white men and a woman arrived. They told him that they would pay for every expense of his church and that he should not worry about money. He never even knew their names, Jeremiah told us, but he realised that they probably were the three messengers. Some days later a truck arrived with cement and timber for the church. All I had to do was to sign the paper, Jeremiah told us.

The church was officially opened in December 2009

**Members:** over 200

**Branches:** one branch being built on Tanna

**Pastor:** Jeremiah Mariasua

Plate on the wall of the church
Information based on interview with Pastor Obed Phillipe, March 2010

Background:
Pastor Phillipe trained at the AOG Joy Bible institute to become a pastor. After finishing his training he told his teacher, a missionary from the US, Phil Rogger, that he had a calling: he wanted to start his own church. This should not be a church in the ordinary sense, but more of a teaching institute where people could learn to live a life in the spirit of the Bible. His idea was to set up an organization wherein some core families would stand out as model units for others to see. These families should change their homes so that they can lead a better life, and others can see and follow. The 12 families make out the RAPID (Real Apostolic Partners in Destiny). The meaning of Apostle here is not the traditional religious meaning but rather its literal meaning: an explorer and a pioneer.

In order for the Center Ville Christian Center to reach other people outside the 12 families, the pastor also started a school: Skul Blong Prophet. This is a school where youths can gain skills in economics and financial management. The motto is: “changing life, changing community”. The focus is on what they call G2: the second generation. The focus is on
In April 2010 the Center Ville Christian Center had a youth conference gathering youths from all over the archipelago. They slept in tents and shelters in and around the center.

The children growing up and the future of the country. The school includes different programmes:

LAPS: Local Apostolic and Prophet school

SALT: Strategic Apostolic Leadershift (Note: not leadership) Training


The school only takes up about 20 students each enrolment. The goal is for each and every youth to be well off before they are 30. They take part in a bank account savings programme where parents set up a bank account for them, and they learn how to save money. They learn five financial management concepts:

1. How to create wealth
2. How to manage wealth
3. How to multiply wealth
4. How to protect wealth
5. How to distribute wealth

Pastor: Obed Phillipe Daniel and Winnie Matarki
**Melanesian Brotherhood (Anglican Church)**

Information based on interview with Brother Cliff Lenis, March 2010

**Background:**
The Melanesian brotherhood was brought to Vanuatu from the Solomon Islands, and is an order of young men who work for the church for some years of their life. The brothers go through training before becoming a brother. There are three stages:

* Aspirant: for a period of three months

* Novice: for a period of three years

* Taseo/Brother: for a period of two years. This period can be renewed.

A brother wears a special black dress: black with white belt, and a walking stick. This walking stick is special and blessed by the church in order to protect the brother.

The brothers stay in a household and are helped through associates of the order, called companions. These will bring food and help the brothers with their requests. The bothers in turn help people (not only Anglicans) with their needs. According to brother Lenis, in Port Vila these needs are very often related to black magic. They are often invited to pray against “naikaimas”.

...
Some genealogies:

Some of the first converts of the AOG church in Vanuatu, such as Pastor Raymond Clay and Pastor Robert Timakata, were central in the foundation of the Every Home for Christ Crusade and the Christian Mission Center movement in the 1990ies.
Another central church is the Revival, later called New Covenant, from which many new Pentecostal churches have broken away.

Para-church organisations:

* Every Home for Christ: Survival, Bible church, Triumphant

* World Breakthrough: Seed faith, Vanuatu fellowship, Praise and worship, Word Breakthrough

* Ministers Fraternal: an organisation for Port Vila ministries and churches

* VCC: Vanuatu Christian Council
There are presently also a number of foreign mission organizations operating in Vanuatu, most of them from the US or Australia. These are examples of such organizations:

* **Athey Creek Christian Fellowship, Oregon**  
  (Based mainly on Santo)  
  http://www.athey creek.com/vanuatu.aspx

* **Sun City Christian Church, Townsville**  
  (Mainly Torba province)  

* **Christian Mission Fellowship**  
  http://www.cmfinternational.org.fj/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

* **Biblical Ministries Worldwide**  
  http://www.biblicalministries.org/content.php?pid=36

* **Heart of David Ministries**  
  http: //www. heartofdavidministries.org/about.html

* **Every Home for Christ**  
  http://www.ehc.org. inside.jsp?sectionid=4&pageid=21#pacific

* **Revival Fellowship**  

* **All Pacific Prayer Assembly/Deep Sea Canoe Movement**  
  http://www.rid-tech.com/

* **Youth With a Mission**  
  http: //www.lovevanuatu.org/default.shtml

* **Bible Institute of Denver**  
  http://www.bvbid. org/Vanuatu.htm

* **Association of Faith Churches and Ministers (AFCM)**  

* **Evidence**  
  http://www.evidence.org.au/ (see Survival ministry)

* **Christian Outreach Center**  

* **Evangelical Bible Mission**  
  http://www.ebminternational.com/mission-fields/papua-new-guinea/ (see Bible Church Vanuatu)

* **Church of Nazarene**  
  http://pottersnv anuatu.blogspot.com and  
  http://oceanianazarene. org/

* **Faith Baptist church**  
  http://fbc-wa.org/Hirtzels/index.html