



When Br. Werner Hupperich did not feel well in the morning of Sunday 13 September at St. Joseph's Station, he would not have foreseen that this was the beginning of a strenuous torment ending its first stage two weeks later in a hospital in Wuerzburg, Germany. After initial difficulties with moving, his condition rapidly deteriorated within hours, so that he was taken to the TUSA clinic in Lae, paralyzed and not able to speak. The doctor diagnosed a stroke. Fortunately, one of the new CPS Sisters, Sr. Henriquetta from Mozambique is a qualified nurse. She made herself available to attend to Br. Werner, who was unable to move, during the week in the Tusa clinic. By lack of adequate experience and means for a proper treatment, Br. Werner was then flown to Port Moresby on 22 September. He was accompanied by Sr. Henriquetta and hospitalized in the Pacific International Hospital where a brain scan was made. Since there were no proper facilities available for further required treatment it was decided that Br. Werner had to go to Germany. That resulted in some hectic days to arrange the flight via Singapore to Frankfurt. The provincial, Fr. Arnold Schmitt, flew over from Lae to speed up the necessary arrangements; medical permissions from the doctors of Air Niugini and Singapore Airlines had to be produced; the condition of the accompaniment of a certificated nurse could be met with Sr. Henriquetta

who however needed a visa for Germany. This fortunately could be arranged with the very efficient cooperation of the French Embassy and the secretariat of the Bishops Conference within two hours (instead a normally a week). Last minutes flight tickets for two had to be booked via the Dove Travel agency; a wheel chair had to be bought; medical items for the care of the patient were needed. Fr. Arnold was two days continuously shuttling between the various institutions to coordinate the whole affair.

Meanwhile the seminarians of the Mariannahill College took turns to attend to Br. Werner in the hospital so that Sr. Henriquetta could be relieved and get some hours sleep in the Mariannahill College.

The departure for Singapore was scheduled for Monday 28 September on 15.20, but tensions were high until finally only one hour before departure time the medical clearance from both airlines for the flight of Br. Werner was given. Only then the tickets for both could be issued by the travel agency. Finally, in the good care of Sr. Henriquetta, Br. Werner could take off for the 6 hours flight to the Singapore. There the necessary assistance was given by the airport personnel to transfer Br. Werner to Singapore Airlines aircraft for the flight to Frankfurt.

After 12 hours flight both arrived safely in Frankfurt where an ambulance was available to take him first to a hospital in Frankfurt and from there to Wuerzburg where he was admitted to the University Clinic. After a new diagnosis and some urgent treatments Br. Werner's condition improved slightly and he started to speak a little bit. Unfortunately he could utter only a few words in Pidigin, not in German or English. Fr. Ansgar Haeusler who has spent some 25 years in PNG had to come from Bavaria to facilitate the communication with the doctors. Later Sr. Godelief CPS came from the Netherlands to give further assistance, although she does not speak

German. Gradually however Werner's memory of the German language is coming back.

Meanwhile the numerous jobs and commitments of Br. Werner in Lae, St. Joseph Station, Youth Development Centre, St. Joseph's Old Boys (JOB) Company and other tasks came to an abrupt stand still. Not an easy task for the Bishop and his staff to make the necessary rearrangements in the various fields of Br. Werner's activities. He has left a tremendous gap behind. It is difficult to express adequately our great gratitude to Br. Werner for the manifold works he has been doing in the diocese. We can only pray and hope for a speedy improvement of Br. Werner's condition.

Sr. Henriquetta who with great care had been at Br. Werner's side most of the time during those weeks had only a visa for Europe for 8 days, so that she was back in PNG just a week later. She has done a terrific job. Without her an essential condition for the transportation would have been difficult to be met.

PASTORAL VISIT IN SIASSI

Bishop Christian Blouin made a one week pastoral visit to the Catholic communities on the Siassi Islands from 8-16 October. He was accompanied by **Fr. Gerard Vains**, parish priest of Siassi, **Fr. Krzysztof Zacharuk CMM**, temporarily stationed in Aupwel, **Sr. Judith FMI**, and **Sr. Sun CPS**. After a 12 hours trip in the night by boat from Lae to Lablab on Umboi Island, the team continued travelling by a small boat to Aupwel. During the two days stay Bishop Chris celebrated the Confirmation of 30 members of the St. Patrick's Parish. The various needs of the parish were discussed. Two water tanks were given to the school. From Aupwel the team went by boat to Kampalap, a large village with a small Catholic group where 35 faithful received the Confirmation. It was the first time ever that a

diocesan bishop visited Kampalap. The Lutheran pastor gave also a fraternal welcome to the bishop. On the same day the bishop with his staff travelled by car to Lablab and from there by boat to the Catholic community in Marsalan, on the other side of the Umboi island. Their boat made a short stop on the mini-island Aromot for a short greeting.

At Marsalan there were 25 people who received the Confirmation. The team stayed overnight and the following day they arrived finally at Mandok with an all-Catholic population and the largest Catholic parish of the Siassi Islands. There was also a group prepared for Confirmation. It was a very tight program due to the timetable of the passengers boat of the Lutheran Shipping which makes the trip to Siassi only once a week.

Bishop Chris conferred also Confirmation in some parishes in Lae and in Wau and Bulolo.

DEATH OF THE EDUCATION SECRETARY

The long-time Catholic Education Secretary, **Ann Barnabas**, passed away on 14 September. She joined the diocese as a newly-graduated teacher in the early seventies and has been the Education Secretary for many years. She was also deeply engaged in the founding and leadership of the Catholic Women Association in Lae and has also been the national president of this organisation nation-wide. She was also a highly respected member of the provincial education board in the Morobe Province. The diocese has lost a very valuable co-worker.

LAE IN CRISIS

LAE has no roads, no power, no water. It is the industrial centre of PNG and yet the only thing there is for the taxpayers is a lot of rhetoric. Companies in Lae employ many people and pay huge tax bills. Industry can not continue under these conditions. The cost is too high. Where is this going? Which arm of government is responsible for this disaster? Who is responsible for the roads, power supply and water? The banks had to close because there is no water.

Lae has serious health problems with cholera, typhoid and dysentery, and without water and power it sets the scene instead of being a centre for industry it is becoming the centre for pestilence. We have people killed on the roads everyday as the cars are dodging potholes as big as craters. Has life no value to the Government? Law and order is a joke with the police under resourced and at breaking point with Security firms trying to bridge the gap, again at a huge cost to industry. How different is Port Moresby The city is clean, the roads are in a reasonable condition and people are taking pride in their city. *(From an outcry in the Post Courier of 2 Nov.)*

ST. MARY'S NEW CHAPEL

The construction of a small chapel at St. Mary's station is nearing its completion. The chapel is meant as a place for celebrations and prayer meetings of the station personnel and other small groups and associations. Although near to the cathedral it has the advantage that it is more suitable for small groups and not so much exposed to the continuous noise of the street.

A WELL DESERVED BREAK

After 5 years of continuous hard work **Sr. Clemence Klever CPS** is going on home leave on 30 November for an overdue period of rest. She is in charge of the accommodation and catering facilities of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. Meanwhile, she has handed over another job, the bookkeeping of the diocese to Sr. Sun CPS.

SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. Geoffrey Lee, diocesan priest and secretary of the Commission for Social Communications of the Bishops Conference attended an international congress of Signis World Catholic Association of Communication in Thailand.

MARIANHILL BOMANA

The graduation ceremony on 14 November marked the closing of the academic year of the Catholic Theological Institute at Bomana/Port Moresby. Presiding at the closing Mass was **Archbishop William Kurtz SVD** of Madang who is the chairperson of the Council of the CTI. Invited guest speaker at the graduation ceremony after the Mass was the High Commissioner of the Solomon Islands to PNG

Br. Raphael Ipihi CMM who recently was elected as the new President of the Students Representative Council officiated on this occasion for the first time.

CMM seminarian Harry **Bulunaso** completed his third year with the Advanced Diploma of Religious Studies. A few days later all seminarians went on home leave.

Fr. Alfons Voorn made an information trip to St. Fidelis Seminary in Madang where candidates for priesthood spend one or two years in preparation for entering the Major Seminary.

Fr. Frans Lenssen who has lectured at the CTI during the last term was farewelled at the closing diner of staff and students. He is acting parish priest of St. Gregory parish at Sogeri, east of Port Moresby in the mountains. There is also a National High School, the oldest in the country. Forty students are in preparation for Baptism and First Communion on the 1st Sunday of Advent.



Half of the Campus of the Catholic Theological Institute Port Moresby: CMM College (left with red roof), Capuchin, Dominican, MSC and SVD Colleges, CTI buildings. (Not on the picture: Marist, Franciscan and Holy Spirit Diocesan Colleges, and Carmelite Monastery) - *Google Satellite Picture*