

New Zealand  
 Cadets and Gems  
 2020  
 Mission Badge

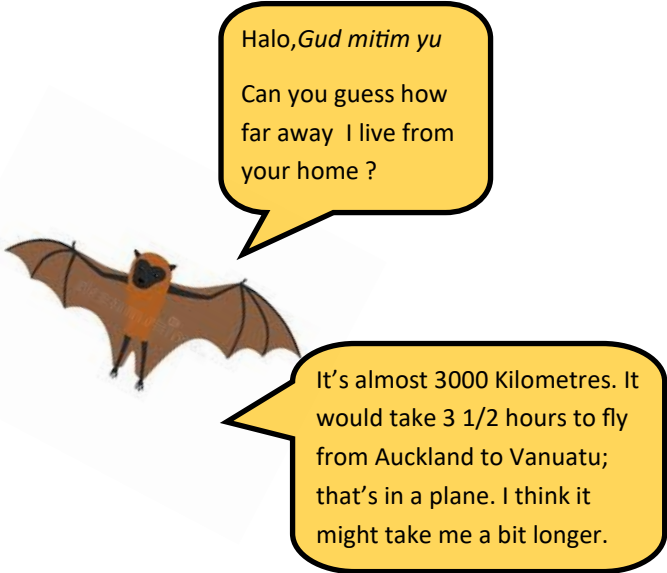
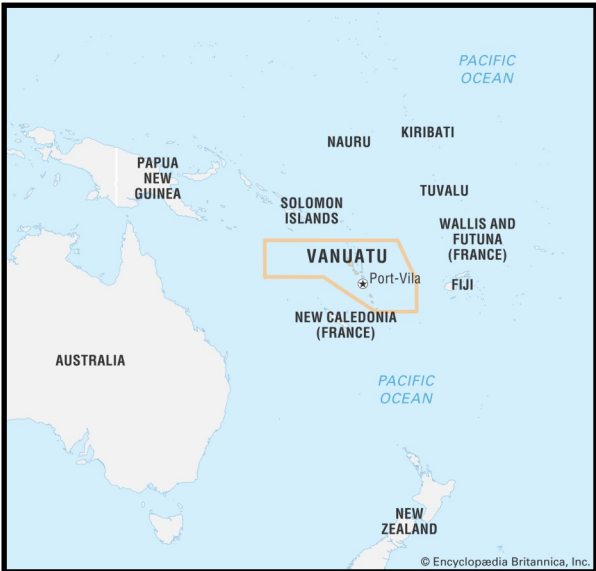
# Bibles and Hymn books for the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Vanuatu

Hello Cadets and Gems,

This year, for our mission badge, we will be learning about Vanuatu and how we can help the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Vanuatu.

Lets first learn a bit about the country and it's people.

Oops, almost forgot to introduce you to Vanuatu's very own Flying Fox, Felix.



Vanuatu consists of a group of about 82 islands; 65 are inhabited. It is 1300km long, from the northernmost island to the southernmost island. Currently the population is 300,000. To compare; Christchurch population is 377,000.



The **flag of Vanuatu**, was adopted on 18 February 1980.

The **green** represents the richness of the islands, the **red** symbolises the blood of wild boars and men, and the **black** is the ni-Vanuatu people. The Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Father Walter Lini, requested the inclusion of yellow and black fimbriations to make the black stand out. The **yellow** Y-shape represents the light of the gospel going through the pattern of the islands in the Pacific Ocean (approximately 83% of the people of Vanuatu profess Christianity).



The emblem in the black is a boar's tusk — the symbol of prosperity worn as a pendant on the islands — along with two leaves of the local Namele tree. These leaves are supposed to be a token of peace, and their 39 leaflets represent the 39 members of the Parliament of Vanuatu.  
*(Information from Flag of The Worlds Website)*

Without looking at the first page . . . . Do you remember how many people live in Vanuatu? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you believe that a small country like Vanuatu has 113 languages, plus the three official languages, Bislama, English and French?

Where do we find the reason for so many languages throughout the earth?  
\_\_\_\_\_



That's 116 languages in one country!

It is the number of languages that contributed to the establishment of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Vanuatu (PRCV).

The PRC mission work in Vanuatu was established in the early 1970's, when two men (Greg Fox and Luke Zylstra), and their families were sent by the Presbyterian Church of Australia (PRCA) as Missionaries to North West Malekula. Their task was to learn the language, to preach the Word, to establish an indigenous church and to translate the Scriptures into the local language; Big Nambas.

In 1983, the PRCV started an outreach to the island of Tanna. The first man they sent, Kilet Itei came from the church in Malekula. Tragically, he died three years later, but Tom Kaut of Tanna continued the work of caring for the church. Several other men from Malekula have assisted Tom in his work over the years, and an Australian Missionary (Tim Zylstra) and his family also lived and worked with him for nine years preaching God's Word and translating the Bible into the local language; Lenakel. The congregation in Tanna has a stable membership. The translation work continues with support from a former Missionary who is fluent in the language.

Locate and draw a circle around the Island of Malekula and the island of Tanna on the map.  
 Which language do they speak in Malekula \_\_\_\_\_  
 and in Tanna \_\_\_\_\_

*“ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

*Matthew 28: 19-20*

The three official languages of Vanuatu are below in the box.

Start with the English phrase and draw a line to the correct Bislama phrase and then to the correct French phrase.

So, not only did these missionaries come to preach to the Vanuatu people, they also had to learn the language, learn how to write it and then translate the Bible.



English	Bislama	French
How Are You	Hamas long hemia	D'où êtes-vous
Where are you from	Yu kam wea	Combien ça coûte
<i>Please speak more slowly</i>	<i>Olsem wanem</i>	Guérissez bientôt
How much is this	Mi hop se yu kam gud kwiktaem	Parlez plus lentement s'il vous plaît
Get well soon	Plis talem mos slo	Comment vas-tu

**If you are finding it difficult here is a hint:**

For the Bislama, try reading it out loud.

For the French, here are a few key words:

coûte = Cost    parlez=speak    tu=you    D'où =from where    bientôt =soon

You can see how different each of these languages are.

Now, what if you have to translate this phrase:

**My hovercraft is full of eels.**

This is a funny idea but very simply stated in six words.

The French can say it in five words:

**Mon airoglisseur est plein d'anguilles.**

Guess how many words it takes to translate the same sentence into Bislama.

(You count)

**Sip blong mi we I flae antap long solwater be I no flae hae tumas, I fulap long ilfis.**



Why is it so important to translate the Bible into different languages?

Look up these passages and write down reasons for having the scripture in the language of the people.

Psalm 119:105 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 6:7 \_\_\_\_\_

## Do the people of Vanuatu need to have the written word of God?

YES!



### How can we help?

Pieter van der Wel, from the Reformed Church of Hamilton, New Zealand is serving as an elder in Port Villa church, He has made us aware of the need for printed Bibles and Hymn books in the Bislama, Big Nambas and Lenakel languages.

The translation of the Old Testament in Big Nambas is still in progress. The New Testament is nearly complete.

The translation of the New Testament in Lenakel is now complete.

The people in the church need Bibles in Bislama as well; since this is the official language.

There is also a need for Hymn books in all three languages .

The money we raise will help keep the cost of the Bibles down so that the people of the churches are able to afford them.

The money will also cover the cost of printing hymn books for the churches.

### What can we do?

- Pray for the translators who continue to work translating the Word of God into the language of the people.
- Pray for the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Vanuatu
- As a club, write a letter of encouragement to Pieter and Joanne van der Wel.
- Fundraise . . .To put a Bible in the hands of God's people!