

Bringing Healing and Hope to the Women of Vanuatu

Vanuatu - a string of more than 80 islands once known as the New Hebrides - achieved independence from France and Britain in 1980.

Most of the islands are inhabited; some have active volcanoes.

Vanuatu is mountainous, covered with tropical rainforests and it is prone to earthquakes and tidal waves.

Most of the people live in rural areas and practise subsistence agriculture.

Local traditions are strong. Women, for example, generally have lower social standing than men and have fewer educational opportunities.

Population 246,000

Area 12,190 sq km (4,707 sq Mls)

Major languages Bislama, French, English

Major religion Christianity

Life expectancy 70 years (men), 74 years (women)



The Bible Society of the South Pacific, in partnership with World Day of Prayer, is taking a holistic approach by advocating and empowering women who are victims of domestic violence.

They will provide workshops and healing sessions on domestic violence based on the Bible Society Healing the Wounds of Trauma programme.

The project is in two parts.
1: trauma healing programmes to be run in focal areas in Vanuatu to meet the needs of women who suffer from gender-based violence.

2: Violence prevention activities, including: human rights and legal workshops; delivering educational awareness programmes; developing materials for use in schools and the community; radio and television appearances; training on gender-based violence for men, prison officers and perpetrators.

Too many Pacific women and girls experience violence in their lives. Due to limited educational opportunities, they may not know about their rights or laws which can protect them programs on their human/legal rights, and mobility barriers.



The Bible Society of the South Pacific seeks to bring healing and hope for women who face various forms of discrimination and abuse.

This project will equip them to not only live with hope, but also become hope-givers to others.



Project partners

The main partners will be the World Day of Prayer Committee and churches in Vanuatu, with whom the Bible Society of the South Pacific will strengthen cooperation through this joint project.

The impact

The objective of this project will be to reach 42% of women who have experienced some form of gender based violence. through the three years of the project.

The current population of women is approx.145,000.

