

Solomon Islands



Capital City: Honiara
 Population: 538,000
 Time Zone: GMT/UTC +11
 Languages: English (official)
 Solomon Islands Pijin
 74 indigenous languages
 Religion: Christianity
 Currency: Solomon Islands Dollar SBD
 Exchange Rates: AUD \$1 = SBD \$5.80
 Dialling Code: 677
 Travelling Cost: AUD\$350 return
 to Honiara

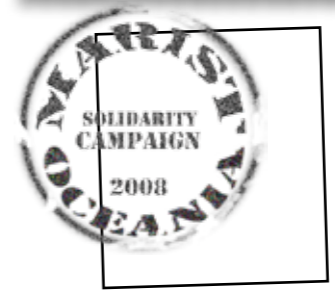


Brother Henry and my Dad helped me to write this story. My name is Regina and I go to St Marcellin School at Vanga in Solomon Islands. My teacher is Mrs Sipora Qoqa and I am in Standard 1. Our school is new and was built by the boys from St Dominic's Rural Training Centre (RTC) for us. The wood for the classroom was cut from trees which were planted by the first Brothers who came to Vanga in 1971. They are gum trees.

Vanga is on an island called Kolombangara. At Vanga we have my school and a new teachers' college and St Dominic's RTC. My Dad is the Deputy Principal of St Dominic's and he trains boys to be mechanics and farmers. Dad was a student at Vanga when he was a boy. All the other teachers went to St Dominic's when they were boys as well.

We had an earthquake and a Tsunami here in 2007. No one was hurt here but there was a lot of damage. People were very frightened and they all ran to Vanga to be safe. The St Dominic's boys helped them go back to their villages and made new houses for them and helped them make new food gardens. The boys were like big brothers to everyone on the island. Australian people sent money to Brother Tony and he helped everyone get started again. The people are still a little bit afraid of another earthquake because on some of the small islands people died in the last one.

I really like school because my teacher went to Australia last year and came back with books and games which help us to learn. She also did some lessons in an Australian school and learnt good ways of teaching us. My classmates are all the children of the teachers and children from close by villages.



SOLOMON ISLANDS