



Ruth Zimmerman
PO Box 1112, Lae 411,
Papua New Guinea
Phone: 011 675 7248 1267



04/03/19

Hi Brothers & Sisters

Greetings again from Lae, Papua New Guinea. For the most part, the past couple of months have been excessively hot, windy and dry, but we have been enjoying slightly cooler weather this weekend. March 1st marked the start of autumn in the South Pacific, so perhaps it will be more pleasant in coming weeks. Sending warm thoughts to those still shovelling in Canada...

The Melanesian Bible College 2019 school year got underway a week late this year, as most of the students hadn't arrived by January 28th. We spent the 'grace week' cleaning and supply shopping, and classes got underway on February 4th. We have lots of students this year and it has been fun getting to know our first year students. I have been impressed by several of them who have arrived eagerly seeking and hungry to learn. The 2019 student body looks like this:



1. Joel & Vero Kay from Homkolai, Chimbu Province. Joel is doing his third year studies and Vero is retaking the literacy program.
2. McClay & Saina Cletus from Tent City, Lae. McClay is doing his third year and Saina is doing her first year. Saina was in the literacy program in 2017.
3. Bomi & Miriam Namak from Gain, Morobe Province. Both are doing their second year.
4. Jems Gima from Bali Island, West New Britain Province. Second year.
5. Kris Mairo from Koki, Port Moresby. Second year.
6. Lithus Devit from Noa, Morobe Province. Second year.
7. Abraham & Rachael Mesa from Wagan, Lae. First year.
8. John & Marianne Mairou from Ibiro, Autonomous Region of Bougainville. John is doing his first year, while Marianne is in the literacy program.
9. John & Nancy Tine from Kundiawa, Chimbu Province. First year.
10. Kenneth & Rose Warubo from Postam Care Centre, Madang Province. First year.

11. Lisa Newton from Wagan, Lae. First year.
12. Philip & Ruth Barnabas from Wangoi, Chimbu Province. First year.
13. Sou & Rita Lama from Motete, Morobe Province. First year.
14. Natak Zawo from Lae. Auditing 1st year classes. Natak was in the 2018 literacy program.
15. Delma Benet from Lae. Retaking literacy.
16. Priska Mairou, daughter of John & Marianne. Taking literacy.
17. Opa Bomi from Lae. Taking literacy.



Jab baptizing new student John Mairou

We have a bumper crop of children this year, somewhere around eighteen in number! (They never stop moving, so it is hard to know for sure). Due to the classroom construction, sister Dogo hasn't been able to start a class for them yet. She is hoping to do so soon.

On February 14th, we were blessed to witness the baptism of new student John Mairou, and then on the 28th, the baptisms of new student Rose Warubo, and Jasmine and Chanelle

Mesa, daughters of new students, Abraham & Rachael, and grand-daughters of Jab & Becky Mesa.



Jab baptizing new student Rose Warubo



New sisters in Christ, Chanelle & Jasmine, with Aunty Miring and Aunty Dogo.

Classes for the first block (5 week term) went well and ended this past Thursday. We start the second block tomorrow and I will be teaching Old Testament Survey to the ladies' class, in addition to teaching literacy and running the library.

I'm pleased to report that two long-term projects produced tangible results this past month, and a third got underway: (*Why yes, I am a task-oriented workaholic!*)

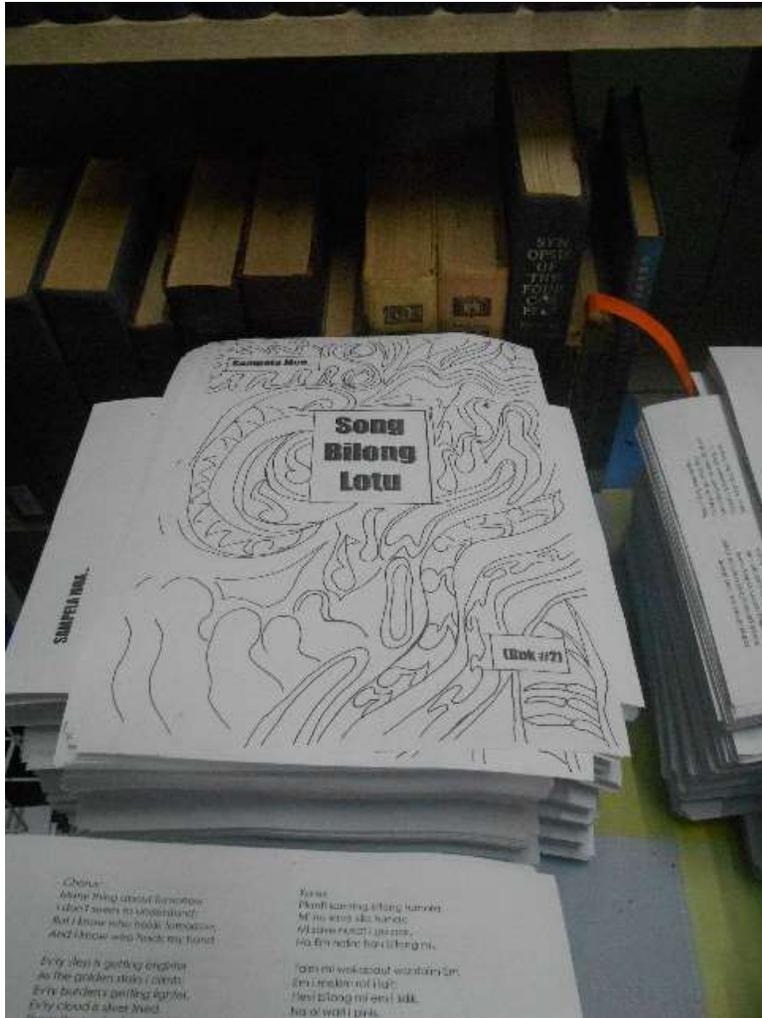
1. The slow and steady progress over the past five years on the M.B.C. library card catalogue has come to an end. The last of the original books processed in 2013 were completed in mid-February and the computer work finished on the 24th. I am currently in the process of printing the 'card' catalogue – not without some technical difficulties. It's actually going to be a **'binder' catalogue** due to not having index cards or card drawers!

2. After months of editing and re-editing, we started printing the new *Tok Pisin* songbook, for the first time, in early February and completed the printing on the 26th. Some of the students helped out this past Friday in collating, and then Becky, Rachael, Miring, and I spent the afternoon checking each book for mistakes. There are now a hundred new songbooks ready to be bound. Normally collation is done in one of the classrooms, however the only existing classroom right now is slightly less functional due to piles of office furniture stacked at the back and not enough space to properly spread the desks out. As a result, we improvised in the school chapel, pushing two benches together, then stacking another two

on top. We then covered them in plastic and lined up the songbook pages. It worked well, except we didn't have enough benches and had to do it in two stages. For days in advance, I prayed that the wind wouldn't return, and was thankful for a calm day. The chapel has really good airflow and I envisioned doing more chasing than collating!



Collating in the chapel.



A brand new song book!

3. On February 19th, I happily commenced processing the new books that have been sent, given or purchased for the M.B.C. library since 2013. Looking forward to running out of shelf space!

If you follow M.B.C. on Facebook, you will have already seen the steady progress being made on the new classroom building. Each day brings new excitement. The external walls are now complete, and some of the doors were hung yesterday. The electrician has started work. The next round of materials have been ordered and some should arrive tomorrow. By the end of block two, the third year students should be able to use their classroom. We are looking forward to the official opening scheduled in early June, and a visit from a group from Highland church of Christ.

God has continued to bless this project and we are constantly being humbled when He provides more when we least expect it. Our plans to replace the dilapidated fencing and maintain the library building look to be on temporary hold as the cost of materials for the

classroom have surpassed what we expected, but we trust that these projects will happen in the not too distant future. The end of this month will mark four years since we kicked off our fund-raising efforts with a carton of Coca Cola, and another of Mountain Dew, and lots of prayers. We recently purchased our 616th carton and are committed to continuing our efforts. Please continue to pray for the Melanesian Bible College – students, teachers and plans – and thank you again for your prayers and financial assistance over the past few years.

Building Progress



First wall (January)



(This photo from Jab Mesa)

Prayer Points:

1. The 2019 school year and our new and returning families.
2. New Christians: John, Rose, Jasmine, and Chanelle.
3. Kaupa, Samei & Jimi families, still mourning the loss of daughters in January.
4. Brother Wesley Wosse – continued recovery from his most recent stroke in December.
5. The classroom project for M.B.C. and plans for the opening in June.
6. Literacy Teachers Training Session planned for April 8-10.
7. Part-time roommate, Rose Yadasuk. Rose has enrolled to upgrade her math and English marks with the hope of reapplying to uni/college next year. She is currently looking for part time work.
8. Literacy student Marianne Mairou – learning *Tok Pisin* while learning to read!

With love in Him,

Ruth

Sponsors:

Fenwick church of Christ, P.O. Box 416, Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0 Canada (cofcfenwick@gmail.com)

Malaga church of Christ, P.O. Box 105. Ballajura, WA 6019 Australia (malaga@perthchurch.net)