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Happy New Year, 2019, to each of you. Nearly two months back from leave, I am settled in again and preparing for the start of the school year on January 28th. We look forward to seeing our returning students. They are sure to be amazed at the progress that has been made on the new classroom building. We also know of several new students and look forward to our time together over the coming months.

December was **HOT**, dry and fairly quiet. I was able to fully complete the preparation of the 2nd song book, and once back in the library on a daily basis will start the printing. I was also able to catch up on the computer part of the card cataloguing project I've been working on over the past five years. All the rough notes went to Canada with me, were never touched, and came back again!! There are approximately one hundred books left to go through in the library and we will be caught up. After that, time to start processing new books.

On December 7th, Jab & Becky Mesa travelled to the U.S. to visit with the Highland congregation in Memphis, and report on progress being made with the M.B.C. classroom project. Please hold them in pray as they continue their travels and prepare to return later this month to P.N.G.

After a very difficult decision for the Kaupa family, my namesake – Ruth Waine Kaupa – and her mother, Bogel, returned on December 13th from Manila. They were there for three months. Initially, the chemo Ruth was receiving appeared to be working. However, she is no longer responding to treatment, and has gone from one infection to the next. Completely financially drained, the family opted to bring her home. In three months, medical bills and related costs surpassed K119,000.00 (approximately CN\$50,000.00). Ruth is currently in the oncology ward in our local hospital, and is again battling a lung infection as well as a lot of swelling, shortness of breath, and pain. Whether or not she will continue on the course of chemo started will depend on the family's finances as well as the availability of the drugs here. Please hold Ruth and her family in prayer through this very difficult time.

Please also hold brother Wesley Wosse and family in prayer. 2018 proved to be an excessive year when it came to health problems. Malaria in February and May, coupled with high blood pressure, put him in hospital both times. In June he went down with typhoid and what was probably his first stroke. He had a second stroke in September as he was starting to recover his memory from the first one. Two weeks ago, he went down with malaria again, coupled this time with a bad kidney infection, and then had a third stroke. Wes, who is my roommate Miring's brother, has been hospitalized since December 24th (yes, we

celebrated Christmas at the hospital!). Over the last couple of days, there has been some improvement in his condition. He has regained partial movement on the side paralyzed by the stroke, and we heard this morning that they have removed the feeding tube and are determining whether he will be able to eat on his own.

M.B.C. Classroom Project

Progress on the new classroom building has met a few hiccups this month, but despite that, brother Michael Tataara and crew have all of the metal wall sections assembled and ready to erect tomorrow. The order for the walling was paid for on November 13th, and took a month for delivery, arriving on December 13th. The same day a sudden death in brother Gilmore Gabori's family saw them travelling to Mount Hagen. They returned on Sunday. As Gilmore has been overseeing this project, those remaining were left with a bit of guesswork regarding how to put everything together – and there were A LOT of pieces! Between the burning hot sun and reflection, the work has proven to be uncomfortable. We also had an emergency last week when one of the young men working with Michael – Boni - had an incident with a power drill and ended up with a deep cut to one foot and the need to be rushed for medical care. As a result, our dedicated workers now have safety boots.



All hands on deck with the latest delivery.



Here come the classroom walls!!



Lots of pieces, and the start of the new classroom in the background.



Assembled wall sections waiting to be erected.



Putting together wall sections.

Are you on Facebook and interested in getting updates on the building project, as well as the day to day aspects of the Melanesian Bible College? Contact me via email (ruthzimm@gmail.com) and I'll help you get added to the M.B.C. group.

As reported last month, we have met our target amount for the completion of the building. However, if you have been thinking of contributing towards the building project, which also includes maintenance on the library building, new fencing for the main property as well as the dormitory properties, and hopefully getting a start on replacing one of the aging dorms, see the information below. If you have already contributed – and many have, which we count as a giant blessing – thank you once again. Both your financial help and your prayers are greatly appreciated.

In Papua New Guinea:
"M.B.C. Building Project"
ANZ Lae Top Town
Account #: 15709384

In Canada:
Fenwick church of Christ
765 Welland Ave.,
P.O. Box 416,
Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0

In the U.S.A.:
Highland church of Christ
400 N. Houston Levee Rd.
Cordova, TN 38018
Att: Jackie Meadows

-or-

Contact brother Art Ford
(jarthurford@gmail.com)

If you are in Australia, and are wanting to contribute, please contact us for further information.

Please make sure that your donation is earmarked "**MBC Building Project**" to avoid confusion, and if possible include an **email or mailing address** so that we can communicate with you regarding your donation and progress made. Thank you. If you have any **questions or concerns**, please don't hesitate to contact me at ruthzimm@gmail.com or M.B.C. Principal, Jab Mesa, at melanesianbiblecollege@gmail.com.

Prayer Points:

1. Ruth Waine Kaupa – back in Lae and in hospital.
2. Brother Wesley Wosse –in hospital, recovering from malaria, kidney infection and a third stroke.
3. Jab & Becky Mesa – travelling to the U.S. and returning to PNG soon.
4. The classroom project for M.B.C.
5. Boni, healing from injury while working on the classroom.
6. M.B.C. students preparing to travel to Lae, and the start of school on January 28th.
7. My work permit & visa renewal – partially approved, waiting for the second approval.
8. Martin Cope – continued recovery from brain surgery.

May this new year bring many blessings to you and your family. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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)