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01/12/18

Hi Brothers & Sisters

Greetings once again from Lae after nearly 5 months. Thank you for your prayers as I travelled to Canada and back. I have been back for 3 weeks and have been getting caught up with 4 months of accumulation, as well as readjusting to the culture and climate. Over the past few days, it has been excessively hot (up to 99°F or 37°C). The same heat wave has caused an unprecedented bush fire situation in parts of Queensland (Australia). Whereas nothing is burning here, it appears my cats may be melting!

## July

After a really busy few weeks of preparing for, accommodating and caring for this year's visiting teams, as well as preparing for furlough, I travelled from Lae to Brisbane on the 7th. I was able to travel with the Australian team on their return trip, and enjoyed meeting with them and the Point and Wynnum congregations the next day. After an all-too-short stay with dear friend Gill Johnson, I left Brisbane on the 9th and arrived home on the 10th, with a night in Calgary (International Dateline for those of you who are going "Whaaaa??!!"). The rest of the month was spent mostly in eating, visiting, being lazy, and trying to stay warm.

## August

In August we enjoyed a visit with my Uncle Ian and his wife, Jean, from West Virginia, and then a family gathering on the 17th. I visited with the Wellandport congregation on the 12th, when I took my Aunt Heather, a long-time member there. This was my first time to visit Wellandport since 1990. On the 25th, Janet Cope and I visited with the Vandeleur (Markdale) congregation, where I did my first presentation. Despite a few technical glitches it went well, and we enjoyed our time with the Vandeleur and Chesley Christians.

## September

On the 16th, I did a presentation for Fenwick, with another at Fennell Avenue on the 30th. Velma Forman, long time P.N.G. missionary, arrived for a visit on the 18th and we enjoyed a trip to Kingston to visit Art & Ruby Ford. The 4 of us got to be tourists for a few days and really

enjoyed our time together. Before Velma left on the 27<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed time with Mum and Carol Pinczuk in Niagara-On-the-Lake, a trip to Lens Mills with Janet Cope, and time with the Fenwick congregation. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, much to my embarrassment, I was honoured at the Great Lakes Christian High School and Great Lakes Bible College Partnership Dinner. It was a really nice evening and I enjoyed catching up with friends, some of whom I haven't seen in several years.



*Velma, Ruby & Art in Kingston, ON*

## **October**

After 4 months of much anxiety for my family, Mum and I were able to assist my cousins in moving Aunt Heather into a nursing home on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We lost my uncle in June, and my aunt is experiencing dementia. Other serious family circumstances also factored in. Your prayers for my aunt and all of the family are greatly appreciated.

The rest of October was quite busy with presentations at Beamsville on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Tintern on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Owen Sound on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Great Lakes on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and then one for the Sunday School class at Fenwick on the 28<sup>th</sup>. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, I flew to Charleston, West Virginia, to visit my Uncle, returning on the 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a great few days away during a fairly stressful month.

## November

On the 1<sup>st</sup> I flew to Calgary and enjoyed time with Walter & Shirley Straker, and son Jon. It was snowing there when I left the following day to travel to Vancouver and then on to Brisbane, arriving at 6:45am on the 4<sup>th</sup> (yup, Dateline again). I was met by Brad & Ronya Johnson, and son Orion, and after grabbing some breakfast, we headed for Morayfield, one of the congregations Brad preaches for each month. That evening, we helped serve dinner at West End, an inner-city outreach which Brad & Ronya also work with.

After a great few days with lots of visits, I left Brisbane on the 8<sup>th</sup> and travelled to Port Moresby and then on to Lae where I was met by Jab & Becky Mesa and granddaughters. I found it rather irritating arriving in Port Moresby in the midst of preparations for the APEC (Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Summit which PNG hosted this month. The government spent well over a billion PNG kina on preparations – including buying several Maserati to transport delegates, multiple building projects, the hire of 3 cruise ships for accommodation, and a brand-new terminal for only a handful of people to use. Meanwhile, the boarding lounge in the domestic terminal is missing the toilet seats out of the ladies' washroom, and there is neither air conditioning nor ceiling fans. It was an uncomfortable welcome back to PNG, especially when the flight was delayed by more than an hour!

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, Rose Yadasuk graduated from Grade 12! Thank you for your ongoing prayers for Rose. Having started high school in 2013 and then being out of school for two years due to multiple health issues, this was a major milestone! Rose has applied to several colleges and is hoping to be accepted for the coming year. She is currently looking for work. Rose's brother, Pale (pronounce "Pall-eh") will be graduating on December 5<sup>th</sup> from Grade 8.



*Rose at graduation, with parents Irip and Jacob.*

After a bit of a rush, I was able to complete and send off all of the requirements for the work permit and visa renewal a few days ahead of the deadline on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Please keep this renewal in prayer. Following that, I worked for several days on balancing the receipts for the M.B.C. Building Project, and then my own financial reports for July-October. I also managed to get unpacked (it only took a full week), and got a start on the yearly “spring” cleaning (actually it feels like full-blown summer, not spring).

### **M.B.C. Classroom Project**

If you were at one of my presentations in Canada, or follow the Melanesian Bible College Facebook page, you will have heard recently about the progress being made on the new building. When I left Lae in July, we had raised approximately 40% of the targeted funds needed to complete the building. Most of those funds had been raised in P.N.G. and Canada. As reported in the July 4<sup>th</sup> report, Highland church of Christ (Memphis, Tennessee) announced a 2-for-1 matching program with US\$40,000 earmarked towards the project. Over the following months, Larry McKenzie in Memphis, and Art Ford in Kingston, spearheaded awareness campaigns to raise the required US\$20,000. And God’s blessings came pouring in! With pledges and contributions given, we have surpassed the goal, and I learned this week of still more having arrived from 3 different congregations in Canada and a sister in Christ, as well as another contribution from Australia. We see this as God’s hand at work and are so grateful for His

abundant care in guiding your hearts to give. Prices here continue to rise at alarming rates so anything that has come in, and is still to come in, is greatly appreciated.

In July, just before I left, we held a small ground-breaking ceremony and then made our first purchase of materials. Those materials were delivered in August. The old office and 3<sup>rd</sup> year classroom building was demolished in mid-September and the ground cleared, levelled and marked off. Work on the posts started during the last week of September. Work on the flooring was finished during October. Since then, while waiting for the current order from Atlas Steel, new power posts have been welded and installed, and PNG Power will be inspecting and moving the lines sometime soon. I look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months, as well as seeing the final outcome. We continue to pray that funds will be sufficient to replace the existing fencing and maintain the other building, which currently houses the library and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year classroom.



Farewell to the old classroom! *(photo courtesy of Jab Mesa)*



Clearing the ground. (photo courtesy of Jab Mesa)



The foundation begun. *(photo courtesy of Jab Mesa)*



Bye bye termites! Metal frame!! *(photo courtesy of Jab Mesa)*



Start of the flooring. (photo courtesy of Jab Mesa)

Thank you once again for your ongoing prayers and support of this project. Words fail to express how grateful we are, and how humbled as well, by this experience.

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 905-562-7095 (after July 10<sup>th</sup>) or at ruthzimm@gmail.com or M.B.C. Principal, Jab Mesa, at melanesianbiblecollege@gmail.com.

### **Ruth Waine Kaupa**

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for my 21 year old namesake who was diagnosed with breast cancer in January and underwent surgery and then chemo. After months of fund-raising efforts by her family and the church in Lae, "Dodo" (namesake in their language) was able to travel to Manilla in mid-September, where she is currently undergoing further treatment. The family arrived in time to experience Cyclone Mangkhut. Further testing done by the hospital in Manilla revealed that Dodo's cancer is invasive mammary gland, not squamous, meaning that treatment done in Lae was incorrect. The testing also revealed that the cancer has spread into her back. She has had 2 chemo treatments and was due for a 3<sup>rd</sup> this week, however a fluid buildup in her lungs led doctors to put off the next treatment. Mixed reports have her responding well to the drugs she is now on (the open sores are healing), but the fluid has been really troubling for Dodo and her family this week. They are also struggling greatly financially, as a 3-day hospital stay with testing last week cost more than K8,000.00 (CN\$3,300). Please continue to pray for her battle with this illness and for her and her mother, Bogel, as they struggle with being so far away from family during a difficult time. If you wish to contribute financially to Dodo's medical expenses, please contact me via ruthzimm@gmail.com.

### **Prayer Points:**

1. Aunt Heather & family.
2. My work permit & visa renewal – paperwork submitted and waiting now.
3. The classroom project for M.B.C.
4. Ruth Waine Kaupa – ongoing cancer treatment in Manilla and financial struggles.
5. Brother Wesley Wosse – continued recovery from one or more strokes in recent months, which has affected his memory.
6. Jab & Becky Mesa – travelling to the U.S. next week.
7. Martin Cope – on the weekend of November 10th, Martin underwent emergency brain surgery when an abscess ruptured. They had to remove parts of his skull, above the ear, as well as part of the brain. Recovery has been very slow, and the situation has been troubling and stressful for all who know Martin, and mother Janet Cope. Please hold them both in prayer.

Thank you again for your support and prayers. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

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)