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Hi Brothers & Sisters

July 4, 2018

Greetings again from Lae. This will be the last newsletter for a few months as I will be in Canada until the start of November, with time in Australia on the way there and back. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months. This report covers two months as we have had a very busy time with the completion of the M.B.C. school year, preparation for visitors, and numerous other things which have popped up along the way.

## **MAY**

We completed the 2018 school year at the Melanesian Bible College on May 19<sup>th</sup>, with four students receiving their second year diplomas: Joel Kay from the Homkolai congregation in Chimbu Province, McClay Clytus from the Tent City congregation in Lae, and Max & Sikale Kosip from the Neng congregation in Morobe Province. Five part-time students received certificates for completion of one or more classes, and four students received their certificates for completion of the literacy program.



2nd year M.B.C. grads, 2018. Left to right: Sikale, Max, Joel, & McClay



2018 Lit grads. Left to right: Delma, Ziring, me, Natak, and Tapsi

I fought an ongoing battle with malaria throughout May and part of June, and am happy to report that I am now free of it and hoping to remain so for my time in Canada. A recent

report on Radio Australia stated that reported cases of Malaria in P.N.G. are up by 400%! We are seeing (and feeling) the evidence of that. The ongoing shortage of treatment drugs and problems with accurate diagnosis are contributing factors.

Despite illness, we were finally able to complete the latest song book printing, started in November. My literacy class had a lot of fun and laughter while doing the collation, and I joked that they had made history by learning how to read and make books all within a four month period! We finished the binding on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

On the 26<sup>th</sup>, I taught my last Bible class for the ladies from Indagen who have been meeting at the house twice each month since September. Miring will continue in the coming months, and we will decide how to proceed once I am back in November. The church in Indagen is hurting after two recent loses. Brother Bunao Kapi's body was sent back to the village on May 12<sup>th</sup>. He passed away suddenly in April, as reported in the last newsletter. Sister Enzang Rezi, a pillar in the church in Indagen and dear friend, was sent to Lae on May 9<sup>th</sup> and died from liver cancer on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Her body was sent on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please hold the congregation, as well as their families, in prayer.



Sister Enzang from Indagen (left) in 2014

## JUNE

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> we started a very large cleanup and preparation of Agape House (a.k.a. The Missionary Centre), the house we use for overseas visitors. The cleanup continued to June 18<sup>th</sup>. The sunny weather continued until I started washing the towels and bedding, and then the wet season was suddenly here, albeit somewhat late this year!

Our first team arrived on June 22<sup>nd</sup> from Australia. On the 26<sup>th</sup> they travelled to Orouba village in the Waria Valley. By the 30<sup>th</sup> they were in Aroba village, and reported ten baptisms and many having repented during their time in Orouba, a village which has seen much unrest over the past few years. Since Saturday, they have travelled from Aroba to Asama and on to Garasa where they met the chartered plane, a day late due to heavy rain and cloud. They are now safely in Kapini village in Menyamy District. On Friday they are to travel from Menyamy back to Lae, and on Saturday we will be leaving together for Brisbane.



*Australian team and coworkers at Nadzab, waiting for the flight to the Waria Valley. Left to right: Arthur Tataara, Jack Hughes, Rosie Cronin, Damian Bissett, David Payne, Terri-Leigh Redding, Kerianne Dobadoba, Nathan Wilson, Steve Collins, Kamau Dobadoba, Joe Dobadoba, and Miamel Golabe (driver!!)*

Our second team arrived on June 27<sup>th</sup> from California. They have been working and visiting locally but will be heading to Las Wara village in Chimbu this Friday. Hopefully – if the weather cooperates – they will also be visiting Tami Island next week. The trip to Tami requires travelling by dinghy along the coastline to Finschhafen and then across open ocean to the island. This time of the year the ocean can be very rough. Please pray for all of their travels.



Woody & Judy Square (left) with the U.S. team, performing songs and drama at the M.B.C. chapel

Over the past several months I have asked for prayers for my uncle, Bill Wilson, who was hospitalized at the time of the last report. Uncle Bill passed away on June 19<sup>th</sup>. He was a long time Christian and member of the Wellandport congregation in Ontario. Please keep my family in prayer. This has been a difficult year so far for loss both of family and close friends.

Last week, the health department reported P.N.G.'s first Polio outbreak in twenty years. W.H.O. classified P.N.G. as polio free in 2000. There is one confirmed case at Four Mile here in Lae, and two other children have had positive fecal samples.

## **CLASSROOM PROJECT**

Normally, reporting about our ongoing fund-raising efforts for the M.B.C. classroom project is the part of the report I least like and find most difficult to write. (Who likes repeatedly asking for financial help!?) However, this month, there is much good to report, and prayers are being answered!

- 1. We have revised the classroom design from a double-story, 4 classroom building, to a single-story, “L” shaped design, which will be even more practical. This has been done for multiple reasons including cost, accessibility issues for the heavy equipment which would have been needed for the original design, and safety issues for the young children of the M.B.C. students and settlement.

- 2. The revised design means that our new target goal is K300,000 (CN\$125,400), instead of the original K400,000 (CN\$167,200). As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, we have raised K125,414.47 (~CN\$52,425.00). F.Y.I: 55.3% of that has come from P.N.G., while 43.4% has come from Canada. The remaining 1.3% has come from the U.S. and Australia.
- 3. Last week we received news from Highland church of Christ in Cordova, Tennessee, which has encouraged us more than words can express, and we continue to give thanks to our loving Father. Highland, who have been M.B.C.'s sponsor since the school began, have committed US\$40,000 in a "2-For-1 Matching" campaign", asking that M.B.C. supporters will raise another US\$20,000 needed (thus working towards US\$60,000 which works out to be more than the targeted K300,000.) If you are interested in helping with this, please contact either Jab or myself at the information provided below.
- 4. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, we made our first payment! This was a consultation fee to have the revised plans approved by a structural engineer. They have since been approved and will soon be submitted to the building board.
- 5. The original quotation of K120,000.00 for the building frame was for pre-cut materials. Costs have increased drastically in the past year, and the same list of pre-cut materials is now well over K200,000.00. Brother Gilmore Gabori has volunteered to help reduce the cost by purchasing the raw materials and doing the cutting himself in his workshop, and today we made payment for the first order!
- 6. After a bit of delay due to heavy rain yesterday, this morning we had a small ground-breaking ceremony (perhaps better named "mud-slinging ceremony"). I look forward to seeing the progress in November when I get back from furlough, and have made brothers Jab and Gilmore promise to post many pictures in the mean time!



*Ground-breaking at M.B.C.*



*Jab Mesa & Woody Square, present and past headmasters*

Your ongoing support in prayer and finances is so much appreciated. Working with M.B.C. is a blessing to me, not only because I'm serving God, but also because I can serve all of P.N.G. by doing so. It is the only remaining Bible school in the country and continues to strengthen the church as a whole. Your support and prayers make you a part of that as well.

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

-or-

Contact brother Art Ford

([jarthurford@gmail.com](mailto:jarthurford@gmail.com))

In the U.S.A.:

Highland church of Christ

400 N. Houston Levee Rd.

Cordova, TN 38018

Att: Jackie Meadows

**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](mailto:ruthzimm@gmail.com) or M.B.C. Principal, Jab Mesa, at [melanesianbiblecollege@gmail.com](mailto:melanesianbiblecollege@gmail.com).

### Ruth Waine

Since the start of 2018, I have been asking for prayers for my young namesake who was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery in January. Initial progress was encouraging, but life has become increasingly difficult for Ruth and her family, and all of us who care about her. Before she started phase one of chemotherapy, the cancer had already started growing back. After the second treatment, she had a bad reaction to the drug combination and chemo was stopped. After a period of time, the oncologist started phase two of treatment using a different drug combination, and she had her second treatment a few days ago. Testing done after phase one showed that there was no improvement in her condition.

Since Ruth started chemo, we have learned that radiation is no longer an option as the cobalt machine at the Lae hospital is no longer operative and needs to be replaced. Lae is the only hospital in P.N.G. able to diagnose and treat cancer. The family is currently looking at overseas options, and working out how to pay for it if it is in fact a viable option. Please

continue to pray for this really brave young woman and the difficult road she is currently following.



Two Ruths

#### Prayer Points:

1. The Australian team currently in Menyamya District, and their trip back to Lae on Friday.
2. The U.S. team in their upcoming travels within P.N.G. and back to the U.S. on July 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. Ruth Waine – cancer treatment, further options, and the funds to go overseas.
4. My family following the death of my second uncle this year.
5. The classroom project for M.B.C. and subsequent fund-raising.
6. Furlough – leaving this Saturday!!!
7. My work permit & visa renewal at the end of this year.
8. Brother Wesley Wosse. Wes has had a difficult time this year with illness. He was hospitalized in February, and again in May, with Malaria and high blood pressure. He and his wife, Tupolin, were supposed to travel with the Australian team, however he is now down

with Typhoid and it has caused memory loss and disorientation. Please pray for his full recovery and that he will be able to stay free of illness in coming months. Please also pray for his family as they go through this difficult time.

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)