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Hi Brothers & Sisters

Greetings again from the land of puddles. We are having a soggy week. The daytime temperature is hovering around 80°F right now (brrrr!!!), and one of my cats has decided that the best place to sleep for the winter is on me. Every time I turned over last night, she climbed back on. It was like having a magnetic hot water bottle that never got cold!

We have been enjoying time with brother Sandy Detherage, from Texas. He arrived on June 29th, a week later than planned due to serious back issues, and has been meeting with local congregations near Lae, as well as making short trips out of Lae. Sandy is here until Monday before travelling to Australia and Asia. Please hold him in prayer for continued healing and comfort during his last few days here and while he is travelling.

We were blessed and excited to accompany Sandy on one of his short trips, from July 6-9. Jab & Becky Mesa organized a trip to Tami Island, a three hour dinghy ride, and we – Jab, Becky, brother Kaks Galupa, Sandy, Jab's nephew Mogi, Miring, and I - set out in calm seas and good weather. This was my fourth trip to Tami, but the last trip was around 20 years ago. We had a great weekend, and enjoyed meeting with the congregation there. We welcomed a new sister into the church, and rejoiced in her husband's repentance after a long absence.



Sandy teaching & Jab translating in the church building at Tami Island.



Tami Island congregation (photo courtesy Sandy Detherage).



Sunday morning worship at Tami Island (photo courtesy Sandy Detherage).



A new sister in Christ (photo courtesy Sandy Detherage).

The trip to Tami truly has been the highlight of the past six weeks! On the home front things have been quiet, with the exception of a big centipede coming up the bathroom sink drain one morning (uuuuggggg!!!) while Miring was washing her hands. I have been able to finish a few projects and get started on others. One of these projects involved creating additional materials

for the literacy program, and making alterations to some of the existing materials. Can't wait to use these matching and patterning games with next year's students!



Literacy games.

Trouble with the printer has put songbook printing on hold temporarily while we wait for parts on back-order, but in the meantime I have completed further editing, and have started working again on library work. Over the past four years, it has become the work that always gets shelved when other work crops up.

Fund-raising for the new M.B.C. classroom continues, although with the colder and wetter weather, our drink and biscuit sales have slowed. As of June 30th we had a total of K70,665.20 raised with another K788.00 worth of stock on hand. We are creeping towards the K400,000.00 needed, and believe that God will supply. Once the election period is past, we will start work on removing the office and 3rd year classroom building. Thank you for your ongoing prayers towards this effort. Your support – both in prayer and financial – is much appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please see the following:

In Canada:

Fenwick church of Christ
765 Welland Ave.,
P.O. Box 416,

In the U.S.A.:

Highland church of Christ
400 N. Houston Levee Rd.
Cordova, TN 38018

Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0

Att: Jackie Meadows

Please make sure that the 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 (ruthzimm@gmail.com) or M.B.C. Principal, Jab Mesa, at melanesianbiblecollege@gmail.com. If you are in Australia, and are wanting to contribute, please contact us for further information.

Prayer Points:

1. Brother Sandy Detherage – the completion of his time here in PNG and further travels to Australia and Asia.
2. The church in Indagen, mourning the loss of one of its faithful leaders, Pita, who died suddenly on July 3rd here in Lae.
3. The Dobadoba family (Joe & Kamau both teach at M.B.C.), mourning the loss of a brother-in-law, Ian, who drowned on July 15th.
4. The classroom project for M.B.C. and subsequent fund-raising.
5. The weather service here is forecasting yet another El Nino-related drought, starting in August. The last one was severe in parts of the country. Please pray that this one will have much less impact and be short in duration.
6. Art & Ruby Ford, long time PNG missionaries (and they who make sure this report gets to you!), as they plan to move to Kingston, Ontario.
7. Several members of my family in Canada, currently experiencing serious health and housing issues.
8. Me, currently undergoing treatment for malaria.
9. The P.N.G. national elections. I am loath to say too much regarding politics, but ask for your prayers as this election has been dubbed one of the most chaotic in the country's history, and we could easily be facing turbulent times. During the polling period, every news broadcast started with "delays in polling in.... due to discrepancies in the common roll...". In some places, up to 50% of the population were left off. One of the former prime ministers checked his name online before he went to vote but when he got to the polling station, it had been omitted from the list they were using. During polling in Lae, they were using both the 2017 common roll and the one from 2012, and we have heard that some polling stations gave up on the roll altogether and were allowing whoever showed up to vote, including children. Several election officials have been arrested for highly suspicious actions, and counting in several areas has been delayed due to issues. The general belief is that the current governing party has influenced the electoral

commission. There have been many calls over the past week to have the election declared as 'failed'. Please pray for a peaceful resolution to this.

On a final note, twenty-five years ago tomorrow, I arrived in Lae for the first time. Not sure where the time went!

As always, thank you for your support and ongoing prayers. You are much appreciated.

Love and blessings 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)