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Hi Brothers & Sisters

June 3, 2017

Greetings once again from Lae. I pray, as always, that this finds you well and enjoying God's continuous blessings. My apologies for missing the April report. We are now into the – much slower paced - post-M.B.C. school year period, and I have been spending the past few days trying to catch up on pending and half-started projects. No small task!

The last block of classes went well, running from April 17th to May 18th, and graduation for the 2nd year students was held on the 20th. Six M.B.C. students graduated – Marin & Elsie from the Omuru congregation in Madang Province, Nickolas from the Orouba congregation in Oro Province, Ngawae Manasseh from the Zumangurum congregation, 2 1/2 hours from Lae, and Nick & Regina, from the congregation at Bali Island, West New Britain Province.

The graduation also recognized the six literacy students for this year: Betty (Niuroks congregation, Lae), Jevi & Saina (Tent City congregation, Lae), Vero (Homkolai congregation, Chimbu Province), and Tapale (M.B.C. congregation), as well as Becky Mesa, who participated in order to learn the curriculum. All of these students worked hard throughout the school year, and it was both a pleasure and a challenge to be able to teach them and get to know them better. Please hold them in prayer as they readjust to life away from school, especially that they will continue to use the skills they have learned.

As the school year was drawing to a close, we were greatly honoured and encouraged to host three brothers from Highland church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee, who arrived in time to attend the graduation. Larry McKenzie – who has been travelling back and forth to P.N.G. since 1978 – made what is probably his last trip (we thought that the last time too, but God had other plans!). He brought first time visitors Jimmy Adkins and Eric Gentry with him.

Jimmy, Eric and Larry arrived in Lae on May 16th, on the same flight as Arthur Tatara and Willie Kewo, who are now finished their studies in Singapore. After two years away,

everyone was very happy to see their safe return. Thank you for your ongoing prayers for them. Jimmy and Eric made the trip back to the U.S. on May 24th, and Larry left the following day to visit Singapore, Malaysia, and Japan. They remain in our thoughts, prayers and hearts.



A joyful reunion. (Left-right:) Arthur Tatara, Miring Maronga, Willie Kewo, Jab Mesa, Jimmy Adkins, Larry McKenzie, and Eric Gentry, right after their arrival on May 16th.



Jab & Larry, during graduation.



The literacy class singing one of two newly learned songs during graduation. (left-right: Becky, "Tapsi", me, Jevi, Betty, Saina, and Vero).



The 2nd year graduates (left-right:) Marin, Elsie, Regina, Nick, Ngawae, and Nickolas.



Student trip to Zumangurum village.

All of our 2017 students have now left. The majority travelled back to their homes on May 23rd and 24th, after spending a day at Zumangurum village, in the Markham Valley, on the 22nd. Everyone came back from their visit excited and full of chicken and veggies! The last two families – Mark & Teresa and Nick & Regina – are travelling to Bali Island as I write this. Their travels were delayed by a week due to a schedule change for the ship they are on. Please pray for their continued safe travels. They left Lae yesterday morning.

Yesterday saw the completion of the latest round of Tok Pisin songbooks (which I mentioned in the last newsletter). The second year students got together on April 22nd to collate the books, and finally yesterday saw the last - #2000 – stapled and bound. Next week I will start another printing, as only 58 of the 250 printed are still available for purchase!

Fund-raising for the new M.B.C. classroom continues. We currently have a total of K68,688.08 raised (CN\$29,016.23 by today's exchange rate) of the required K400,000 (CN\$164,567.66). 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,
Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0

In the U.S.A.:

Highland church of Christ
400 N. Houston Levee Rd.
Cordova, TN 38018
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. Students Mark & Teresa and Nick & Regina, currently travelling to Bali Island via Kimbe.
2. Brother Sandy Detherage, who will be arriving in Lae on June 22nd and visiting different parts of PNG until July 24th)
3. The P.N.G. national elections start on June 24th and run until July 8th. So far, campaigning in Lae has been peaceful (and noisy!), but in other parts of the country it has led to fighting and deaths. Lae goes to the polls on the 27th, with 49 candidates to choose from for its parliamentary seat and another 15 to choose from for its governor. There are 2,821 candidates vying for 111 parliamentary seats in total.
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.

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

Love and blessings in HIM,

Ruth

To contact Ruth: ruthzimm@gmail.com

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