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Greetings again from Lae. It is incredible to think that it is already October. We now have less than 4 months until the Melanesian Bible College (M.B.C.) resumes classes again (and I thought I was going to get so much done in 'all this free time'!! Harrrr) and in 8 months time I'll be travelling home once again for furlough.

This past month certainly flew by at the speed of light. On the 9th of September, the congregation which meets at M.B.C. hosted the 3rd Lae City combined ladies' class for this year. It has been a while since we hosted, and we were all happy with the turnout and the time of fellowship, as well as some repentant hearts that came forward. Please pray for improving relationships where there has been division over the past few years.

On September 16th I headed to Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, with the assistance of Miamel & Joyce Golabe. Being P.N.G.'s 42nd birthday, as well as the first day of the Goroka Show, there were no Lae-to-Goroka buses to be found and great crowds waiting to travel. Whereas the trip used to take 5 hours by road by p.m.v. (public motor vehicle), it now takes 8 hours due to the horrible state of the Highlands Highway, the only road connecting Lae to the highlands. Miamel's truck got us there in better time but I'm sure it was an exhausting trip for them by the time they returned to Lae!

I enjoyed the weekend in Goroka, avoiding the show and the crowds, and spending time with Jotto & Anna Manase, longtime workers with the rural congregations in the Eastern Highlands, including Moikepa, Hegagimi and Emagave. On Sunday we worshiped with the North Goroka congregation, whom I haven't visited for several years. The Eastern Highlands Province is into a 5 month drought, so it looks like the predictions of another El Nino event in P.N.G. are taking shape. Still hard to believe in soggy Lae.

On the 18th, I met up with my cousin, Victor, whom I haven't seen in around twenty years as neither of us lives in Canada. He is a much-in-demand tour guide, and was in Goroka with a large group of Canadians and Americans for the Goroka Show. From Goroka we travelled together by charter to Tari, Hela Province. This is an area of P.N.G. that I've never visited before, and I really enjoyed not only my time with Vic, but

also the incredible beauty that surrounded us. We stayed at Ambua Lodge, about 40 minutes drive from Tari, and on Tuesday and Wednesday enjoyed several cultural tours set up by the Lodge, as well as daily bush walks where we sighted 4 different species of birds of paradise, as well as many other species, including parrots and songbirds.



Ambua Lodge, Tari, Hela Province



Ambua Lodge



Cousin Vic

On the 21st we parted company. Vic and his group travelled by charter from Tari to the East Sepik Province, where they did a Sepik River boat tour for a few more days before leaving P.N.G. I travelled by commercial flight from Tari to Port Moresby, and then on to Lae the next morning. My transition back from being a tourist (an unaccustomed role) to normal life took a bit of time, and I truly feel like I left a part of myself in the bush in Tari!



Rose (right) and her cousin, prepared for Independence Day celebrations at school.

On Saturday, September 23rd, Miring, Rose and I hosted a new ladies' Bible class. Over the past few years, more and more members of the Indagen congregation have left Kabwum District to settle in Lae. Others are currently here for medical reasons, some of them for several months. In the village, our sisters (Miring & Rose's relatives) met regularly for classes, and worked faithfully together in serving the community and those in need. However, in Lae they are spread out and quite often don't see each other for weeks or months on end, worshipping with different congregations, some even no longer worshipping. Growing concern has led to the formation of this monthly Bible class. The 2nd class is this coming Saturday, and for the

time being I am teaching the classes and Miring is helping with translation (Tok Pisin into the Komba language) where needed. Please pray for this class, that it will encourage and strengthen these ladies who are all very dear to our hearts.



Inaugural Indagen ladies' Bible class. (Standing l to r: Ikising, Nambi & Natak; Seated l to r: Rose, Irip (Rose's mother), Sulan, & Miring).

Last week I started the much-put-off task of washing the house. This job should be done every 6 months, but... This is the job I truly hate! The “permanent” houses here are mainly wooden-framed with corrugated iron roofing, and plywood ceilings and walls. They have very large, screened windows, with or without glass louvres, and a combination of iron bars and 'rascal wire' to stop (slow down) anyone wanting to break in. It doesn't take long, especially during the 'wetter' season, for mould to grow. After 3 days of work, we finished the kitchen and living room, and part of the bedroom. Work continues.

Parts of the highlands continue in election-related violence, even more than 2 months after the formation of government. This past month has seen the elected members from Morobe Province – all of whom were against the current government throughout the election period – suddenly cross the floor of parliament. The people of Morobe are feeling very cheated right now, especially after these members and others had made strong promises to stay together in opposition in order to keep our highly questionable government in check. So much corruption...

This past weekend was the annual church “kibung” (lectureship/camp). This year it was held in Wangoi, Chimbu Province. Please pray for those who travelled from Lae and Madang to attend, as the Highlands Highway at Kainantu has been blocked by villagers demanding compensation from the government. There are currently 3 busloads stranded in Goroka, as well as a couple cars, and it is uncertain when the road will be reopened.

Fund-raising for the new M.B.C. classroom continues. As of September 30th, the total was at more than K78,000.00 (approximately CN\$31,075.00). The current goal is to reach K100,000.00 (approximately CN\$39,840.00) as quickly as possible in order to purchase the metal frame for the new classroom building. As such, it has been decided that the current building will be left for the time being (instead of being dismantled this year as planned) until we are able to start building. Fund-raising will continue beyond the purchase of the frame towards the K400,000.00 goal. The K400,000.00 will be used to finish the classroom building as well as replace the current fencing and maintain the other classroom building. We trust God to supply, and I look forward to reporting more to you in the coming months. If you are able to assist, please see the information below.

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. Thank you for your prayers for the church at Indagen. Brother Peter's body was finally transported to the village on September 22nd.
2. Thank you for your prayers for Palei Yadasuk, the younger brother of Rose. He is out of hospital and is recovering well at Tikeleng village, where his father is the preacher for the congregation there.
3. Thank you for your prayers regarding my time in Goroka and Tari. So glad that it worked out as it did.
4. The classroom project for M.B.C. and subsequent fund-raising; meeting the K100,000 mark as quickly as possible.
5. My uncle, battling the last stages of cancer; My aunt and uncle as they deal with their recent move as well as ongoing health issues.

6. The new ladies' class for our sisters from Indagen, that they may be encouraged and grow spiritually.

7. For the travellers returning from Chimbu Province, currently stranded in Goroka.

I appreciate hearing from you, but I don't expect replies to this newsletter. They are always welcome. If for some reason you do contact me and don't receive an expected reply, please resend your email. I have had a lot of trouble lately with emails not arriving (here or to where I'm sending them!).

May God continue to bless you and guide you each day.

With love in Him,

Ruth

Note:

I normally send an e-mail each month. If you have been forwarded this e-mail from a friend and would like to subscribe to it yourself, click here.

If you are changing your e-mail address, please go to the bottom of this e-mail and click on "Update your profile" to enter your new address.

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)