



Ruth Zimmerman
PO Box 1112, Lae 411,
Papua New Guinea
Phone: 011 675 7248 1267



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Hello from “rainy Lae”. The wet season is coming in like a “demdem” (snail) this year, but we are enjoying slightly cooler and, so far, not too wet weather (80°F instead of 90°F). We now have less than two weeks left of our school year at the Melanesian Bible College. Everyone is working hard, but so are the mosquitoes and this has been a month of malaria. It seems like everyone is down with it right now, teachers and students alike.

Part one of this year's graduation took place on April 7th, with six students receiving their diplomas: Marin & Elsie Tali from Madang, Nickolas Name from the Waria Valley, Ngawae Manasseh from the Markham Valley, and Nick & Regina Baule from West New Britain. They have now all left, with Nickolas returning to his village this morning. Part two of this year's graduation (for the 2nd year students) will take place on May 19th.



2018 3rd year graduates. Left to right: Teacher Miamel Golabe, Nickolas Name, Ngawae Manasseh, Ruan Manasseh (received certificate), Nick Baule, Regina Baule, Elsie Tali, Marin Tali, and Joyce Golabe.



Becky Mesa presenting a certificate to Bessie Domuno, one of our part time students.

From April 9th-11th, we hosted the first literacy teacher's training session at M.B.C. I had nine participants from six congregations (Noa in the Markham Valley; Tent City, Lae; Neng, Tewai Siasi District; Dalam in Madang Province; Orouba in Oro Province; and M.B.C.). Others have since expressed interest, so it looks like we will be doing it again towards the end of the year. The congregation at Noa has already built their classroom and have students lined up to start.



Participants of the literacy teacher's training session held at M.B.C.

April 11th-15th was this year's ladies' workshop. Thank you for your prayers for the attendees. It took place at Onuma in Chimbu Province, with 421 in attendance, 11 baptisms and 25 repentances. Miring, along with several of the ladies from Indagen - who continue to meet here twice monthly for Bible study - went.

Miring, Rose and I have spent much of the past month passing malaria back and forth between ourselves. I am questioning the method of testing used by the clinic we have been going to. Miring has just got her third blood slide done (after two full treatments), and even though she is feeling much better and seems to be nearly normal, the most recent slide said that she had twice as many malaria parasites as the first two times! (I jokingly told her that they probably took the results from slide 1 and added it to the results of slide 2...). I have also completed two full treatments, and am still feeling less than well. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

2018 is proving to be a year of losses both here and at home. Some I have mentioned, and several I haven't. In the past month we were greatly saddened to learn of the sudden, accidental death of Becky Mesa's younger brother, Denmark on April 8th. Before he returned to their village last year, he was a frequent visitor to the M.B.C. congregation, and helped out at times with preparing the house for our visitors from overseas. On April 18th, a longtime brother in the Indagen congregation, Bunao Kapi, also died suddenly in Lae. He was Miring's cousin, and both family and congregation have been left shaken. His body is to be returned to the village this coming weekend.

I am booked to travel home for furlough in July. I will be leaving here on the 7th and have a couple of nights in Brisbane, before travelling on to Vancouver and Calgary, and then Hamilton the next day, arriving on the 10th. I will be in Canada until November 1st, arriving back in

Brisbane on the 4th. I haven't yet booked the flights from Brisbane to Lae. Hoping to be able to see many of you during my travels!

We are expecting two mission teams to arrive in June. The first is the Australian team, led by Steve Collins, which visits every two or three years. They will be arriving on the 22nd and will spend time in the Waria Valley, Wau, Kapini (Menyamya), Bulolo, and Lae, before leaving. I will be travelling with them to Brisbane. The second team arrives from California on the 27th. This team comes every three or four years, led by former missionaries Woody & Judy Square. They will be travelling to Klin Wara in the Markham Valley, Las Wara in Chimbu Province, and Tami Island near Finschhafen.

I am happy to report that we have been able to fix the older printer at M.B.C. and it is running well. I have all but the covers printed for the current 250 copies of the Tok Pisin songbook. Hoping to get the collating done this week, so that we can cut, staple and bind the books before the end of May. These books are long overdue as I started the printing in November!

The Melanesian Bible College classroom project fund-raising continues to go well. As of April 30th the balance was K122,581.54, with another K461.00 worth of stock on hand. The total (K123,042.54) converts to approximately CN\$52,040.00. The overall goal remains (K400,000.00 or CN\$169,180.00), but we only need K150,000.00 (CN\$63,442.00) to see the commencement of construction. The remainder will go towards finishing the classrooms, replacing the fencing, and maintaining the other classroom building. We continue to trust God to provide, and we greatly appreciate your prayers and support. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at the information provided below.

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

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 (ruthzimm@gmail.com) or M.B.C. Principal, Jab Mesa, at melanesianbiblecollege@gmail.com.

Prayer Points:

1. The two families mourning the sudden loss of loved ones in April.
2. Our ongoing struggles with malaria.
3. Ruth Waine – ongoing treatment for breast cancer.
4. M.B.C. school year winding down, and graduation for the 2nd year students on May 19th.
5. A dear sister in Christ in Indagen – Enzang Rezi – who is currently seriously ill.
6. My own family in Canada, as my Uncle Bill is hospitalized.

7. Our coming teams from Australia and the U.S. in June and July, and preparation for their arrival.
8. Furlough – July-November - and then work permit and visa renewal.
9. The ongoing ladies' class for our sisters from Indagen, that they may be encouraged and grow spiritually.
10. The classroom project for M.B.C. and subsequent fund-raising.

May God continue to bless you and give you peace.

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)