



The Ottosens

Missionaries to the Kamea People of Papua New Guinea

November 2017

Good News From Afar

The container of Pidgin New Testaments made it successfully through customs. During an abbreviated trip to town, efforts to distribute those Bibles began! I am deeply appreciative to Missionary Josh Florence who graciously did much of the preparation and accompanied me in delivering the Scriptures. Fellow missionaries have also asked allotments for their respective ministries in other areas of the country!

Literacy class has begun again! Thirteen members of our church signed up including both men, women and children. You might recall, our first introductory literacy class in 2016 only included men from our church. This class' attendance will hopefully continue to grow in the coming weeks. The course is expected to run for nearly ten months.

Last week Esila, Pastor Jack's wife, delivered her second son. Benaiah seems to be healthy at a meager 4 pounds 5 ounces and has a hearty voice. Please pray for his health and growth while Esila recovers.

All of our girls turned a year older in September. Cherith is diligently homeschooling. Grace is in first grade and her reading ability is expanding. She traded out two lower-front baby teeth for a brand new adult tooth. Melody is doing some Pre-K work and has a flare for creativity and art projects. She has a loving maternal side and keeps a good eye on her little sister. Hannah not only is walking and running but also climbs on anything she can prop her foot upon. Hannah may not speak much but never tires of shaking hands. Making friends comes naturally to her, always ready to greet anyone at church with an out-stretched hand.

Struggles In Ministry

The heavy rain and winds in our area have kept us from cutting lumber for our new church building, while our current building sags further under the weight of soaked thatch. We have propped up our building with log supports, but pray for improved weather soon.

A number of peculiar rumors have been made against our church and about me personally. This comes as no surprise living in an oral culture, where the gospel of God's grace is completely foreign. The most disheartening aspect has been accusation stemming from close friends. Rafort has been out of church for months, and his slanderous insults discouraged Damien from attending. I rejoice as our Lord works to restore our fellowship and strengthen these relationships. Both men have returned to church services last week.

Pastor Jack and I repeatedly visited Wesley, whose severe head injury was reported in our last update. We clearly explained the gospel but he did not acknowledge the truth of his sinfulness and salvation available through Jesus Christ. Although his injury seemed to heal, his general health greatly deteriorated thereafter. Today was his funeral, and we are all burdened to redeem the time as we reach everyone around us with the good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

People at the funeral discussed how our local medical clinic has not operated well for some time. Many injured people hike to the clinic to find its doors locked, with medicine stored inside, but no one there to attend to their plight. The resident orderly has neglected his post but has not withdrawn from the position. Sadly, efforts for resolution have been stymied. Many come our door who endure conditions that could be remedied by simple medications and basic medical care, but we don't have sufficient training, time or supplies. I have begun to pray for a new medical practitioner to serve our community and the surrounding area.

Matters of Prayer

1. Souls to be saved; saints to be sanctified
2. Continued Kamea language learning
3. Cutting lumber for new church building
4. Medical situation in Komako

In His Service,

Jason, Cherith, Grace, Melody and Hannah

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