



# *The Ottosens*

# Missionaries to the *Kamea* People of *Papua New Guinea*

February 2019

After six airplane flights our family has safely returned to the United States. Cherith is expecting our fourth child, and we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of Josiah David around the beginning of April. We were alarmed as an initial ultrasound overseas reported Josiah's head measured much smaller than his body. Further tests have shown Josiah's development is normal, actually ahead of schedule. Please rejoice with us as we welcome our first son into the family and pray for his continued development. We plan to return to Papua New Guinea (PNG) in August when Josiah's passport and visa are approved.

Communication was difficult the last few months in PNG. After hiking ten hours to the nearest Baptist mission to us to use their wi-fi, I discovered the cause of our "black out." The cell tower that covered our area had reportedly been vandalized by a family claiming ownership to the property the tower was built upon. With solar panels and corresponding batteries removed, the forty meter tower ceased operating. Every phone owner in our village must hike to another location in order to get the network's signal. There is little promise of direct service returning, so we need to find a reliable means of communication in the future, perhaps utilizing satellite capabilities.

In Komako Village, Rafort asked if I could reach out to his in-laws residing near Qwaiyu Village. When someone gets saved they naturally want their family to receive Jesus as well. It opens the door to witness to their kin. Upon arriving in Qwaiyu I was blessed to see over forty people from their family had gathered to hear the gospel. The message was well received and they requested I return again to share more of God's word. I inquired about their gardens and homes as we stood on a precipice overlooking their picturesque valley. One of the elders answered by explaining that they were the last Kamea family in this valley. If we passed over the mountain ridge to the north a new language group began. Similarly another language group resided directly to the west. As I pieced the geography together, I realized I was speaking to the northernmost corner of the Kamea language territory. In scope of our Kamea ministry, it was the "uttermost." Pray with us that every Kamea speaking person will hear and understand the gospel before passing into eternity.

In February, I concluded our literacy class with thirty students. It has been exciting to see people gain the ability to read and write. Now those students in our church have access to scripture in Melanesian Pidgin. Christians are growing both in their faith and faithfulness in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. People bring their New Testament to church and follow along with the preacher. We have great expectations of how the Lord will use them: reaching more souls, strengthening their resolve in the midst strong cultural pressures and translating the Bible into the Kamea language.

### **Sending Church:**

Faith Baptist Church

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One morning, a man named Smokey stood at my gate. While visibly disturbed and trembling, Smokey recounted a harrowing testimony. He began by describing repeated visions of marvelous spirits that appeared to him. Some took form as shooting stars and others as snake-shaped lights. Their vehement movements between actual people and objects overwhelmed Smokey. Next he followed with a ominous report; whenever he had gone to a church bad things followed. People within the congregation would become sick and other unfortunate things occurred. Even members of his own family would tell him to stop coming to their church, blaming him for the harm caused. His seemingly inescapable visions were attractive but also frightening. Smokey admitted his confusion, uncertain whether these spirits were helpful or harmful. I responded with a verse describing Satan's deceitful methods:

*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

After warning him of any further involvement or cooperation in such matters, he candidly asked if he would be allowed to attend our church. I explained he was part of the reason Jesus died, and started a church in Komako. He was most welcomed to sit under the preaching of God's word and learn of the true light of the world, Jesus Christ. Smokey has brought his family to every Sunday service since then. He is soaking in each message and his increased understanding is bringing him closer to receiving Christ.

Our last month in PNG was spent building our church. Yali, a Christian from Kotidanga Baptist Church, acted as our carpenter, leading each phase of construction. This summer we noticed many men left to visit big towns in other parts of the country. With a shortage of men, I wondered how we could get everything built before leaving for this abbreviated furlough. In answer to prayer, a group of neighboring men volunteered to help. We completed the building in four weeks and enjoyed a dedication service before flying out. We had over 120 in attendance, including people from villages two hours away. At the close of services I asked if anyone wanted to publicly commit themselves to walk by faith in 2019. Six people, most of them young adults and teens, raised their hands in response. Please pray for the steadfast dedication, spiritual strength and spreading testimony of our brethren in Komako Village.

In His Service,

*Jason, Cherith, Grace, Melody, Hannah and Josiah*

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