



# *The Ottosens* Reaching the Kamea of Papua New Guinea

June 2021

*The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. (Matthew 4:16)*

Akson is a slender, young man around sixteen years of age and comes from a family known for being “tough.” The first time I recall speaking directly to Akson was while breaking up a fight and yelling at his party to put down their weapons (stones, metal chain, etc.). His eldest brother broke our neighbor’s teeth during a fight, has been trying to take one of our Christian ladies as his second wife and is involved in witchcraft supposedly striking a Christian woman with infertility. Even a minor conflict with one of our believers is enough to keep an entire family from attending church; so, it is no surprise that Akson’s family has not set foot in our church.

Each Monday our family hikes to a nearby school to teach Religious Instruction for an hour. For the last month Akson has attended and listened intently to the lessons. This week Akson stayed behind after the class was released and voiced his need to be saved. He later called on the name of the Lord for salvation! It was touching to hear him pray, “God thank you for telling me to get saved. Please hear my prayer and forgive me for all my sins.” As a child of God, Akson has entered a new battlefield. Please pray for his growth and for his entire family to receive Christ as there is a new light sprung up in their household.

Nearly thirty people from our church hiked two days for a special meeting in April. This was the first time in years our brethren have shared fellowship with another church. Our people returned refreshed and encouraged to stand firmly for the Lord. A young man (named Lino) and two boys (Max and Silos) were saved during the services! It is exciting to see people stepping from the shadows of their sin and into the bright and glorious grace of the Lord.

Rafort has been mentioned in earlier updates and has developed into a leader within our flock. His wife, Kaylin, is openly resistant of Rafort’s involvement with church; even threatening him with a machete if he went to the special meeting in April. Cherith and I visited their home to encourage Kaylin to return to church when we noticed the banana trees and sugar cane planted around their hut was cut to the ground. Culturally, people start cutting the vegetation as a sign of their anger as arguments escalate. Since reconciling, Kaylin has returned to church and they both apologized before the church body. It is wonderful to see joyfulness return to their faces.

Last year Pastor Jack tried to visit an distant area to our north called Benso but no one desired to hear the gospel or allowed him to sleep at their home. That rarely happens amongst the Kamea people, but Benso is part of another language group. A young man from our church is attending the school in Benso, and now Jack has opportunity to preach to their student body. Please pray as he intends to leave next week.

Our girls just finished their school year, as we follow the American school schedule. Cherith is a gifted teacher and I thank God for her patience and love shown through her multifaceted ministry to our family as we serve in PNG.

In His Service,

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

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