



The Ottosens Reaching the Kamea of Papua New Guinea

August 2022

Furlough is an interesting time as we adjust from life in Papua New Guinea and catch up to the speed and busyness in the USA. Changes include much more than the time zone. We have updated our prayer cards and generated a basic video showing things accomplished this last term on the field. Our goals for furlough include visiting supporters, presenting at new churches that have contacted us, and spending time at our sending church. We want to be a benefit to our home church and help in the areas we can.

Cherith and I have seen how difficult missionary life is on children as they endure the absence of extended family while overseas, and extensive traveling while here: living out of suitcases and not having a house in the USA. While missionary children bounce between two countries they find that fitting into either place is evasive and they become what has been termed, a third culture kid. As our girls get older we can see how each furlough affects them more significantly.

Despite being busy visiting churches, we decided to take time to sign up for Family Camp with our church. It was a splendid opportunity to hear solid preaching directed toward strengthening our family and having activities that were enjoyable to all. Our family had a great time of fellowship with other families that attended. Our children desire to develop strong friendships that will continue over the years to come. The family camp was a tremendous encouragement to our family and we thank the Lord for the memories made there.

Our church graciously allowed us to move into their guest house until our furlough ends in January. It is located across the street from the church property and is a huge answer to prayer. It helps us look forward to a space we can call home, even on a temporary basis.

Youth camp is a popular event during the summer months and I was allowed to be a Camp Counselor. Camp is a great chance for our youth to get out of their normal element, away from phones, entertainment and other distractions. What they received in exchange was Biblical messages geared for their challenges, team-building activities, competitive events, and a fear-inducing ropes

course. Praise the Lord that one young man, Xzavion, received Christ as his Saviour.

Weekly soul-winning is an activity that tops my list of things to do on furlough. While going door to door has become old-fashioned to some, having face-to-face conversations about God, eternity and salvation never gets old. Having been gone for the past few years, I wondered how the times may have changed, but some things never will change; such as, God's eternal word, the lost soul's need for the glorious gospel, and the children of God to unashamedly proclaim Him. Just this last week we saw a man pray to receive the Lord. How wonderful it is to speak to folks in English and testify how much the Lord means to us.

Now I ask you to pray for Cherith's health. Her back caused her much discomfort and pain while in PNG and we awaited the opportunity to seek medical help. At this point, we have gotten the opinion of medical professionals and Cherith has regularly been adjusted by chiropractors, and the issue remains. I am thankful that there has been some improvement, but the sharp pain in her lower back and hip area can return shortly after her appointment. We were hoping her recovery would progress quicker, but we are praying the pain will stop completely and she will receive full strength to function normally.

Papua New Guinea has now changed their travel policy so anyone with a Permanent Residence Visa (which we have) can freely return without rigorous requirements. So we anticipate returning January 3rd, Lord willing.

It is hard to believe summer is coming to a close. We have the homeschooling materials ready for this next year but our family awaits Super September. It is considered super because of the four birthdays that come this month: for all three girls and Jason. Our children are still young enough to find aging encouraging. What a blessing.

Thank you again for reading this update and praying for the needs as they come to mind. I especially want to thank the dear friends who have hosted us and supported us on the road. God's traveling mercies continue to keep us from having an accident or collision.

In His Service,

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

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