



The Ottosens Reaching the Kamea of Papua New Guinea

February 2023

We rejoice being back in our place of ministry after our furlough! We had a nail-biting experience the day of our international flights to Papua New Guinea. The airline computer restricted us from flying due to a passport stipulation. To make a long story short, the Lord granted us favor as personnel at the counter overrode the system so we could get our tickets and board the plane. This all occurred after the gate had closed and the plane was soon to takeoff. We have never been happier to sit on a fourteen hour flight!

Two days later, we arrived in Port Moresby. The capitol is a hectic place and known for being dangerous. I am on high-alert while in town. We spent two Sundays in town and were blessed to join two churches that are thriving despite the hostile environment. I had forgotten what preaching in the coastal heat felt like, but to God's glory a young boy named John placed his faith in Christ after the morning service! The following week we attended another church and a well-aged woman lit up with excitement when we arrived. She reported John was her grandson that had been saved the previous week. Another man was saved following that service!

While talking with a couple of pastors, I mentioned wanting to preach in one of the large open-air markets. They introduced me to Vali who sells fruit at the market. He had previously assisted in repairing the market's PA system and was given the opportunity to preach weekly. With Vali's help, I was able to preach the gospel for half an hour to the entire market! What a joy to see God blessing the resourcefulness of His people in reaching multitudes with the word.

After purchasing necessary supplies, our family flew to our home in Komako village. Everyone is happy to be home and settling into a routine with home schooling. We have noticed a large change in the church since leaving last year. Some folks stopped attending while we were in

the USA. A veteran missionary said returning from furlough often involves a season of regathering wandering sheep back into the fold. Others have left to attend higher grades at schools far from our village. Otto, who surrendered to ministry, also left after choosing to pursue his educational opportunities.

Unforeseen events pop up that keep us busy, as we minister to our community. A helicopter randomly dropped ten boxes of medicine at our airstrip and left as quickly as it arrived. Our village has not had medical personnel for five years, so everyone was unsure who would distribute the necessary medicine. Quickly the resounding response from the community was that I should become their makeshift doctor and pharmacist. In order to find a proper solution, we held a large meeting with all the leaders from our surrounding villages. I redirected them toward renovating our village's dilapidated clinic and find a medical worker from the Provincial Government. Multiple deaths from the last year has many people rightly concerned about having medical services.

Komako's airstrip fell into a state of disrepair while on furlough. Our wind sock is horribly tattered and many of the cone markers have disappeared leaving a few broken cones to mark the perimeter of the airstrip. The grass was overgrown. I hired a group of thirty people to cut the grass before the plane would return with our supplies. Thankfully we received our groceries, but are still awaiting our American luggage. Pray I can locate new cone markers and a wind sock to keep our airstrip in operation.

We bought a Doberman puppy from the coast. Reese's, as it has been named, has health challenges: recovering from an emaciated condition and on-going infections. The children enjoy playing with her as she is gaining weight and increasing in energy. Praying she will be a blessing to our family as a useful guard dog.

In His Service,
Jason, Cherith, Grace, Melody, Hannah, and Josiah

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