

# The Ottosens

## Reaching the Kamea of Papua New Guinea



March 2023

Each missionary's update is a report from various battlefields. This month we had some hard fought victories despite persistent resistance from the enemy. Please pray as we face spiritual battles, combatting discouragement and weakness. God gets the glory for the ground won and our rejoicing increases as we see Him work in mighty ways.

Pastor Jack left at the beginning of March to visit his son who is attending a distant school in town. We are continuing to light the fire of devotion for the Lord in Komako. Cherith has jumped into leading children's Sunday School in addition to being a skillful homemaker, piano teacher, homeschooling mother and her husband's best friend. Each week Bible messages are prepared to direct Christians toward an evangelistic faith in order to reach our uttermost with the gospel along with a discipleship program.

A group of Christians were assembled to form an evangelistic team that accompanied Jason to a strong Catholic village named Manimango. The weekly market there serves as a hub, as people from large distances gather to sell store-bought goods. It is the largest center of commercial activity in our area. We initially hiked to a village a short distance from Manimango to settle down for the night. Our plans went south quickly when realizing the family that invited us to come was absent. In a short time, another family allowed us to spend the night in their hut, a mere stone's throw from the village's Catholic church.

Word quickly spread about our arrival and an impromptu crowd of over fifty gathered after the sun set. The Catholic leader also sat beside our group without disturbing the service. My team helped sing songs, share their testimonies of salvation and say "amen" to the preaching. At the conclusion of the message three teen boys responded in faith! It seemed as though my plans had

fallen through, but God paved the way for the gospel to be preached for the first time in that secluded valley.

The next day we hiked to Manimango village's market and again sang songs and preached two gospel messages. The Catholic leaders hastily began making announcements and teaching to distract people once I had finished. There was ample opportunity to personally share the gospel with travelers and merchants selling rice, ramen noodles, cooking oil, batteries, clothes and soap. An afternoon rain then drove our group back to Molas' house for the evening. Despite being Catholic, he allowed us to stay at his home. Molas told friends to gather the next morning for a church service with the Baptists. That next day, we saw three more people trust Christ for their salvation! Please pray for these new believers and for a God-called man to oversee a church planted in their area. I marvelled to see God work throughout this trip.

Our church has focussed on inviting visitors to our Sunday morning services. This past Sunday we saw two first-time visitors accept Christ as their Saviour. What a joy to see God's children laboring and people coming to receive the Lord.

The church family contributed this month for our next building project by leveling ground for two days. This building will be used for a large kitchen to house visitors and host large celebratory meals. We dug through the clay soil and into a lower rock-like layer until a wall of earth was exposed eight feet high and forty feet long. We dug the dirt loose and loaded in onto long leaves, dragging it to the ledge, and dumping it to form a larger base to build upon. The work was laborious, but the fellowship and lunch served made it an enjoyable time for all.

In His Service,

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

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