



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

January was a whirlwind of activity as Jason completed the literacy class and wrapped up the year for Komako's Bible Institute. Cherith and the children busily packed in preparation for our extended stay at Wau Bible School. Our literacy students enjoyed the graduation ceremony while receiving rewards for achieving their academic goals during the course of instruction. Cherith and I were blessed to recount how helpful literacy has proven as many past literacy graduates have been personally strengthened through Bible reading and become pillars of the church.

A supporting church graciously gave a love gift to use in purchasing building materials for the new church plant in Iwaina Village. The necessary materials have been purchased and are being shipped in stages: all supplies shipped to our village and secondly carried by hand to Iwaina Village. Half of the materials have already been delivered to Komako and the remaining roofing materials will be sent shortly.

Our Time in Wau

We were kindly welcomed back to Wau Town. Overseeing the administration of the Bible School for two months has been a learning process with responsibilities involving payroll, maintaining the grounds, vehicle repairs and supervision of the student body as a new school year began. The Wau ministry is larger in many ways than what I am accustomed to in Komako Village.

A group of Chinese gold miners have caused a stir by overtaking property belonging to the Bible School. A prolonged court procedure was initiated and the verdict was abruptly declared in favor of the miner's claim that overlapped the boundary held by the Bible School. Their group could potentially charge the Bible School for a full reimburse for all their legal fees and expenses because the court's finding sided with them. We are concerned their party may be emboldened to take more ground in the future. Please pray for wisdom and direction moving forward.

February marked the beginning of class at the Bible School. The student body consists of second-year students along with the addition of a new family and two young single men. The first class was a month long study of Biblical prophecy including core methods of interpretation and a verse-by-verse study through the Book of Revelation. By month's end, the students understood the major movements in prophetic portions of the Bible and had a firm grasp of the book of Revelation.

Two guard dogs assigned to our house mistook our young cat (Whiskers) for a chew toy. It survived the traumatic episode and was happily adopted by a neighboring Pastor's family. Whiskers has made a full recovery. Other violent events have occurred among passersby along the road that pierces through the Bible School property: domestic disputes, slingshot attacks, hold-ups and theft.

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The local police shot and killed one hooligan. His gang summoned reinforcements from larger cities and retaliated with gun fire. The loud and rapid blasts accentuated the neighborhood for a couple weeks as the law enforcement and gangs took aim at each other. The town market was closed and schools suspended instruction until things cooled down. Five people in total have been fatally shot and things have seemingly gotten back to normal this past week. When discussing the latest skirmishes, many residents shrug while referring to Wau as a cowboy town.

Bulolo Baptist Church's four day Revival in March was a great time of preaching, fellowship, and life-changing decisions. More than ten individuals made professions of faith. Wau and Bulolo are in the same valley an hour's drive apart. Bulolo's iconic gold fields have rightly earned the epithet of being "the El Dorado of PNG." Its plenteous veins of gold were tapped previous to the Second World War and are still mined to this day. The airstrips of Bulolo and Wau were not only the busiest in the world due to mining efforts but were also the scene of heavy fighting between the Allied and Japanese forces.

During the past two months we have enjoyed visiting numerous local churches: filling the pulpit and singing special music. People have been consistently added unto the Lord and the warm responses to our visits have been encouraging. Wau Baptist Church will be hosting a Easter Meeting April 16-18. They expect over 500 people to attend. Please pray for those attending who need salvation, for all to be encouraged and many more to serve the Lord with renewed fervency. Our return flight to Komako Village is scheduled for May 2nd.

Kids Corner

Cherith reminded Josiah his birthday was just nine days away. Math is not his favorite subject, but he has recently been exposed to the concept of counting by twos. Josiah comically responded to her comment by saying, "Can I count those days by twos?"

Prayer Requests

1. Wau's Easter Conference to be blessed.
2. Passport renewals to be successful next month.
3. More souls to be saved.
4. Safety for our family while traveling.

In His Service,

Jason, Cherith, Grace, Melody, Hannah and Josiah

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