



The Ottosens Reaching the Kamea of Papua New Guinea

June 2025

Extending Ministries

The Lord is opening the door of ministry on two fronts: church-planting in the jungle region and volunteering biannually at the Wau Baptist Bible School. Realizing both fronts are integral to the furtherance of the gospel, our family has joyfully labored as each opportunity arises. Despite these two focuses being quite different in locality, they go hand-in-hand.

Resurrection Sunday was highlighted by a four day revival meeting at the Wau Bible School's grounds. A large canvas tent was erected and pews were donated from local churches. Preaching and separate classes were scheduled throughout each day with the teaching done by a pool of local pastors and missionaries. Many like-minded churches gathered from near and far to participate. Some of our Komako Christians also travelled two days to join in. We are glad to report of the strong unity shown amongst the brethren and that numerous people were saved.

Visiting various churches located in Wau and Lae (plus everywhere in between) gave ample opportunity to preach the Word. We met new national pastors and were greatly edified by their fellowship. Our trip was completed by purchasing supplies for the next six months and visiting the American Embassy to renew expiring passports.

Fertile Soil For a Church Plant

For years we have received letters from Iwaina village requesting somebody to come and preach. Jason visited Iwaina Village numerous times and preached publicly in their market. Yet, there was no response to the gospel message. The villages there showed no conviction of sin or repentance. The gospel seemed to fall by the way side as mentioned in the parable of the sower and the seed (Matthew 13).

Iwaina was also a byword for spiritual darkness, headquarters for a deceptive practice called Cargo Cult. The malicious lie that fuels cargo cult is well summarized in I Timothy 6:5. "... *men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness.*" A myriad of methods are used to confuse and corrupt people's thinking while alluring them to a false religion motivated by riches rather than redemption. It felt like this place was too hard for the gospel to bear a harvest. Or was it?

One of the leaders of the Cargo Cult was a man named Simbin. He deceitfully procured property, money, three wives and a reputation for being a strong leader. As prayers continued for Iwaina, much began changing this past year. People began turning to the Lord and people were noticing the difference between Bible truth and Cargo Cult. Tragedy struck Simbin's home as two of his wives suddenly died along with some of his children. After years of resisting the Lord, Simbin admitted that he needed to get saved. Renouncing his past wickedness,

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he called on Jesus Christ for salvation! He is now one of the most eager to be taught the Bible and help with the new church plant. It is an amazing turnaround.

Progress of Iwaina Village's new church site is promising. Their community donated approximately six acres for the church and volunteers continue to clear the ground. Now they are beginning to cut posts and timber for framing the buildings. Once all the lumber is on site, we will carry recently purchased construction supplies five hours from our house to their village and begin building.

Thank you to those who have graciously given funds toward this project, establishing a place for these precious brothers and sisters in Christ to regularly meet and worship the Lord.

A major goal of ministry is training men to serve the Lord. Preacher Rafort and Stenford have taken on preaching responsibilities and are active soul-winners. While I was sidelined by a knee injury for a couple weeks they hiked to Iwaina and kept ministry going. Somebody gets saved almost each time we go. Please pray for the new believers in Iwaina as the devil is using old grudges and unsettled disagreements amongst their neighbors to cause trouble. There is frequent fighting in their community and challenges that continue to arise.

A serious illness is currently sweeping across our area. Our family is recovering well from the high fevers, body aches and deep cough. Over fifteen villagers have died in the last month. It seems that one funeral barely ends before another is begun. The surrounding schools have closed for three weeks until the illness subsides.

We intend to go on furlough May of next year, returning to Papua New Guinea in January of 2027. If you are interested in our family visiting to give an update, please contact us by email to see when we will be in your area.

Prayer Requests

1. Christians to be strengthened
2. Lost souls to be reached
3. Sickness striking our area
4. Furlough plans in 2026

In His Service,

Jason, Cherith, Grace, Melody, Hannah and Josiah

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