



01/09/23

Hi Tintern Church of Christ

Greetings again from Lae. Despite the 2½ months since the last report, IT'S STILL RAINING! Whereas the wet season missed 2022, it is here for sure this year. I'm enjoying this cooler time of the year and wouldn't mind if the rain went for a few more months. Our thoughts and prayers continue with so many places around the world currently on fire or recovering from fire and storms.

The last block of classes at the Melanesian Bible College went well, ending on July 27<sup>th</sup>. I enjoyed teaching "Beten" (prayer) for the first time to the ladies' class. It was a challenge and I felt like I learned as much as the students did! Some highlights of our last 6 weeks of school include:



*Teacher Rachel trying her hand at library work!*

- The quarterly Lae City Combined Ladies' Class on June 24<sup>th</sup>, hosted by M.B.C., with the students and teachers taking part in preparation and presentation. (The next class is tomorrow, being hosted by the Tent City congregation).

- The annual M.B.C. Youth trip, this time to Warakagul on the border of the Western Highlands and Southern Highlands provinces (June 29-July 2). Roommate Miring was part of the group of 25 who went to teach and encourage. Please pray for this congregation. Whereas it once had 40+ members, most no longer meet. The remaining family has faced much persecution from the community.
- The M.B.C. One Day Youth Camp, which took place at M.B.C. on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is usually the practical for our 3<sup>rd</sup> year students, but this year the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> years combined efforts and hosted more than 150 participants;



*3rd year M.B.C. student, Gon,  
teaching during the One Day Youth Camp*

- And the 32<sup>nd</sup> M.B.C. graduation. The end of this school year saw the end of the three-year *Tok Pisin* program. In future the *Tok Pisin* program will run for two years and a two-year *English* program will run in conjunction. It was really sad farewelling our 20 students for 2023, and their children, but we look forward to meeting a whole new group of students in 2024 as we embrace the upcoming changes.



*2023 Graduation. Principal Jab with students Daniel & Donna  
,and teacher Miamel in the background*



*2023 Graduation. Board Chairman Gilmore with student Dapi*



*2023 M.B.C. Graduates*

I would like to ask you to pray for each of our graduates as they continue to settle back into life in the towns and villages, and the challenges that go along with working for God. Sere & Lahui have a growing youth contingent in the Lealea congregation (Central Province); Dapi & Hani came from the Hanuabada congregation (Port Moresby) with plans to return and work with M.B.C. alumni Mea Morea. Sadly, Mea passed away suddenly on July 11<sup>th</sup>; Nelson & Damaris returned to the Puic congregation (Morobe Province) and are now back in Lae for another round of surgery. The year they were supposed to start their studies at M.B.C., Nelson was involved in a bad accident involving a water tank and crumbling cement. Despite a long time of recovery and ongoing physical issues, he put his heart and soul into his studies; Murituk & Raqawec (and daughter Tatila), back in Indagen (Morobe) and continuing to reach out to the community and challenge the denominational beliefs that are so prevalent. Over the years, Muri has built up such a rapport with the community that more than a hundred people from Indagen showed up for his graduation!; and all of the others who are equally dear to us: Daniel & Donna at Zumangurum (Morobe); Gon at 8 Mile (Port Moresby); John at LasWara (Chimbu); Labi at Tami Island (Morobe); Sent & Jamien with the Mati congregation (Western Highlands); Uyuk & Lioni at Omuru (Madang), Mire from Kumukogo (Chimbu); and Rainu from Momota (West New Britain).

After an intense 19 weeks of classes, printing and processing (library books), I'm enjoying a more relaxed schedule. Between the ends of March and July, we printed 300 *Song bilong Lotu* (the original Tok Pisin song book) bringing the number printed at M.B.C. so far to 3,500. We also printed 50 more of the 2nd song book, and 200 *Het Tok* (see the June report). The 2023 library book inventory (last week of July) led to much dust inhalation and NO MISSING BOOKS!!!, which feels like a major accomplishment.



*A recent visitor. We named her Sunshine*



*Enjoying fellowship time (a picnic at Voco Point) with Jenette and Bogel*





*I know I'm too big, but it's a basket!!!*

**Prayer Points:**

1. Brother Rick Niland in Toowoomba, Australia – still hospitalized and struggling with infection five months after surgery.
2. Roommate Miring – experiencing dental and sight issues.
3. Brother Taylor and wife Robyn – continued healing and open doors for further medical assistance.
4. 2023 M.B.C. graduates.
5. The Warakagul congregation.
6. The Hanuabada congregation, mourning the loss of brother Mea.
7. New Christian, Bertha (pronounced “Beta”), who is finishing her grade 12 school year and has been experiencing persecution from her family. She is currently staying with Miring and I and will likely be with us until after her final exams in October.
8. Sister Velma Forman, who has plans to visit P.N.G. in October.
9. Sister Aks who was hospitalized last year with severe Malaria. She is once again ill and the family have been struggling to care for her.
10. Brother Jab, currently hospitalized in Lae with anaemia.
11. Herbert & Jennette, Zimbabwean expats, working in Lae. They have become regular visitors to the church. They are currently on a one month leave to visit family in Africa.

12. In May I started experiencing some health issues (Not Malaria!) and as a result, underwent surgery, here in Lae, on August 15<sup>th</sup>. I am recovering well and spending this down time to get caught up on emails and reports, while also working on a new translation project.

I appreciate your ongoing interest and support – whether in prayer, financial, or both – in the work here in Lae. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

May God continue to bless you.

Love and blessings in HIM,

*Ruth*

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