



News from Ruth Zimmerman

18/08/24 (Part 1)

Dear Tintern Church of Christ

Greetings again from the land of puddles. Apart from trying to get laundry to dry, we've been enjoying the cooler, very wet weather. The 2024 Melanesian Bible College session is now finished and all of our students have returned to their families. Also, all of our U.S. visitors have come and gone. Thank you for your prayers for each of us over the past few months.

When I last wrote to you, we were two weeks into Block 2 of the school program. All went well for our English and Tok Pisin students throughout their studies, concluding on July 24th. We rejoiced on June 26th, when Tok Pisin student Jonam was baptized into Christ, bringing the total to three new Christians among our students this year (Jonam, his wife Moreen, and Macklyn). The first year of the English program has been well received and we look forward to continuing next year, along with welcoming back each of our students from both programs.

In the literacy program, student Moreen and I completed our time together at the end of Block 2 and she spent all of Block 3 as a full time Bible student. She did really well. Student Jenny had much more of a struggle and didn't complete the basic literacy course. Jenny's baby (a girl; misreported as a boy in the last newsletter)

continued to struggle with breathing problems. Her parents weren't content to remain in the hospital and left early. In the following weeks, we saw the baby losing ground and urged them to return for further healthcare. Eventually, with the encouragement of a sister in Christ who works at Angau Memorial, they did go back and were admitted, but then ran away again the same day. After a few days, the baby's condition got to the point where they had to go back, and they spent a week there before returning to school. All of the disruptions to Jenny's schooling, along with a likely undiagnosed learning disability, took their toll and led to a lot of frustration for both of us. Jenny will be back with me in Literacy during the 2025 school session instead of continuing as a Bible student. Please continue to pray for the baby, for both Moreen and Jenny, and also for me for patience and understanding in the coming year.



Pictured above are MBC staff & students with Jimmy, Kim & Randy, during our last day of classes.

In Him,
Ruth

P.S. Jimmy, Kim and Randy were visiting from Highland Church in Memphis. Watch your inbox later this week for more on their visit!

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