

Greetings once again from Lae. It is moldy saucepan season again here (translation: extra rainy and humid; the time when literally EVERYTHING molds!) and the power has been more off than on over the past few months. It feels like the world has gone into total chaos and insanity since my last report, and I pray that you are well and able to focus on God's promises despite everything happening around us. Once again, thank you for your prayers and emails, and also for your patience with my lack of speed when it comes to reports, especially this one. There is no good excuse for the delay, but in honesty with all that is happening in the world today, I have just felt overwhelmed in recent months and writing has been a struggle.

Several years ago, a dear friend shared a passage which I have continued to find meaningful. I pray that it brings renewed comfort to you as well:

*Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
My hope comes from Him.
Truly He is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress,
I will not be shaken.
My salvation and my honour depend on God;
He is my mighty rock, my refuge.
Trust in Him at all times, you people;
Pour out your hearts to Him,
For God is our refuge.*

Psalms 62:5-8, N.I.V.

Here is a brief outline of what has happened since I last wrote:

February

Answered prayer! My passport was returned within days of the last report, with the renewed work permit and visa. As technology changes, and services here decline, the process continues to get more and more difficult and expensive. So grateful for your prayers and ongoing support.

In February, I tackled the yearly book inventory at the library. This, unfortunately, is necessary due to theft, but also to correct shelving mishaps and check each book for dust, foreign objects, and damage. Several years ago, I started downloading and reformatting (to A5 size) the booklets available from Mission Printing Inc. in Texas (<http://www.missionprinting.us>). We already had several in the library, and in February I was able to print a copy of each of what we didn't have. They are now being processed and will soon be available to our students and library patrons.



Mission Printing Booklets

March

Lots and lots and lots of cleaning! With the impending start of school, final touches were put to the library, while teacher Dogo tackled the classrooms. Miring and I also helped new M.B.C. teacher, William Kewo,



Literacy student, Jenny (right) and Robyn David (left). Robyn, who plans to teach literacy, recently sat in on one of our classes.

clean and organize his new 'flat' 😊 (school office, in which he is currently living). The mountain of photocopying for Block 1 was completed and ready for the start of the 2025 session on March 17. Despite knowing of four interested literacy students, only one showed up for school. Jenny – who struggled through a difficult pregnancy and ultimately the loss of her baby last year – is back and repeating literacy this year. Despite suspected learning difficulties (and no way to diagnose exactly what!), she is giving it her all, while I've had to be more creative in the way I teach her. Please keep us both in prayer. In addition to Literacy, I taught a course on Prayer to students Moreen and Macklyn during Block 1.

Another answered prayer: On March 28th brother Bare Kaupa passed away after several months of illness. As mentioned in my last report, I've known Bare since around 2001, and have spent much time

with him and his family over the years, whenever visiting Dinima in Chimbu Province. Thank you for your prayers, and please continue to hold his family and the Dinima congregation in prayer.

April

Three weeks into school, we were given an unexpected holiday! The annual 'Meri Woksop' (ladies' workshop) took place at Wangoi, Chimbu Province, led by 2022 M.B.C. graduates Philip & Ruth Barnabas, and the female students and teachers were allowed time off classes to travel and attend. Three teachers and five students joined others traveling from Lae, and despite a long walk in the rain, they all enjoyed their time away. While there, new student Giam was baptized. I used the time off to tackle the photocopying for Block 2, which started on April 28th.



2025 M.B.C. School Photo (credit: Sere Hene)

May

Malaria reared its ugly head again in May, which it has been doing ever 2 or 3 months now. Thankfully Miring stepped in as substitute teacher for a few days, taking my Block 2 Bible class (God's Plan of Salvation). A typical school day consists of getting up to the library for 7:15am with morning classes starting at 7:40am. Each class is an hour-long, with Chapel from 8:40-9:00am. Jenny and I have been finishing our Literacy class at 11:00am each morning. My Bible class for Blocks 1 & 2 ran from 1:00-2:00pm, followed by Library Session from 3:00-5:00pm, or later. During the last week of May, teacher William started helping out in the library, and I have started training him. Eventually he will also step in to help with some of the printing work as well. Also during the last week of May, students Jonam & Moreen welcomed their second born, a son.

June

Block 2 has now ended and we are currently on a one-week break before resuming tomorrow for Block 3. Please hold the staff and students in prayer as we head towards the end of this school year.

We've been living with quite a bit of disturbance over the past month. The compound beside us (Steamships for anyone who lived here in the 70's or 80's) has been sold to PNG Ports Corporation Ltd. and they are replacing the existing 'kapa' (sheet metal) fencing which runs between the two properties, as well as reclaiming their lands that have been taken over by squatters. It hasn't been without frustration and damage, as they first temporarily moved the existing fence further onto this property, and then started felling trees, including two very large palms (left). The next step was to bring an excavator down the driveway, rupturing the water pipe as they came. As some of the workers scrambled to repair the pipe, the excavator started digging out the stumps of the trees, snagging our buried power line as they did so 😞. Thankfully it was a blackout at the time! The next day, while reburying the powerline, they broke it and two of the houses were without power for around 30 hours. When they came in to replace the damaged line, they used the excavator to dig a trench through the lawn and across the driveway, and we have been left with mountains, valleys and mud! (I'm thankful we switched from lawnmower to string cutter several years ago!).



Over the past week, they have continued the process of moving the fence line, destroying Miring's banana garden in the process, along with just



about everything that Miring and Dogo had planted behind Agape House. The excavator has been working at the back of their property, in the creek which runs through both properties, and the devastation is great. Through it all, we have been striving to remain patient and show Christ to each of the workers who have had contact with. Please pray for all of us as we see the transformation that is taking shape, a transformation that has been quite sad and troubling at times.

Prayer Points

1. Literacy student Jenny.
2. The Kaupa family and Dinima congregation, mourning the loss of preacher Bare.
3. Roommate Miring and family, mourning the loss of several family members in the past couple of months, including Mama Ringding, one of the first Christians at Indagen.
Miring & Mama Ringding in 2021
4. Block 3 starting tomorrow (June 16) and the completion of this school year. 2025 will see the first English graduates, as well as the first Tok Pisin graduates under the revised 2 year program. Some of the English students are now completing five years of school, having attended the Tok Pisin program from 2021-2023, before coming back as English students in 2024. In a few weeks time, the students will be hosting the One Day Youth Camp, which they fund, plan and host. Please keep each in prayer.
5. The ongoing transition around us (as outlined above) and for continued patience.
6. The Papua New Guinea government. Our Prime Minister has survived several recent Vote of No Confidence attempts, and there is much political strife happening at present, as well as some things that are truly troubling, such as the decision taken to shut down social media for several days in March (for more information: <https://transparencypng.org.pg>, title Silencing Free Speech A Tool Of The Corrupt).
7. My plan to travel to Canada later this year for furlough (August or September).



Thank you again for your interest in the work here, as well as your ongoing support and prayers. Each are very much appreciated. As always, if you have questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at this email address, or via Facebook. May God continue to protect, guide and comfort each of us in the coming weeks.

With love and prayers in HIM,
Ruth



Lae sunrise

Sponsor information:

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