

A belated Happy New Year to you from Lae, Papua New Guinea. I hope you had a really good holiday season, filled with His blessings. It was a quiet and restful time here, but also the hottest time of the year! Here are some highlights from the past three months:

November

In November, roommate Miring finally managed to travel to Madang again for her second cataract surgery, a year after the first. She, and two traveling companions, left Lae on the 18th. Her surgery took place on the 29th and they traveled back to Lae on December 12th. While in Madang, they were blessed to meet with the Madang congregation and visit the Omuru congregation where four of our current Melanesian Bible College students are from. Miring's eye is healing well, and she hopes to soon be able to go for new glasses.

While Miring was away, her niece Gare (pronounced "Ga-ray") and I attacked the house for the annual get-rid-of-the-mold-and-dust cleaning, which is exhausting even though it is a small house! My passport finally arrived (from renewal in Canberra) on the 22nd and I had a mad dash to get the paperwork completed and submitted for my work permit/visa renewal, in part because the company I usually employ to do the job quit communicating! The paperwork has been progressing through the various steps and I hope to soon have my passport back in hand.

December

The Tent City congregation, here in Lae, hosted the National Youth Camp from December 12-15th. It was well attended with more than 2,700 in attendance during the camp and more than 3,200 in attendance for Sunday morning worship.

In December, I started teaching Miring's great niece, Susan, to read. She has just completed three years of elementary school (Kindergarten, Grade 1 & 2) here in Lae, but failed to learn anything beyond the names of the letters. The education system here is quite



Learning to spell.

frustrating at times. With classes of upwards of seventy students each, one teacher and no assistants, the learning environment is non-existent. We were able to get through the entire literacy program together during the school break, and Susan has now started Grade 3 at the local primary school.



Ready for a new school!

January

After several delays (starting in September!), a planned trip to Chimbu Province finally happened. We – Miring, Bogel & Gai - left on January 10th and spent a week in Dinima before returning to Lae on the 18th. It was a bittersweet trip. We went to open Bogel's new house, a time of joy, but also to visit with brother Bare (pronounced "Ba-ray"), the preacher for the Dinima congregation, who is very ill and not expected to live. I've known Bare since 2002 when we worked together to start the nursery school the Dinima congregation ran before transitioning to the elementary system. Bare has referred to Bogel, Miring and I



Bogel's new house



as his "other daughters" throughout the years, and it was really hard seeing him and his family go through this difficult time. Please hold each of them in prayer. Thankfully, God has put it on the heart of another brother, Lendo Bal, to start working with the Dinima congregation, so they are not left without a workman.

Bare helping in the
M.B.C Library in 2019

Once back in Lae I shifted into preparation mode for the start of the M.B.C. school year (March 17). Following a shopping trip for supplies, I tackled the photocopying for the first block (term) of classes. Nearly all of that photocopying is now complete, and the books are ready to be bound. We have been having no end of blackouts (more than 48 hours worth during 3 weeks in January!), so I am thankful that the job is nearly done. From photocopying the focus shifted to inventorying the library books and cleaning the library, which is ongoing.

On the 24th, brother Yusi Miopa left Lae and moved back to his village of Dumun, in Chimbu Province. Yusi has lived in Lae for more than 50 years, as well as serving as a missionary in Vanuatu for a few years. He is a dedicated servant, and we are already missing his visits and encouragement. Please hold him in prayer as he adjusts to village life and as he seeks ways to serve in Chimbu.



Yusi with Robyn David, Susan, and Miring

Prayer Points

1. Miring's great-niece Susan Giamkis as she starts Grade 3.
2. Brother Bare Kaupa, struggling with health issues.
3. Brother Yusi Miopa as he transitions to life in Chimbu.
4. Completion of the ongoing work permit and visa renewal process.
5. The 2025 M.B.C. school year, March 17-July 26.
6. For P.N.G., mourning the loss of another former Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, who died aged 85 on January 30th. He was serving in his second term as P.M. when I first came to P.N.G.
7. December saw the loss of former P.N.G. missionary, LaMoine Harrison (5th), as well as several Canadian Christians (Tim Hotchkiss on the 15th, Joyce Perry on the 23rd, Walter Straker on the 27th, and Verna Mae Wallace on the 28th. Please pray for each of their families.

I want to take this time to say thank you for your ongoing patience over the past year as this report has changed formats several times, especially since we stopped using MailChimp. Hopefully the current set-up for sending out the report will work better although we anticipate having trouble with some going into spam. I also want to say thank you to Art Ford for so many years of assisting with formatting and sending out this report and for his ongoing support and advice, which are very much appreciated.

As always, your input and questions are welcome.

With love and prayers in HIM,
Ruth



Mt. Elimbari, Chimbu Province

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