

Dear friends,

Greetings from Papua New Guinea!

"Hearing the story of the Bible taught like this and seeing how it all fits together is like bread in our stomachs, not like the teaching we had before that just bounced off our heads, or went right through us, but good solid food that stays in our bodies and makes us grow." That's Daniel's response to the chronological Bible lessons Mike and our workers are going through each morning and Daniel continues to teach in his village using this same material. What a great picture of John 6:35 when Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life."*!!



Daniel & his little girl at a family beach day

We really appreciate all of our workers and their families and have seen the need they all have in their villages for clean drinking water. We'd like to be able to help with that need by providing a rain water collection tank for each of them, including the fittings and other necessary items to have them fully operational. The complete cost per family will be approximately \$875.00. Please let us know if you'd like more information on how you can have a part in our workers' lives in this way.

It's been a while since we sent out an update but between the usual busyness of life and dealing with some computer/internet/virus issues it's been a challenge to get caught up with some different things. We received the following update from our internet provider when we were having a lot of problems connecting. *"We are advised that Telikom (PNG phone company) engineers have been unable to be deployed to the outage site by helicopter. Dial Up users should dial into the nation number (assuming the phone lines work)."* That might give you a bit of an idea of how remote we really are and how thankful we are that we can do e-mail at all!!

We've seen some interesting ads in the PNG newspaper recently; **"Easter Special-Live Pigs on Sale"** and a contest; **"Win a live pig or K800 cash. You choose!!"** Complete with a picture of the prize pig. Kind of funny, but actually many people here would go for the pig rather than the cash (about \$300) as pigs are still widely used for the custom of providing a "bride price" when a marriage is going to take place. Kind of gives new meaning to "bringing home the bacon"!!



"Highway" through the mountains

We have our fuel delivered by a tanker in bulk right to our yard which is much more efficient with our vehicles and equipment instead of numerous trips to either of the two gas stations in town. It is not uncommon for them to be closed due to fuel shortages which sometimes occur because of rough seas which delay the fuel ships coming into port. It's also a big help to missionaries we work with about an hour outside of Wewak as they can purchase fuel for their generator and vehicle much more quickly and efficiently on the base rather than sometimes waiting for up to 2 hours at the pumps in town. An extra fuel storage drum that was donated along with our big truck works great to store the fuel on the property.



We often have people coming to our gate selling carvings, looking for work, needing a coffin, (which our workers build), even a couple young boys trying to sell a live crocodile. We didn't buy it but have discovered that boneless crocodile tail meat that we buy in town is much cheaper than other meats here, has hardly any fat and believe it or not, really does taste "just like chicken". ☺ It actually doesn't have much flavor on its own and takes on the flavor of whatever you're cooking it in. We enjoy it in a variety of ways including; marinated and bbq'd, stir fried, in peanut sauce, and cooked with coconut and curry...one of our favorites. ☺

We've been blessed over the last 5 months to have two families come and spend time with us. Jay and Krista Brubacher with their 3 children from Ontario were here mid-November to the end of January. Brian and Rachael Montei and their 2 boys from Pennsylvania arrived mid-February and stayed until the first week of April. We really appreciated Jay's gifts as a builder and Brian's mechanical help. Right before the Brubacher family arrived, our workers completed a triple level bunk bed for the kids. They officially named it a "Jay-bed" and since then they've made another one for an NTM family with three little girls.



Christmas dinner with Brubachers and Australian friends



The Montei family

It's been a very busy but great time with many projects accomplished and a lot of memories made with these two special families.

- timber runs made to the bush and wood planed for missionary housing outside of Wewak and on Biem Island
- built 40 cone markers for a bush airstrip
- screen doors made for the cabins on the base
- kitchen cupboards and bathroom vanity completed for bush missionaries



Jay & Daniel with cone markers constructed out of fibro (cement board), packed flat for flight then assembled in the bush with zip ties!

- plumbed in showers, bathtub and toilets, framing and tile work in the basement apartment
- Christmas celebrations with NTM missionaries, Ladies' Night with 23 women from 7 different missions
- fence repair project for Christian bookstore in town
- workers' thank you lunch/swim at the hotel , beach days with their wives and kids
- fun times at Christmas & Easter including visits with our neighbors and special church services



Brian welding for skid steer repairs



- NTM's Sepik Conference in March – great opportunity for fellowship with bush missionaries and encouraging tribal reports
- engine replacement on the sawmill
- repaired cracked loader arm on the skid steer
- replaced radiator and rebuilt hydraulic cylinders on the bulldozer



boat transom repair for missionary headed upriver for translation work

- provision of funds and arrival of a passenger van for the base...great for airport pickups and town runs
- volunteer electrician from Austria helped with the wiring on the barge
- service call by road and river for generator repairs on a Sepik River mission base
- flights and river travel to other bush locations for tractor and boat repairs and construction projects
- opportunities for hospitality, encouragement, and medical assistance
- literacy course nearly completed with Clements and encouraging signs of growth
- partnering with Samaritan Aviation (float plane serving in the Sepik)-pick up and storing of fuel drums, fabricated a fuel cart/pump for fueling the plane, helping with repair parts
- chainsaw, outboard motor and generator repairs for bush and town ministries

We're so thankful for everything the Lord continues to accomplish and as we look back over all that's gone on in the last little while we're especially thankful for the great health we're blessed with and the strength to keep up with the busyness of the ministry here. We are never bored, that's for sure!!

Prayer Requests:

- the Brubacher and Montei families as they wait on the Lord's timing for future involvement in the work here
- wisdom in prioritizing projects and needs that are presented to us
- our families and kids at home in Canada and in South Korea
- preparations for shipping a 20' container to the US in July to assist missionaries sending items back to the States
- safety on the road and in the bush for upcoming timber runs as well as a trip with the big truck and trailer to transport two tractors to Wewak

Thank you so much for your faithful partnership in all this with us. Your involvement is impacting peoples' lives for eternity and we hope that encourages you today!!

With love,
Mike & Ruth

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