



Ford Family in PNG

Sept. – Oct. 2010
Volume 5 Issue 5

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Alotau News

By Craig

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Baylee Williams and Hannah help set up the benches for Sunday morning church.

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16 NIV)

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:18-20 NIV)

Greetings from Alotau, Papua New Guinea!

Sometimes it's hard to write newsletter updates, but it is always healthy. It's hard because sometimes I convince myself that is nothing 'noteworthy' happening. But then I simply remind myself that God is always doing amazing things, and even if I could share one of those things it would be a great encouragement.

Here are some exciting things we've been able to witness or take part in:

- Chris Doga, one of the local men, baptized his son and a family friend.
- John Kirarata, an evangelist who works for the town church, baptized a niece and another man from church.
- Diane Reese has been teaching some anger management classes for Christian ladies outside of town.
- Marcus Reese continues his excellent work of evangelism outside of town.
- Men from the area churches gathered together for a men's leadership training day in the village of Popova.
- Chris Doga just finished up a Sunday morning Bible class on Proverbs. Chris doesn't teach much, but I'm praying he will start to teach more often.
- Joel Siropodi and John Kirarata are both active in teaching and preaching at church.
- I continue studying with a group of 3-5 ladies at a village outside of town. I also currently have two other studies with non-Christians.

Small Business Project

By Craig



In October we hosted a small business seminar at our house. Here's how I described the purpose of the seminar:

This course trains and equips students who have never run a small business. You'll learn the skills necessary to develop small businesses that have the potential for ongoing financial growth. Students are expected to seek out business opportunities that serve the community. All financial benefits should be used in service of the Kingdom of God.

As the missionaries here look forward, we feel that it is important for some local Christians to have profitable small business that can be used to provide for the needs of their families and to help with the ongoing church work here in this region. In response to that need I taught a small business seminar.

As part of the program, we are also initiating a micro financing system where individuals who submit a business plan can have access to some funds to help them start up a small business project.

I've already received five applications so now I just need to pray that God will give me the wisdom to make good decisions. Two people want to raise chickens, two people plan to sell peanuts, and the fifth wants to do sewing.

Below: Hannah and Caleb visit with Joel and his son Phil.



Family Perspective

By Jeri

I noticed this week that we are exactly 1/3 of the way through kindergarten. Hannah is doing great and can read some very simple books now, which is rewarding. It's been fun to be in the classroom again. Nearly every day Caleb asks if we're having a science experiment. He keeps me hopping and swinging and playing.

Elizabeth is walking and trying to run to keep up with her big bro and sis. She has quite the repertoire of words, including "Hannah" and "Caleb" much to their enjoyment. The three of them play well together. She's starting to climb up on everything now, so that's a new challenge for me.

We endured more than our fair share of household repairs over the last couple of months. (See Craig's section below.) The biggest project was having our cabinets fumigated for termites. Only time will tell if this actually worked, but just today I was sweeping up some termite dust in one of the bedrooms - again. We had other house repairs, like replacing a post that rotted from the rain, and repairing pieces of the house that were damaged while looking for termites. Our truck didn't want to be left out, so it had a few repairs too.

The blessing of the termite fumigation is that we were forced to stay out of our house for 3 nights. It was the perfect opportunity for us to get away with our teammates. We took a boat out to a resort on Doini Island (aka Paradise). We are thankful for the team we have here and for a beautiful place to live.

We will be saying good-bye to the Williamses on November 15 as they are moving back to N. America. They have done incredible work in Alotau for about 10 years, so it will be a big change for everyone. Please be praying for them, our team, and the church during this transition.

By Craig

Last month I decided to add a section to our newsletter about things that are happening around our home, not just in our ministry. I thought I'd do the same again this month.

Earlier in the month we moved out for three days so a pest control company could fumigate all of our cabinets and wardrobes. The effort was partially successful, but we've still got some of those nasty critters. In the process of trying to find all the termites, we had to take off a section of siding from our house. Fortunately, that has now been repaired. This month we also had to move our gate fence post because our neighbors are going to start building their house. We've enjoyed our quiet neighborhood and only hope that doesn't change when we have people living in the lot next to ours.

Our truck (which we've been so thankful for) gave us a hard time last month. We had two mechanics try and find a problem, but they could not. Finally, we asked a guy from church (who works on trucks, but is not a mechanic) if he could see what he could find. Within 10 minutes he had identified the problem and in a few hours he had it fixed. We are thankful for our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Family day means lunch on the porch. The kids love family day.

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:12-13 NIV)



Jeri (and the kids) play doctor



Craig's on the hunt for termites.



Baby Bible class Sunday a.m.

Devotional

By Craig

For such a time as this ...

And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14b)

Life is like a box of chocolates. Wait. That's too cliché. The Christian life is like a puzzle.

All of the pieces are there right in front of you, but you can't always make sense of everything. You don't always know or understand how all the pieces fit together. You live trusting that the end product will be something magnificent, but you're just not sure what to do with all of these pieces.

For many reasons, I like the obscure and faith-driven advice that Mordecai gives Esther: perhaps God put you in this position for such a time as this?

We want to speak with certainty about our plans. We want to know the what, when, why, and how. But often times it just looks like a jumble of life experiences.

God sees everything clearly, and we trust that he will lead us to make the right decisions at the right time.



*Above: Kids at Bible class show off their smiling faces.
Below: Ladies visiting after church*

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