



Brian and Helen's News & Views

Eastern Highlands Province

October, 2008

Callers and Visitors at our House

Getting Settled in PNG ??

Seems like just yesterday that we returned from our furlough even though we returned in January. Since then we have seen overseas friends the Andersons and Dede Cockerill "drop by" for a visit from the USA. Good encouragers. Meanwhile Hannah Cockerill left us and returned to her beau, Brian Paris. They are both studying at GIAL school, in Dallas and will be married in January. In May, Brian C. traveled to Thailand to attend an SIL International Conference called ICON 08.

Pray For:

- Traveling safety. Once again Brian is on the road. This time he chairs the Computer Technical Conference, at JAARS Inc. (USA). Pray that all our many organization-al plans run smoothly for this 250 person convention.
- Helen, who is normally a blur, would appreciate less medevac work. Praise the Lord for endurance and strength during these trips.

- Hannah Cockerill would like strength and wisdom planning her wedding while studying. She and Brian Paris would also seek the Lord to determine which country they might serve together.



Full of Questions: Andy reads Scriptures to 12 children that live at his place. Eight children are from relatives that attend a local school here.

Andy the House Painter

We have many visitors to our house in PNG. Andy Seviofa shows up about once a week. He is well respected in our community as a "excellent painter" and often has worked lined up for weeks at a time.

Without fail, Andy will sit down with me and we will have a cup of coffee together. After an exchange of Aseranka village news, I will then ask: "So what have you been reading in God's Word?" (In Pidgin, of course). Andy will then pull out a small copy of the New Living Bible in English and I will get the Melanesian Pidgin Bible, and the Gadsup New Testament. Although Andy never finished the third-grade, he has taught himself how to read in these three languages. He is a totally awesome fellow, and obviously has a brilliant mind!

So whatever he has been reading lately at home, is the topic for our "instant Bible Study". This keeps me on my toes always and God seems to put to mind just the right passages to share with him. Examples: "I was reading in Revelations that Satan was cast to the earth. Does that mean he is running around now?" "Why does the SDA church insist on worshipping only on Saturdays? What does that mean for the rest of us?" "How come I see young Christians (20 y.o.) running off together for sex while hiding in the coffee groves? Is that right? Why or why not?"

What would you say "on the spot?" It has been great to have this impromptu Bible Study with Andy regularly on topics that concern him. I can see him transforming, right before my eyes. Pray that Andy would grow to be that great man of God that the Gadsup people need at this time.



Ke at our kitchen table and the Children's Bible with simple English

Troubled "Kay"

Ke (Kay) is a young man who often drops by on the weekends. He has a friendship with one of the boys in our neighborhood and goes to a local valley school. He is quite intelligent and likes to practice reading our English magazines and an illustrated Children's Bible that uses a simple English vocabulary. Like Andy he runs across words that he doesn't always understand, and we explain those to him in Pidgin as best we can.

Ke lives under the shadow of his father's criminal record. His father "Minimas" is the very man that held us at gun-point inside our house many years ago. Through many miraculous events Ke's father became "convicted" and "converted" by the Holy Spirit and he is now a believer and doesn't cause problems.

Ke seems to live under this shadow. He is often quiet and doesn't talk all that much. However, we discovered that after working on some project with Brian, he becomes totally animated and a real "chatter box". He seems to enjoy being with Brian a lot. It is easy to share

with Ke. Pray: Once again, the future is very bright for Ke and God can truly make him a new leader for Papua New Guinea. He attends a local Sunday School and is learning about the Lord there. Please pray for him and his continued spiritual growth. That he will grow up to be a good leader for his people, serving the risen Christ.

Justine the Kamano Man

About once a month Justine Fanaru comes by from a place called Barola Mountain. This is a famous pass on the Highland's Highway where armed holdups occur regularly. It helps to know the locals in this area when you are passing through! As near as we can tell, Justine, wife Kat'e and children are perhaps the only Christians in his little hamlet.

We have known Justine for over 20 years and thru many ups and downs in his life. These days he is a lay-leader at his village church and sometimes is even asked to preach. When Justine comes to visit, he has journeyed a long way. He also tells me in great detail what he has been reading and learning in God's Word and it is exciting to see how the Lord is speaking to him.



Justine with Bradford. Great views at his hamlet

Justine struggles with raskols (criminals) too. His meager possessions are regularly stolen from his house. Recently, I had the pleasure of giving him an spare door from my work shed. He was thrilled and carried it by hand all the way back to his place. He was finally able to finish the new round house that he and his wife had made and with a more secure door in place.

Staying Connected

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