



Brian and Helen's News & Views

Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea

May 30, 2007

A Brand New Church!



After years, a brand new church building

Brief Notes

We're back on a 6 month furlough. It's great to be back!

Pray For:

- The Church at Ukarumpa Village to grow and reach out to the neighboring villages for Christ.
- For David to eventually get settled by locale and career and especially finding many like-minded believers.
- With our limited time in the US, that God would lead us to the right people to visit.

Well, not really in the sense that the body of believers has changed in Ukarumpa village, however, the church body has been working on a **new building** for many years. Everyone has been dutifully scraping together their many pennies (toeas in PNG) to help build this new place.

When the church leadership found out that we were leaving on April 30th to see David graduate from University, they met together with the members and decided to advance the Church Building dedication to April 28th. That was two days before we jumped on a private plane to go to Port Moresby! What an honor that the village thought so much of us to accelerate their plans, and it was not without a lot of work and hardship on the weekends to finish the building. We have thanked them for this honor, and we attended the dedication day-long service and celebration with joy on April 28th.

Hundreds came from far away places and there was a huge mu-mu (traditional feast cooked in the ground on hot rocks) served to the many groups in



Inside with pulpit and blackboard; the greenery is celebration decoration

attendance. The mu-mu was reminiscent of the "feeding of the 5000" since the logistics of meal distribution is no trivial task. Yet the church workers were quite adept and no guest was left without food to celebrate. This is a very important thing in Papua New Guinea by culture and for relationships.

Rejoice in this new building with us and this visible sign of church body growth in the village.

David's Graduation:

Yes, he finally made it and although he doesn't like to admit it, David graduated summa cum laude. His proud parents overcame jet-lag just in time to attend this



David Graduating; hand-made electric Cello Project featuring PNG ebony fingerboard and tuned to play as an acoustic one

great event. Also, since this was Virginia Tech, it was a very special graduating class this year. We rejoice that the school administration did such an excellent job of honoring those students who recently lost their lives, and yet the atmosphere was decidedly "up beat" and victorious none-the-less. A task very well done.



And of course, David is beaming. He is quite pleased with his thesis project in Industrial Design called "Autonomous Personal Transportation" (APT) that was well received. We as parents, had the opportunity to see it displayed at the Architecture Building along with a multi-media presentation created by David and his team-mates.

What's Next for David?

He is now traveling on an honors trip to mainland China for two weeks. Then he returns to finish his minor in Philosophy this summer. Then off to Seattle for fame and fortune. He believes that the rain in Seattle will not be any worse than the rain in Papua New Guinea, so maybe he will actually like it there. In any event, Seattle is a great place for Indie bands as well, and yes, he still plays and makes guitars and musical instruments.

Our Plans?

We will be on furlough now, in the United States until January, 2008. We are hoping to tour up and down the East coast, but we do not have concrete plans yet as Helen is working on accreditation to be a PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) instructor for our next term in PNG. That limits our flexibility in travel and visitations by region. Our schedule is not yet finalized, however we plan to be in Vermont/ Mass. mid August through September.



Staying Connected

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