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*I will proceed to do a marvellous work
among this people,
even a marvellous work and a wonder.*

Isaiah 29:14

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Greetings from the Papua New Guinea Bible Project! These last few months have seen many things transpire. Even with all the adversity due to COVID-19, the work continues!

National Pastor Gershom Leleko of Popondetta has been working extremely hard to get into some of the very remote areas in Ora province, distributing Bibles to the students. Due to the geographical composition of the area, travel is extremely difficult. To get the Bibles to these 64 schools, one must take them by boat or 4-wheel drive vehicles over mountainous terrain. Please pray for this endeavor and the safety of those involved. I am presently working to ship additional Bibles to Popondetta in Ora Province to continue the distribution.

Missionary Jason Russell has an outreach ministry helping the remote villages by digging wells for fresh water. He and several of the men from his church traveled 44 hours by boat to the Awaba Secondary School in the Balimo swamps. They spent three Sundays there and saw four men come to Christ and numerous students express their need of the Savior. Jason reported, “We are at Awaba Secondary School drilling a well but also doing the Bible distribution. We spoke and distributed Bibles to 600 students. We drilled, found water, and now we are going to introduce them to the Living Water that always satisfies—the Bible.” I am so truly grateful for the help of missionaries like Jason Russell, national pastors, and laymen who have come alongside to assist in this monumental project.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is going through a major surge in new cases and deaths due to the COVID-19 virus. The prime minister announced that they believe one in four of their population has been infected. This has caused another lockdown to try to stem the tide. The majority of cases are in the major cities, although it is progressively reaching into some of the rural areas. Sadly, the medical facilities which struggle on a normal basis are now being extremely taxed. The majority of the patients stay in wards lined with beds and there is no air conditioning. The following was recently published concerning the epidemic in PNG. “I fear that the current case numbers are just the tip of the iceberg.” The toll on health workers has been severe. In field hospitals workers sweating beneath protective equipment are rushing between beds to tend to the dying. “We fear that we are going to fill all these beds and then we will have nowhere else to continue to care for COVID patients,” said Mangu Kendino, MD, an emergency physician and the chair of the COVID-19 committee at Port Moresby General Hospital. “We’re tired, we’re exhausted, we’re fatigued.” Please fervently pray for the leaders, healthcare workers, and the people of PNG during this time of trial.

The older I get the more I begin to realize the brevity of life. Pastor Philip Sorulen, one of the most influential pastors in PNG and my dear friend, passed away suddenly. He had been pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lae City for 25 years. This church was originally started by BIMI Missionary John Owens. Brother Philip was one of the deacons and later became pastor when Brother Owens went on to Glory. Pastor Philip’s voice was that of a strong fundamental, independent Baptist in PNG. His influence and preaching will be greatly missed. His life lives on in the many, many people he influenced for the cause of Christ. This congregation lost their pastor as well as one of their deacons, Brother Moris Meison. He died unexpectedly on the same day. Pastor Holmes spoke at both of the funerals and called Brother Moris “Pastor’s armor-bearer.” What a great testimony of a godly deacon! Psalm 116:15 states: *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.* Please pray for Calvary Baptist Church in Lae.

These are trying days but as someone once said, “Has it ever occurred to you that nothing has ever occurred to God?” God knows the end from the beginning and has not lost track of what is happening in the world. Praise God! Thank you for your faithful support and much needed prayers.

Sincerely,

Alan & Donna
Brooks

