

## Here and There



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## *Straddling the Ocean*

When we left PNG to come back to America for our furlough, we did so with mixed emotions. We are excited to be back in the USA and share what God has been doing in Papua New Guinea with the Ap Ma people. Already we have been able to see several of our family and friends. We have been able to enjoy quite a few comforts that we don't have in PNG.

Yet this is still bittersweet. While this is in some ways a time of rest from what we have been doing, it can be stressful. We have been preparing presentations for visiting supporting churches so that we can best communicate what has been done in the last four years of service in PNG. We have also been doing a lot of traveling.

The kids are going to be experiencing for the first time a classroom environment. So they are a bit apprehensive about attending a school fulltime, having to meet new friends and learning to live in a new environment.

Even though we are here in the USA, we are still trying to administrate the work that is continuing in PNG. This is difficult because of lack of communication and not being able to handle some of the roles that we would normally be able to do. Also, the people that are doing the work now are doing so for the first time without us there to use as a crutch, so to speak. So there are some growing pains. It is also difficult for us because after eight years of being involved in this ministry, we feel it is still our responsibility to keep things going.

I'm reminded of the time when I was getting out of our canoe into another canoe. Because both were floating in the water with nothing to stabilize them, the canoes started to drift apart. I didn't have anything to keep them together. I started stretching with my legs getting closer and closer to doing the splits. It was very uncomfortable. Fortunately, I was able to slowly pull the canoes back together before I fell in and got wet.

That is a good analogy for how we feel right now about being back in the USA. We are at home both places, but not being there to carry on with the work makes us feel stretched—with one foot in the USA and one in PNG. Yet we cannot let our duties here, or there, go undone. No matter how difficult or stretching it feels, we must do what we feel He has placed before us to complete.



*Our latest family picture*

We are also living in a new location while Karie works on her Masters at OSU, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. This Masters will give credence to what she is already doing, but also what she is preparing to do in the future with the Education/Literacy portion of our ministry.



Thanks to all who contributed to the water source fund. Here's the first customer getting a taste of the water!!! I don't think the second in line is too happy about how long it's taking...

## Karie's Thoughts

It's hard not to feel overwhelmed when I consider all that God has done to bring us here—from being accepted into the masters program here at OSU, to a beautiful house to rent, to finding a good vehicle that fits our needs and our budget, to finding a Christian School for our kids. God is good and we have seen His hand in this move every step of the way. Back in PNG I was presented with some opportunities that I could not accept because I do not have a work visa. I came to PNG under my husband's work visa because I am a fulltime mom. However, both Jesse and I feel the best way for our work to grow and thrive is

for me to get my own work visa and have the ability to take advantage of opportunities that would allow our programs with the Ap Ma people to be recognized by the national and provincial government. We know that this is added expense, but we are hoping that the doors it opens will lead us down the right path. Thank you for understanding this need and supporting us as we equip ourselves for the new challenges of our growing work in PNG. My degree plan is Curriculum Leadership Studies. Thank you for your prayers and support as I try to take maximum hours and finish in one year instead of two.

## Doors

**"Yet this also provides an opening for us to be able to see and share with you the opportunities that are ongoing in PNG with the Ap Ma people."**

Karie would probably tell you that if it doesn't involve a power tool, I won't do it. This may be true to some extent. I won't deny that I like to build things. Yet there is one thing I do not like to make, that's a door. Here in the USA, you can run down to Lowes and pick one up that is pre-made with all the necessary hardware ready to go in the wall. This is not the case in PNG. You have to make it all from scratch. So many things can go wrong, and you haven't even hung it and tried using it yet! Yet a door is a very necessary thing. It keeps things out, or in some cases, in. It is a

defining piece in the operation of a fence or home. It represents a passageway from one place to another to get to where you need to be.

This is the position we find ourselves in now. In order for our ministry to reach its full potential, we need to be in the USA for the next year while Karie completes her Masters. Yet this also provides an opening for us to be able to see and share with you the opportunities that are ongoing in PNG with the Ap Ma people. While in some sense it doesn't seem to us like much is being done, in the long run, this will provide an opening to

opportunities that wouldn't exist otherwise.

Yet the work will continue in PNG as well. The clinic continues to operate in our absence, as well as the maintenance of the airstrip. I am planning a trip back to PNG in January to fix some problems with the tractor and finish the interior of the clinic structure. Obviously, all of this can't occur without resources. Please pray for this trip, that God will provide the "door" for finances, resources, and the right people to make this trip happen.

## Schedule of Events

June 28- Karie completes OSU Summer School

July 9-13- Liberty Christian Church VBS

August 20- OSU Classes Resume

July 1- Greenwood Christian Church

July 29- Seymour Heights Christian Church

July 8- Liberty Christian Church

Aug. 5- Morgantown Christian Church

We would love to come and share with you about the work in PNG. We will be contacting all our supporting churches over the next few months about dates for visiting. However, if you can't wait that long, please feel free to contact us.