



My First Trip in a Car

We forget where we are all the time. Life seems to get so busy, we are always concerned about getting things done, that we don't realize where we are. Just when we are about to forget, something happens that jerks us back to reality. Karie and I had stayed up later than usual discussing what we were going to do with our Saturday morning. In our village, Samban, there is always a market on Saturday mornings. So we were going to be there for that, but then Karie was going to go the clinic, while I watched the kids. After that, she wanted to do a deep cleaning on our room (always seems to need that) and I was going to cut, plane some timber, and make a shelf for the elementary school.

At 5:45am, I heard my name being called outside our window. Normally that means an emergency, so I woke up quicker than normal. A little girl in a village 45 minutes walk away, had been bitten by a poisonous snake. Unfortunately, the poison had started to do its work. Her eyes were droopy, and she was having trouble swallowing. We got a plane called to fly out to our village and pick her up. The next problem was to get her from her village to the airstrip in time for the plane. It would be an understatement to say time is of the essence. Fortunately, 2 weeks prior to this I had put an old pickup on two big canoes lashed together and brought the old truck to the village. It's not dependable, and has a list of problems longer than this newsletter, but it started that morning. I drove down to Raten, and after leaning the passenger seat all the way back, the little girl (10-11 years old) was deposited onto the seat. Our nurse had already put an IV in and we attached the drip to the handle above the door. Driving slowly for her comfort, I was able to get the girl to the airstrip 5 minutes before the plane landed.

Normally in a situation like this I'm concentrating on what needs to be done, but the little girl said something softly to the nurse. I didn't quite hear it, but asked the nurse if everything was ok, in case the bumpy ride was a discomfort. The nurse said, "No, she is saying this is her first ride in a car." To say I teared up is an understatement. I get caught up trying to do what I feel we are called to do here in PNG, but forget about small things that we take for granted. I promised her that when she came back I'd give her a second ride where she could sit up and look

out the window. It was a day of firsts I guess, because she got her first ride in an airplane as well.



I'm also happy to say that because we were able to get her out so fast, she was able to get the anti-venom and survived. I still owe her that ride, but I'm going to take care of that next week. It just reminded me that we get caught up in our plans, but God already has our course laid out for us. It is our duty and call, to be ready and willing to fulfill his purpose. We often take for granted small things, such as getting into our car and driving to the hospital if we need to. What we had carefully planned was scrapped for another day, yet it got done eventually. I am

just glad that on this day of firsts for a little girl named Rosewita, that it wasn't also her last.

New Teachers!

This quarter has been an exciting time for us in Samban. The first recipient of our scholarship program has graduated from teachers college. She is now fulfilling her end of the bargain and is teaching at the primary school in Samban. Her name is Clementine Sau, and we have mentioned her in previous newsletters. She is teaching 3rd grade this year, our last batch of 2nd grade graduates that finished up at the elementary last year. Not only did Clementine come, but she also brought her best friend, who is also a graduate of teachers college as well. Miss Mulavasa is teaching 4th grade, the first set of graduates from our elementary. So it is almost like we got a 2 for 1 sale. We supported one person in teachers college, and got two in return. There is a definite improvement in the attitudes in the community towards education. Have passionate primary teachers who really care about their students has brought a new fire to our elementary. It makes our teachers try even harder to make sure they are preparing students for the next step. Clementine is the first of our scholarship students to return home and we hope she is only the first of many.

UPDATE: If you would like to support another of our scholarship students here are two more for your consideration.

Alex Kamba, Age 33, Laten Village

Alex has worked in the church as a youth leader for 8 years.

He has also worked in the Samban clinic as a helper for 2 years.

Alex is in his second year at Raihu CHW (community health worker, like an LPN) training school

Jeff Norman, Age __, Laten Village
Jeff has just been accepted into St. Gerard CHW training School.
He is married with twins.

To make donations send your checks to Liberty Christian Church (memo Ap Ma-Student's Name) or write letters of encouragement to these students mail c/o Jesse and Karie Pryor, P.O. Box 319, Madang 511, Papua New Guinea.

Teacher Training in January

In January OIPNG sponsored a three week Elementary teacher training course. The purpose of this course was to register new elementary schools in the Ap Ma area and train new elementary teachers to use the Prep School Curriculum we have developed. Four new villages participated in this training as well as the 3 already operating with the Samban Central Elementary School. Of these four new villages 3 have succeeded in opening new elementary classes this year. We ask for your prayers as these new teachers struggle through their first year. Thank you so much for your prayers during the course.