



*United in Service with the ApMa People*

# February 2014

To our supporters:

From a crawl to a sprint, work has picked up here in a big way. With the arrival of the three teachers who had been studying in Port Moresby, work at the elementary school has been intense. They have been meeting daily before the start of school to try to work out curriculum and planning issues for the coming school year. Our schools, like those of Australia, are year-round and begin in late January or early February. This year, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the first day of school. For you teachers out there, imagine you were asked to teach with no curriculum and no books. Our first three years of schooling are to be taught in the local languages of which PNG has more than 860. For this reason there is no set curriculum, but rather each school or teacher is expected to write their own materials based on a guide-book and create the necessary books and materials in the local languages. We have been working on this for years and with the teachers recently trained in how this is to come about, we are frantically trying to get enough material created to start the first term.

Work for Jesse has been no less hectic. With several building projects in the works, from the finish work on the classrooms and clinic to the remodel on our own house and extension of the literacy center to two houses for workmen/women of the school and clinic, he has been gearing up for a long milling trip. Timber isn't bought here (not at any reasonable price) but rather we mill our own. Yesterday Jesse and 7 other men took off for the village of Likan, 12 hours up river, into a neighboring language group. There he plans to spend the next 3-6 months milling both for their village and ours. They are also working on a new school classroom, church, and clinic so we worked out a deal for them that if they gave us the trees we needed for our work, Jesse would bring the mill and mill up everything they needed for their work. Good quality hardwood is hard to find in our area so Jesse jumped at the chance to return to Likan. We milled there years ago. He will be coming and going every couple of weeks to bring food and supplies and return with rafts of timber. The hard wood is so dense that it sinks and Jesse and the guys create rafts of soft woods 40-60 feet long and 12-20 feet wide and layer the cut timber on them and float them down stream a couple days to get them to a village close enough to ours to

break the rafts down and ferry the timber back with smaller canoes.

The kids are well into the second semester of their schooling and they have also helped out when they can with children at the elementary school teaching them new games they learned last year at school in Oklahoma.

Becca has been working with Elijah and Naleh in school and is getting used to our literature-based material. She has also been working hard on her Tuesday English/Math class. The Tuesday class we have divided by grade; it is a preparatory class for FODE testing and course work. FODE is a program by the national government to allow adults the opportunity to continue their education through correspondence course work. It is similar to a GED program. She has become quite the pied piper here with the kids following her everywhere. She washes them, and puts band-aids on their sores, combs their hair and generally gives them the attention that is hard to come by in the large families of 8-10 siblings here in the village.

Our little farm is growing as well with two goats ready to kid any day now and piglets not far off and a large garden of peanut, sorghum, and sweet potatoes in addition to our cocoa and banana gardens. We like to say we are blessed with work. Such work is a blessing when God has called you to a work; there is great satisfaction in the busyness that sustains us through the hectic times.

We ask that you would keep the men and women who work with us in your prayers. Milling and felling trees is a very dangerous work as are the temptations and pressures which surround all of us who seek to do His will. The church has had a few weeks of growth and revival through the return of many who had fallen away. We ask that you keep the local church in your prayers and that this spirit of revival would grow and sustain the men and women for the work ahead. I ask that you keep our family in your prayers as well as we each do our part together and separately to serve each other and Christ.

Jesse & Karie Pryor and family  
Rebecca Linsenbigler



**Rebecca Linsenbigler**



**Jesse & Karie Pryor**

Naleh, Elijah & Judah Pryor

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