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Pryor's in PNG Newsletter
July 2018

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Outreach International of PNG

United in Service with the Ap Ma People



Pryor's in PNG

Against the Odds

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When someone comes to see us at our house in Samban, there is no way to know what it's going to be for. One early afternoon I was finishing up planing some timber when a man came hurrying into our yard. He was out of breath, physically shaking, and struggling to put words together. I asked him, "Are you OK? Is there something wrong?" In the next few moments, he pieced together a story of a young woman falling out of a coconut tree. At first he said she was dead, but then I realized that he was in shock, and that she was still alive, but in very bad shape. I immediately hooked up the trailer to our ATV and rode out to where the accident occurred. It was several miles from the village, over some pretty bumpy terrain.

Now I (Jesse) need to make something clear to all of you. I am not a trained medical person. I do not enjoy seeing other people suffer. I would be the last person you should call on to give someone medical treatment. Yet here I was in a situation I was certainly not qualified to handle. As I surveyed her, I noticed that her entire right leg was sickeningly facing inward towards her left leg. It was clear, even without an X-ray that we were dealing with someone that had some serious injuries, possibly a broken back or pelvis. We carefully got her on the trailer and I drove her to the clinic as slowly and carefully as possible so as not to cause any more damage. The clinic staff got her into the clinic and started doing a medical assessment.

Normally in these types of situations either Karie or I wait until our medically-trained staff ascertain the condition of the patients before we start arranging a medical evacuation. Not so in this case. I immediately went to the house and got our GPS that allows us to send satellite text messages from the middle of the jungle. I sent several texts to see if we could arrange a flight to get her to Wewak. While waiting for the response I went back to the clinic. Jeff Norman, one of our medical staff, came out and let me know that she was in quite a bit of pain, and numb from the waist down. She was slipping in and out of consciousness. When she was awake she was groaning and screaming in pain.

I got a response that there was a plane flying through our area in the next hour, and just 'happened' to be going to Wewak. We don't believe that this was a mere coincidence, clearly God was working things out in the background. The pilot for MAF said they'd be glad to stop and pick up the patient.

We try to do our best to treat all our patients with the best care available in PNG. Our medical staff were saying, and if I'm honest I was thinking the same

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probably be dead in the next 24 hours anyway. Who knows what injuries besides broken bones she had sustained. Not only did she fall out of the tree, but as she came down she had hit another tree. How many internal injuries had she sustained? So was it wise to 'waste' man power, finances, and time on her if there was little chance of recovery? Ultimately the decision was that no matter what, we do what we can for everyone, God has shown us some amazing things over the years when we trust our patients to His care.

As we loaded her into the plane and said a prayer, I couldn't help but wonder if this was the last time her family that was huddled around the plane door would see her alive. The pilot asked for the patient's name, and I had no idea what it was! I was in such a rush to get her to the clinic and call for the plane that I hadn't even bothered to ask for the patient's name; Regina.

A day later we received word that she was still alive, but the prognosis didn't look good. Both her back and pelvis had been broken during the fall. The doctors at the hospital in Wewak were unsure if she would even make it through the next few days. When we are far away, and there is no other way we can help all we can do is pray.

This was 2 months ago. Karie and I made a trip to the hospital today. Regina was sitting up smiling as Karie entered the ward of the hospital. Her back and pelvis have healed in a way that she has movement in her legs. She is still weak, and cannot walk unsupported, but somehow, slowly holding on to things for balance she is walking short distances. She may never recover completely, but she is alive! She has movement and feeling in her extremities, and you definitely can see in her face that she has a vibrant spirit that could not be crushed. Karie told her that she never expected to see her alive. She laughed and said, "I didn't think I was going to live either, but here I am!" The woman that has been her caretaker in the hospital said that it was God's grace that saw her through. We couldn't agree more. (Notice the small black Bible on her pillow in the picture above.)

So many times things go wrong that are irreversible. Medical evacuations that end in death are an unfortunate reality that we face. We are so glad that we stepped out in faith with this one, even when the odds seemed against it. Fortunately we serve a God that performs miracles. While we don't fully understand why in some cases they don't happen, we take heart when he works in ways that we thought were impossible. We have seen a miracle in the last two months, and know that God's grace is truly amazing!

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In late June a boy from the local primary school was carried to the clinic. He had been bitten by a very poisonous snake, the dead adder. We were able to arrange transport for him to the provincial hospital. A week and a half later he was walking through our front yard and I stopped him to see how he was doing. He was a little shy, but said thank you for saving his life. We are just glad to see him back and doing well.



The Ap Ma FODE students enjoyed 2 guest teachers this last month. Rebecca Linsenbigler and Lois Rensch were of great assistance to Karie and Isaac by taking some of the teaching load. The students also were very appreciative of their teaching and one on one tutoring.

[Click on the picture to learn more about the Ap Ma FODE Centre.](#)

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!!!!ATTENTION!!!!!! Furlough travel is imminent. This little guy has his passport in hand and can not wait to see you. If you want to hear about our ministry and meet this cute little guy, please contact us immediately via email. We don't want to miss out on the chance of sharing with you.

CLICK ON THE PICTURE FOR OUR CONTACT INFORMATION.



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