



Stone Age Meets Modern Age

The world in which our family lives is one of stark contrasts. We don't have electricity all the time. If we want to use a washing machine, that task takes turning on a generator. There are no cars where we live. The most common mode of transportation is walking or paddling a canoe hewn out of a tree. For some people in our village the only moving vehicle they have ever seen is a tractor! Yet the contrasts sometimes make life difficult.

Often one of my roles is to call for a medical evacuation. This involves a cellphone and a tree. Climbing up the tree and making a call is not a problem; I've done it so many times it has become quite common place.

Here is how most of our patients make it to help: They sometimes start out being carried on a stretcher made of two trees as poles, plus a burlap sack. Then they are put into a large canoe. This canoe is one that is carved from a tree that was over 6 foot in diameter at the base. The thing that makes this particular canoe a little different than most of the ones around here is that it has a 40hp Yamaha outboard motor attached to it. This powers it to where a missionary pilot lands a plane (with floats) on the Sepik River. They then fly to the hospital that is in town.

Not every person we try to help is saved; in fact, as I write this newsletter it is with the knowledge that a 6-year-old girl is dead from internal injuries caused by a tree that fell on her. Her grandfather was cutting the tree. He did not know she was there in the path of the oncoming tree until it was too late. Their family is suffering an incredible loss. Please join us in praying for this family in their time of loss.

We tried to get the little girl to help, but she died in the canoe on the way to the plane. Nothing we could do, with the technology we had available to us, could get her to the hospital on time. It's times like these that make us reflect on the difference in our two different "worlds." The "what ifs" always crowd your mind. If we could have gotten her out faster, would it have made a difference? Would having a way to call instantly from anywhere have changed the end of her story? The questions go on and on.

We will never know the answer to many of these questions. Whatever your "world" is, we are all still people. We have all had the same desires, thoughts, and basic needs. When you are going through difficulties, it's good to know what God did for us, and the hope he offers. We pray that we show the hope that we know of when others around us are suffering from loss and tragedy.



Déjà vu All Over Again

There was a big welcome for us when we got back to the village. The elementary students sang a welcome song, and some adults and students performed a traditional sing-sing to escort us back to the house. After a time of speeches and then a prayer of praise for our return, as well as a prayer of petition for the upcoming work, we started unpacking our luggage. There was so much to get done to be ready to have beds to sleep in, with the corresponding mosquitoes for each bed.

What struck us most was in some ways we felt like we'd never left! After about 30 minutes, the kids were out the door. We had wondered how their language skills would be after being away for so long. While they had lost a little vocabulary, they had not lost much. They were soon talking up a storm with all of their friends. While in some ways we are still organizing, and getting things the way we want in the house, it feels like home. We enjoyed our time away. Catching up with old friends, and making some new ones was

Trying to be The Incredibles

Movies for children have come such a long way from when I was young. In fact, some of our kids' movies are my favorites.

One of my personal favorites is "The Incredibles." There's a line at the beginning by Mr. Incredible; while being interviewed he said, "I just cleaned up this mess. Can't the world stay saved just for a little bit?!" Sometimes we feel like that here in the village of Samban. It just seems like some days we move from one emergency to another.


When you're involved in so many different aspects like education, medical, and various building projects, it seems like at times you're just moving from one catastrophe to the next. You feel like you're not getting anything done. Yet when you've been gone for as long as we have, there are just a lot of issues that need our attention. We have issues with relationships amongst co-workers that need resolved. We have mechanical issues with the tractor, outboard motor, and chainsaws that need repaired or overhauled. The list seems to be at this point overwhelming. There is so much to do, and only so much time during the day,

great. Yet we are glad to be back home to carry on what we feel called to do.

and a limited amount of resources to fix the problems. Pray for us as we work through all the issues that have been unresolved in our absence. We need wisdom, the right words to say, and the discernment of what is the highest priority.

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