

Coconuts are the key to the longevity of our ministry.



Sounds crazy doesn't it? Well I would say you're with the majority on that one. While the coconut may not be the key to our ministry as a whole, it may prove to be a vital part in the future. As you know there has been a recent push for alternative fuels all over the world. In the South Pacific the main plant used has been the coconut. With the right equipment, 10 coconuts can produce 1 liter of pure coconut oil. If you do the math that means it would take 2,000 coconuts to make 200 liters of coconut oil. Mixing the oil 8 parts to 2 into regular diesel would really cut down on the costs of our day to day operations here in PNG. We could run our tractor, generator, and sawmill off this blend. With as many coconuts as we have available to us here in Samban, maybe this step as a big purchase would be a viable option for us. Not only does it work as a fuel, it also can be used in the making of soap, as cooking oil, and a skin moisturizer. I know it sounds like a gimmick, but I know of several people who are running their equipment on this same blend and for making soap.

I've mentioned this to several people and gotten funny looks. However, some have said that others have done research and it has been better for the engine to run on the alternative fuels. In fact, it keeps the fuel tank and engine cleaner because of the difference in the chemical make up of the bio-fuel. It also is better for the environment in emissions of the engines. It has been duly noted that driving on a tractor that smells like coconuts is not very manly. However, since coconuts are a renewable resource around here, I wouldn't mind smelling like coconuts, knowing it costs 80 percent cheaper per gallon.



I realize this is not a typical Christmas type newsletter. However, let me remind you that those shepherds probably were in for a shock when they realized the Christ was in a stable, not a palace. How mystified the wise men must have been to see this new king, born to a common carpenter. No matter how smart or educated one becomes, God seems to shock us, by his means of reaching out to his people. The Disciples still didn't get it after Christ was crucified. You can see it in their reaction as he appears to them in a locked room.



So often we are all guilty of going out and looking for the next best thing to change our lives. We try new programs and curriculums in our Sunday School programs. We make up new titles for the same small groups. We change the type of music in our services. Yet it all comes back to WHO is the source of the ministry.

It's so funny how after all these years, the possible answer of a more financially efficient fuel is right out our back door. Wouldn't it be something if what God already had growing here was a key into the development of our community of Ap Ma speakers? How amazing is God?

While the coconut is not the total answer to our ministry, Christ was the perfect gift of God to man. He was the answer to a world dead in sin, and he was the answer for each one of us to gain access to the Father. Every season it makes me wonder why we always get lost in all the hype around Christmas. Yet somehow God finds a way, for me personally (and for you to I'm sure), to realize how perfect a gift Christ was. I know that it is Christ that is the REAL answer for the longevity of our ministry here. He may use



a coconut to get some of the parts of the ministry to run in the future. However, as he always has done in the past, continues to do in the present, and as we know he will in the future, may Christ continue to be the oil that lubricates and drives all of our ministries for Him. Merry Christmas from the Pryors' in PNG.

The Littlest Pryor's "What I like best about Christmas. . ."

Naleh 6 "I like the story of Baby Jesus being born."

Eli 4 "I like the part of the presents."

Judah 1 "I like to play with the Christmas ornaments and help mama play Christmas music on the keyboard."

Christmas Blessings and Hopes for the New Year

-We were blessed to celebrate Judah's first birthday.

-Judah's recovery from his first bout with malaria was a huge blessing.

-We were blessed to complete the initial typesetting of the term one Prep School Bible Story Book.

-We are praying that God will bless our time that our days would be more productive in His service.

Looking Ahead to 2007

Our calendar is filling up fast and we are looking forward to the many opportunities God is bringing our way.

January- We will be in Madang for awhile spending a week working with PBT kids holding a VBS for their missionary kids, and printing out the finished Term one books.

February- We will be back in the village Jesse will be holding a pastor and church leader Bible Study and Training seminar and finishing any remaining work on the bridge shelter.

March- We will be hosting two Short term missionaries of PBT they will be staying in Samban for language learning and also helping me to complete a study guide for the Ap Ma book of Luke. Jesse will be milling in Simbri if it is dry enough.

April- The interns will still be with us and if all is going well we might be able to do a second term materials workshop with the Prep School teachers. Jesse will start work on a guest quarters in the existing classroom.

May- We will be taking the interns to Gandep Bible School and visiting some of our Talk Place Prep School teachers along the way.

June- We are expecting some family for a visit this month and hoping to keep going on the road to Yamen a nearby village and timbering in that area.

July-Aug will bring another set of PBT interns for a couple of weeks, a visit from Karie's parents.