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Endings and Beginnings

Have you ever felt like you can't catch up? You know your behind and the more you try to catch up you just seem to lose more ground? That has been the story for us this holiday season. We knew the staff would need time off and other health centers would close, increasing activity here. We knew that certain jobs could only happen during school holidays and during time time when the clinic has fewer patients. Since coming back in October we are finally catching up on the getting the house in order and wrapping up year end tasks. When you add the normal chaos to this time of year, it becomes a potent combination. Our goal was to finish out 2021 well, and get off to a good start for 2022.

In PNG the school year ends in the second week of December. So not only do you have the typical busyness of the Christmas holidays, we all have to deal with the finalization of the school year. Since we administrate the elementary and Karie is in charge of the FODE school, it can get hectic with meetings, final exams for the FODE students, grading, report cards, reports to the FODE main office, and graduation ceremonies. So to say that the month of December was struggle of epic proportion would not be an understatement.



We also had a visit from the Digicel Foundation in the 2nd week of December. They donated the funds for the labour ward in 2020 for the clinic. It was opened a year ago, and they were here to do a follow up to see the effects of the facility after a year of operation. We were pleased to share what the facility has been able to offer for the mothers and the babies in our area. Logistics can be tricky here, but the trip was a success, and soon there will be a video presentation we will be able to share with all of you put together by the Digicel Foundation.

The end of December is also the end of the financial year for the PNG government. So on top of all the previously mentioned tasks, Jesse is responsible for putting together the financial reports of our ministry to the Internal Revenue Commission. This involves annual report as a non-profit organization, and compiling reports for any employee that has earned a wage during the year. This cannot be finalized till the last fortnight of wages in December. You can prep for it till that point, but you can't finish it up until you have all the information.



Our local church also held evening services on the 23-25th of December. Jesse was asked to be the keynote speaker. This went very well and was well attended. The church was overflowing and we moved venues the third night to our big community building to be able to have the capacity for all of those who attended. It was a joy to hear the singing; especially with all of the people singing to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Even when we have struggles, or time constraints, or just difficult situations, it is always good to remember that God loved us so much He sent his son as a gift to all of us. That is the reason the holiday season is so important. To realize that Christ's birth represented the end of the way things were, and a new beginning that would change the course of human history forever. That's a great reminder for all of us.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Naleh's Getting Married

July 2, 2022 is the big day. Naleh, our daughter is completing her junior year at Lubbock Christian University, she and her fiancée Ryan Duncan have scheduling a wedding ceremony on July 2 of 2022. We plan to come back for a short time this summer to attend the wedding and visit a few churches.

School Wrap Up

This year we wrapped up the school year at Ap Ma FODE RSC (grades 7-12) with a meal and some pictures on December 10th. The end of the school year had been a whirl wind. I came back to the village just in time to administer the national exams for grades 8, 10, and 12 and and submit all the year end reporting paperwork. When national exams were completed we shifted focus to the grades 7, 9, and 11's to wrap up any activities they had not been able to complete in my absence and prepare for exams in late November. Exams lasted one week from Nov 29- Dec. 3rd. Students helped to clean up the classroom and tidy the grounds to lock down for the break. Enrollment for next year has already started and will close January 14th.

Special congratulations to our graduating grade 12 and 8 students this year. Grade 12 students are Glen Numbune, Dike Yatan, John Matram, Sherol Wapan, and Jemmielyn Mondumora. Grade 8 students are Sipag Toia, Jaylyn Joroke, Gloria Wapan, Asunta Woimba. Highest marks over all this year goes to Jaylyn Joroke grade 8 graduate.

[Click the photo below to see our year end video](#)



Israel is very proud of being able to learn new things. He's particularly happy about being able to write his own name.



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Thanks so much for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support through all the years of our ministry. We could not do it without you. You are so vital to the ministry here. We truly appreciate you all.

