

May 2014



United in Service with the ApMa People

May 2014

Blessed With Work



Building a raft for wood transport

It's not intentional! We are not trying to keep you out of the loop or be non-communicative. Our lives have been so hectic the last few months that finding time to write a newsletter has just been extremely difficult. There has just been so much to do and so many directions to go. . . If I had a phrase to define the last 2 or 3 months, it would be "organized chaos."

Let me give you a sample of what I've been up to: We've been milling timber upriver for several construction projects. The spot is the farthest we've ever been away from the village to mill timber, which means a lot more time and energy to get the timber back home. It's an all-day trip there using the outboard motor. Getting the timber back economically means a week to build 2 rafts that are 80 feet long and 15 feet wide. Then, we float the timber downriver for 2 days to the tributary that leads to Samban (our village) off of the Keram River. Then, we make several runs back and forth in the dugout canoe to bring the timber to Samban. This has meant that I (Jesse) have had to spend several weeks away from the family traveling back and forth to help with the milling process, and the transport of the newly-milled timber. God has really blessed us in equipment running well, safety of all of those working, plus no loss of timber while floating it 60 miles downriver.

I've also been remodeling the house where we live. After 35 years, it was in need of a major structural overhaul. It has been tricky because the roof has remained intact while I have been replacing everything between the floor and the ceiling. This means that all exterior walls and interior walls need to be replaced. Due to time, rats, and insects, the house was just not structurally sound anymore. The first phase was to build new exterior walls on the ground. Then, I slowly braced and supported the roof, knocked out the old exterior walls, and replaced them with the newly-built walls. After they are secured, I brace the new walls and ease the roof back down on the new walls. It's best not to take out too much of the old wall. I have only removed a couple of sections at a time, replaced them, and then moved to the next section. As of right now, 60% of the exterior walls (and 20% of the interior walls) have been replaced. It's been slow going because we have to be careful the roof doesn't cave in on us and we have to move our personal stuff around as we demolish and replace. Having to remove load-bearing columns and walls is never a good thing, especially when you are inside the building. Yet so far, things have gone well and it is probably in the best shape it's been in a long time. We are living in the house as it is being worked on. I would not recommend this for anybody because it can be very messy and not the ideal living conditions, but the results we have so far are worth the effort. Plus, it's only going to get better from here! It really can't get much worse than what it has been the last couple of weeks... I hope.

We also made a trip into Wewak (the nearest town) to buy supplies for our next 3-month stint of living in the village. Most people go to town to relax. While town does have some amenities that Samban does not, I find that shopping and trying to remember everything we are going to need for the next 3 months, be it food or hardware, is NOT relaxing. The other reason we were in Wewak was that the last of some items we shipped from the USA had arrived. With school books, tools, and our new solar power system for the house, we definitely had a full flatbed load to take to Angoram where the two 50-foot canoes and a boat were waiting to take our supplies back to Samban.

The new solar system is making a huge difference in our day-to-day living. Not having to turn a generator on to charge a computer, or pump water, or most things electrical is really cutting down on our fuel consumption. This in the long run is going to help out the budget immensely. We now have a fridge that runs on our new solar system!! This may not seem like a big deal to you, but we have only had a freezer for the last 10 years. We are living like kings and I'm sure we are the happiest people in the world to have nothing but cool water in our fridge!

As you can see, there's been a lot going on. We just need to do a better job of communicating it to you. Hopefully the pictures along with this newsletter can convey more than we can through text. It seems so unfair for all you out there who support us through financial gifts and prayers, that a newsletter is all you get to see. There are changes happening in Samban physically and spiritually and you guys are a major part of it. We thank you for all you do for us and all you do for the Ap Ma people.



Samban Central Elementary School

Five years and going strong impact by teaching the children. The schools here, unlike those in America, embrace the preaching and teaching of the gospel, as long as the community agrees that their children should be taught from the Scriptures. Because of this freedom, each class has 30 minutes of religious instruction and daily Ap Ma lessons where they learn to read and write in their local language from the Scriptures. All of our teachers are immersed believers and we ask that you continue to hold them up in your prayers, that their witness to these children might make a lasting impact.

2014 marked the fifth intake of new students since the official opening of SCES. This year we had a record enrollment of 182 students in grades K-2. The return of our three teachers from their training course in Port Moresby has lit a fire among the teachers and they have been staying late each day, teaching and training one another and working together to write better lessons and materials for the students. This new push means I do less creating and more typing and editing, which is just as it should be. I still attend weekly staff meetings to hear their new ideas, give some instruction in English language arts and phonics, and troubleshoot issues that come up.

This month we have added extra meetings on Monday as we gear up for the SCES Culture Show. In 2010 and 2011, we hosted an event for the children we called Kite Day. This event has morphed into a culture show in which the village elders and experts will showcase elements of Ap Ma culture. They explain and demonstrate traditional crafts like basket making, canoe making, hitting the garamut (a large drum used to communicate over long distances) making bush rope or string from the roots of trees, etc. Children will move through small booths where they will have a chance to watch the old crafts and try their hands at some. The whole community will be involved through a traditional market and sing-sing (old style song and dance) competition between classes.

Why does a mission take such interest in an elementary school? After years of teaching adults to read the Ap Ma language so that they can read the translated scriptures, we discovered that we could reach more people and make a more lasting impact by teaching the children. The schools here, unlike those in America, embrace the preaching and teaching of the gospel, as long as the community agrees that their children should be taught from the Scriptures. Because of this freedom, each class has 30 minutes of religious instruction and daily Ap Ma lessons where they learn to read and write in their local language from the Scriptures. All of our teachers are immersed believers and we ask that you continue to hold them up in your prayers, that their witness to these children

might make a lasting impact.

Bye-Bye, Becca!



The past ten months have been a change for our family. We gained a family member this year as we welcomed Rebecca into our home. Though she came to help teach our kids and do training with the elementary teachers, she has been involved in every aspect of our daily lives and has taken a big interest in our clinic's store. In the past 5 months the store has tripled its income which helps to pay our staff and increase the hours they can work. She has struggled with us through dry seasons and high-water times of mosquitos and frogs; she has hacked through grass-choked trails and traveled through narrow creeks in our canoes. She has taught my kids and village kids, bandaged sores, washed babies, attended the births of seven puppies and 2 goat kids, prepared countless meals, washed a multitude of laundry, taught teachers, and made friends. We will miss her here at home, and the village kids will miss her generosity and kindness. We pray God will grant her the opportunity to return in the future and our prayers go with her as she returns to America in June.

Various Prayer Points

- * The church is picking up momentum here with a youth-led revival that has steadily increased over the past month. We ask that you pray that God will sustain their enthusiasm and allow their passion to guide and direct their daily lives.
- * We ask that you keep our family in your prayers as we readjust to new schedules for the next school year. We are praying for wisdom in the allotment of our time between family and ministry.
- * Please join us in praying for continued safety, protection, and blessings for the men and women who work with us every day.
- * Please join us in prayer for the team from Knoxville, TN representing both Woodlawn C.C. and Seymour C.C. who are coming in June. We are praying for safe travels and that God will bless their time with the Ap Ma people.



Transport of supplies



[Check out our website.](#) [Send us an email.](#)

[friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

*Copyright © 2014 Outreach International of Papua New Guinea,
All rights reserved.*

We appreciate your interest in the Ap Ma Outreach Project.
Thank you for your prayers and support. If you are receiving this
message in error, we apologize. Please let us know if you wish us
to remove your name from our list.

Our mailing address is:

Outreach International of Papua New Guinea
2165 Liberty Church Rd.
Martinsville, IN 46151

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)