



From our home to yours!

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but will have everlasting life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might have been saved.”

~ John 3:16-17

These are a portion of the Scripture verses that we have been working on memorizing both in homeschool as well as with our brother's and sister's-in-CHRIST here in North Wahgi!

Recently, as I have been reading through different books in the Bible, I have been impressed about the un-measurable love and grace that our Heavenly Father has poured out on His most treasured creation

since the beginning of time. I am so humbled and touched that He has never given up on His original plan and desire to have a personal relationship with us. His rich and precious promises can still give us hope in the midst of unrest, uncertainty, sorrow, pain, and tragedy.

For many, Christmas time is filled with festive activities, gatherings with friends, family and loved ones. Perhaps some of us can catch ourselves getting wrapped up in the craziness of all that this season and holiday can bring upon us. Sadly, though it is a time of celebration and joy, for some it can be a time of sadness / loneliness when our loved ones are no longer able to share in these special days together. We are praying for our Savior's comfort to be strengthening to each of you.

During this season, may we all be reminded of the greatest loss and sacrifice for our greatest gain. Our Holy, Sovereign, Almighty God became a vulnerable, weak baby in order to rescue us from an eternity separated from Him! What an amazing, unfathomable gift! We are so thankful that He came, not to condemn but rather to seek and save the lost! His gift of eternal life has been purchased for all, it is now up to each one of us to realize this and accept it for ourselves personally. If perhaps, you haven't already, may you receive the Greatest Gift of all for yourself this very Christmas! Forgiveness, adoption into the family of God and Eternal life with our King of Kings! This truly is the Gift that keeps on giving!

We are sending our heartfelt love, hugs and prayers to you this CHRISTmas!

You are never alone when you are In-Christ!

This will be our first true Christmas celebration with our dear brother's and sister's In-Christ here among the N. Wahgi! We are overjoyed to share with you on the recent 'birth' of our new sister Freda! *(You can read her story below)*

“According to God’s great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.” ~1 Peter 1:3-4

Thank You for your ministry in our lives enabling us to continue our ministry here in Papua New Guinea!

With love,

Levi, Robyn, Michael, Daniel & Matthew Lenz

Your hands & feet for the Gospel among the North Wahgi people of Papua New Guinea

UPDATE: *We have been desiring for quite some time to begin teaching through the book of Acts with our believers. They recently shared that they would like to try meeting on Thursday evenings. Dec 11, was our first meeting together. Rather than jumping right into the Acts lessons, Dan went back to the beginning and did a quick review of the main points throughout the chronological Bible lessons which clearly show the way that God was providing for man to be reconciled to Himself, and how they ultimately all lead to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We wanted to make sure that they were clear on the way that God has provided through Christ and that trusting in anything else will not make them right in God's eyes.

When the lesson was finished, Mara (one of our translation helpers) asked a question about sin, “if we believe then sin again what happens?” In the answer to the question, Dan pointed back to Mara's own testimony of how he used to believe that it was by the good things he did, including helping to do translation, that he was made right with God and would go to heaven, but how he now understands that those things did not help him and it is only by the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ that he can be made right with God. He continued to explain that we're going to continue to sin because we're part of Adam's line but that we're still a part of God's family.

Following Dan's answer, both Wirol and Kunjin (also our translation helpers) gave clear testimonies again of how they used to think that they would be made right with God and would be able to go to heaven (i.e. being faithful church goers and following the laws of the churches, giving offerings, singing, praying, being baptized, being religious teachers, etc.). It was a very good time of fellowship hearing these guys tell their testimonies of how they once thought, but now know that they're only made right and brought into God's family by believing in the fact that Christ died in their place.

After Wirol and Kunjin shared, Freda, Mara's wife who has just been attending the Chronological teaching on Wednesdays, following the Literacy school class, asked if she could share something. She said that she has done a lot of work for her 'lotu' (church) throughout the years. She said that Kasper (another brother-in-Christ and Translation helper) basically put it in her hands and she has been doing all this work for them for years and mostly by herself. She said that she is the one that maintains the flowers, building, etc., and that by doing so she thought that "heaven is mine". She said that she thought that she was easily going to go to heaven because of all of the work she had done for the church. She also shared that she used to get upset with Mara for coming and helping us and used to boss him and make him do work there for her church as well because that was going to be the way to get to heaven. She said that she used to tell him to bring and give pigs to the 'lotu' whenever there was a concern or fellowship gathering, etc.

Continuing on she said, *"I've been a Christian for how many years? I've done all this work. I was baptized in 1997. I've been a Christian for a long time."* Then she said, *"on the outside I was a Christian, but on the inside I was still as sin person."* She held her shirt and jacket and said, *"this was Christian, and this was Christian (again referring to the outside) but inside wasn't Christian. I would get mad and cross people. I would think about stealing things and steal them. I would do these things. On the outside I was a Christian, but not on the inside."* During her testimony, she also said that she had heard it said that she was born a sinner and that she knew that to be true, but that she didn't know anything about Christ dying for her and taking her place. She says now she knows that it's not by what she does that she is a Christian, but it is because of what Jesus did.

Recently she stood up at her own church during their testimony time and told everyone, "You think it is by what you do that you're going to go to heaven, but it's not. It's only by what Jesus did that we're able to go to heaven." She told us that as she was sharing that everyone just had their heads in their hands and didn't say anything. May we all be challenged to stand boldly for Christ and proclaim His message of Truth so that others may hear, believe and be saved!

Please continue to praying for Frida and these precious people here in North Wahgi. The battle for their souls continues and we know that our King of Kings has already won the War. We are asking Him to continue to draw more individuals and families to Himself!

May You have a wonderful Christmas celebrating our JESUS! His very name means SAVIOR!