



"...we all carry death in our pockets."

Christmas is a time of celebration, celebrating the birth of our Savior. Unfortunately the weeks leading up to Christmas here in North Wahgi were marked with death. The difference this time was that Steven, one of our translation helpers, sat silently by his mother while others around him wailed hopelessly as they were once again faced with the frailty of life and the certainty of death.

About a month and a half prior to her death, Steven moved her to his house so that he and his wife could care for her. More importantly, knowing that her eternity was on the line, he moved her so that he could share the Gospel with her and teach her from God's Word. For that short time prior to her death Steven and another of our translation helpers, Wirol, were daily telling her about how Christ died in her place, paying for her sins. At one point when Steven's brother brought the witch doctor to try and help their mother, Steven sent them away saying that the witch doctor does Satan's work and he doesn't believe that any more. Steven told us that prior to her death, his mom did profess that she was trusting in Christ for her salvation.

Over the last few weeks there have been 4 others who have given clear professions of faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation. We are very grateful to the Lord for all that he has been doing.

Recently in one of our meetings, Wirol said, "We all carry death in our pockets. We're all going to die, but we just don't know when. Whether today, tomorrow, or years from now, we don't know. But if we take care of our spirits by believing in Jesus, we'll go to heaven." Wirol is so right. We carry so many things in our pockets every day, including death. However, let us make sure we're also carrying LIFE that comes through Christ and sharing that with others we come into contact with.





On Christmas eve our family, along with two other families who joined us here in Wahgi for the Holidays, went down to the local hospital and joined our friends down there to sing carols at a couple of the wards and handed out some packets containing coloring pages, crayons and some candy to the kids in the wards. It was a great opportunity to share the joy of giving with our boys and allow them to give to others.

On Christmas night, we celebrated the Lord's birth with our believers by having a communion service with them. We shared the idea of a communion service with two of the men and they took it upon themselves to get our meeting house decorated and chose the Scripture passages to read. It was very encouraging to see them stepping up and taking that role.



A special treat this year was having Robyn's parents come for a visit. The boys enjoyed some time at the pool, playing ball, and just going on walks with Papa and Grandma. Robyn's parents got to experience some of the thrills of PNG including the drive from Goroka to our village. Because of landslides, a slipping clutch, and failing brakes a 4 hour drive turned into a 6 hour drive. Great memories were made and we praise the Lord for His safety.



Robyn's Foot Spa

Recently Robyn's been practicing her pedicure skills. I think maybe she's got a future...if all her clients have a high pain tolerance. We've been doing a bit more medical work lately, burns, cuts, tropical ulcers...especially with kids. Unfortunately, adults will generally get themselves treated, but wait until the situation has gotten serious before seeking treatment for their kids so we've been trying to take a more proactive role when we can by helping to treat wounds while they're still small, and showing Christ's love in a tangible way.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for Gabriel, one of our translation helpers, and his wife as they've been accused of doing sorcery resulting in someones' death. The woman was sick with tuberculosis, but the family doesn't accept that as probable cause for her death.
- Pray for Pinpin. Pinpin is an older man who has professed faith in Christ and always greets us with a radiant smile and a hug. He has recently been diagnosed with congestive heart failure and his health is quickly deteriorating.
- Pray for Robyn as she continues to home school among all her other daily tasks.
- Pray for wisdom for Levi as he balances translation, Bible teaching, and revisions of the literacy program. He's currently working through the book of Mark with translation helpers with the goal of

- having to a point where it's ready to be consultant-checked by the end of the month.
- Continue to pray for the funds to replace our team vehicle and the right vehicle to replace it with.

PRAISE POINTS:

- We are seeing God do a great work in the lives of some of the believers.
- Daniel has still been having trouble with ear infections and a cough that has persisted for several months. We took him to see a doctor at the Kudjip hospital nearby and the infection has cleared up with antibiotics and the cough has gone away with use of allergy meds. (And he didn't break any bones in 2013!!)
- We've gone nearly a year without any land dispute issues! Pray things will continue to go smoothly.

We are thankful for each of you. For your love and encouragement. We could not be here without you.

Levi, Robyn, Michael, Daniel, and Matthew Lenz