



The Ottosens

Reaching the Kamea of Papua New Guinea

September 2023

Project: Building People

Much of the time since the last update has been spent in milling wood for two new buildings: a large classroom and kitchen. Each of these buildings will be used to minister more fully within the context of our church: housing passing visitors and having places to instruct Christians as they mature in their faith.

Felling trees and milling each piece of timber is time consuming, but it provides an avenue to interact with people who otherwise keep their distance. News that jobs are available quickly produces an unlikely crew. Despite friction and theft, it is a healthy exercise in bearing a clear Christian testimony and heartily sharing the gospel with men as we work side by side.

Our family traveled to a town named Wau. It lies within a fertile valley of the interior highlands of PNG. For more than ninety years tons of gold ore has been mined from its mountain slopes and river's edge. Nestled beside the gigantic airstrip is Wau Baptist Bible School. The school was founded in the early 1960's and has trained an army of men and their families for the ministry ever since.

The Bible School is currently led by veteran missionaries Gary Keck and Luther Smith. National pastors and other missionaries contribute by teaching a two-week module course. Our family was invited to come and I conducted a multi-faceted study of minor prophets in the Old Testament. Additional invitations by local churches to preach or teach each week were a cherished opportunity for Cherith and me. The fellowship on the Bible school campus along with churches was deeply refreshing; we felt knitted together with families there.

Nelson is one of the Bible school students nearing graduation this December. He had been praying for direction after leaving school. His wife is from our area

and they have peace in relocating to Menyama Station. Our church has frequently visited the station and a small group of Christians there await a pastor! Nelson would value your prayers for God's further leading, provision and protection.

We also had health checks done while out. Jason has experienced heart discomfort and palpitations for awhile but the doctor's opinion encouraged us that the issue should not prove fatal. A dentist office also brightened everyone's cheerful smiles.

Our travels were blessed to see people saved on the road and upon our return. A family residing in town met us at a church service and at its conclusion the wife put her faith in Christ, a choice long awaited by her husband's prayers. Now they are joined in faith as well as matrimony. When we came back to Komako, Jelvin, a very young man had gotten saved. He is brother to our Christian sister, and one of the men who had worked with our lumberjack crew the previous month.

We have erected the kitchen mentioned above. The posts are firmly in place, walls built and roof constructed. Even though the men were small in number, their consistent effort got the job done in record time despite adverse weather threatening to postpone progress. The door and window are completed; all that awaits is collection of enough bamboo to enclose the walls. The Kamea split the bamboo into strips and weave them in a lovely pattern.

We expanded our Sunday school by adding two new classes for our youth. So we have four split classes: adults, children and two for the youth men and ladies. The young men have enthusiastically seized the kitchen as their Sunday school room. Next we mill enough wood so the classroom can also be completed and utilized for new programs in the coming months.

In His Service,

Jason, Cherith, Grace, Melody, Hannah, and Josiah Ottosen

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