



# The Ottosens

## Reaching the Kamea of Papua New Guinea

February 2024

March 2024

Most of February was spent constructing the new classroom. Men from our church came faithfully each day to help Jason. First they put the posts in place, then positioned large bearers and built the floor. All was going according to plan until the weather shifted to strong gusts of wind and unpredictable rains. They constructed a makeshift roof from tarps and bamboo to allow work to continue. That roof was battered by the wind and was torn down to the ground before the day was done.

Our crew laid out timber on top of the classroom floor and assembled the four walls. Construction became a race against time as our family was scheduled to leave at the end of the month. Weather delays did not allow enough time to build the roof and Jason decided to postpone further construction until we returned from our trip. The completed walls were left lying horizontally on the floor and covered with large tarps to protect the wood from the elements. Please pray as this work will be resumed in mid April.

Pastor Jack's family took a short sabbatical the beginning of this year to visit family. His return was delayed due to aviation complications and it appeared he would not get back before we left. Jason asked two young men (Clarence and Klem) to assist during our absence. He wrote out lessons and instructed them on the nuts and bolts of teaching. It was going to be a new experience for them and a faith-stretching exercise for everyone involved.

Two days before our plane was scheduled to take us out, Jack's family returned. They had a tiring hike, but were rejoicing to finally be back home. Pastor agreed to allow Clarence and Clem to contribute to the Sunday school service until our return. We are blessed to see men serving in their local church.

### An Unforgettable Gift

We were thankful to celebrate two more birthdays in our family. Josiah is officially five years old. Cherith takes great care to make birthdays memorable for the family and decorated everything in a fireman theme. For Cherith's birthday one of our daughters recited one of Cherith's favorite Psalms. She correctly quoted all 21 verses of chapter 145 as a present to her Mom.

March was a machine-gun paced month of traveling, teaching, preaching, witnessing and having great fellowship. Our family flew to the Eastern Highlands Province for a few quick medical checks and then took a scenic drive through the heart of PNG, especially enjoying the picturesque Markham Valley. After a few days of buying supplies for our time out, we headed to the Bible School in the town of Wau.

It was our second time instructing students there. This year the class was larger with eight families preparing for the ministry. Jason taught two-week modules on Old Testament Survey and the Book of Acts. Cherith taught on pertinent topics in ministry to the women. The pool of students come from various provinces and languages. Rafort is the student sent from our church and is finishing his second year of instruction. Rafort's wife, Kelin, admitted that she was not truly saved during a conversation with Cherith. A short time later she prayed to God asking Him to forgive her sin. Later during a time of counseling, another student's wife made a profession of faith!

Jason preached a revival at Wau Baptist Church, accompanied by his wife at the piano. When all services were done, sixteen people had called on the Lord for salvation, many surrendered to God's will, and previously saved people requested to be baptized. One of those saved was Rafort's only child, Finley.

Each Sunday we had the opportunity to minister in different churches. After one Sunday service at a church plant a woman was led to the Lord and baptized two weeks later. The next Sunday we saw an adult man get saved. Four people were saved the following week and the altar was flooded by Christians coming forward to pray. Luther Smith, a veteran-missionary kept saying, "Looks like revival is happening here."

We have returned safely to our home in Komako, but please pray as Jason hikes out tomorrow morning to speak at a revival meeting along with thirty of our church members. Also pray as the aviation company that does all of our flights has increased their prices by 52% this month due to inflation and fuel costs.

In His Service,

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

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