

Thomas' Update!

September 2008

Dear Friends,

Time has caught up on us as we got busy with flow of life in our ministry. You are very important part of this ministry. We cannot be doing what we doing without your prayers and support in many ways. We indeed treasure your friendship.

What is Steven Doing! I (Steven) have a new role with PNG BTA. My new title is Associate Director for Operation and its main focus is church relations. Church relation with local PNG churches, their leaders and membership is important to BTA. We started working on a church database ably assisted by Mrs. Grace Easton, a volunteer whose husband is a professor at University of Papua New Guinea. We need an office space of our own and couple more staff.

I also work closely with SIL External Relation officer, Gail Edoni representing BTA to government department leaders, politicians, NGO leaders. This gives us opportunity to relate with government and NGO leaders.

Elizabeth continues to do bookkeeping with BTA Port Moresby center. From time to time she has been invited to speak at various women's fellowship and conventions. She is considering getting involved with BTA ministry department next year.

Us together (Steven & Elizabeth) have been concerned and prayed to God about PNG national issues such as HIV/Aids, corruption and other issues of society. We often do not know how God will respond. Three years ago God began to bring young people especially university students and young graduates to relate. So this has been an opportunity to relate with young people. We prayerfully meet and discuss things of good leadership, principles, and also time to pray and relate with them.

Last few weeks we have been meeting with up to 20 University students from our language group studying at here in the city. We have been meeting each Monday evening and training basic leadership skills such as public speaking skills, basic leadership principles of both PNG and western cultures. Many of them have been very faithful in attending. At the end of each year they go home and do Christian outreach. This time they will be using the "Jesus" film which was completed last year. Campus Crusade funded the Jesus Project.



Other Ministry Opportunities include Enga New Testament revision is a possibility. Terry and Janet Borchard from Lutheran Bible Translators are willing to advice. I plan to visit Enga and talk to Pastors Paternal in view of forming a translation committee in November. Campus Crusade also donated 4 generator sets to show Enga Jesus film which we plan to present to the church same time. We are grateful to them.

Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship church members visited PNG and BTA hosted 22 members. They were here for 10 full days. They helped complete projects at BTA Port Moresby center and did a lot of promotion in the city on behalf of BTA. It was very busy but also very enjoyable. There is only 3 full time BTA staff here in Port Moresby but we managed very well. Another big group is planning to come in July in 2009. This is a great opportunity for BTA and Oak Cliff Church to partner and do awareness for BTA in the country.



Children are doing well. Dawn graduated at a TAFE college and working part time work here and there. Karol is doing first year at University of PNG. Samuel is in grade 9 while Sonya is in grade 8. Mina is helping at BTA office and working with street kids. She is networking with others to best fit and work together.

Elizabeth and a friend from Oak Cliff at newly painted front gate!

Prayer:

1. I will attend leadership strengthening skill training course in Gold Coast Australia from 7-12 September. I will stay on till 19 September to attend SIL Pacific Area staff meeting (as part time staff).
2. There is a lot needed to organize BTA Ministry department, with couple more staff needed and reach out to church leaders and individuals in culturally appropriate ways.

Praise:

1. We are grateful to God for good health. It can take hours to get basic treatment in the city. Private hospitals are very expensive.
2. For you for being our friends and supporters. God bless you richly!