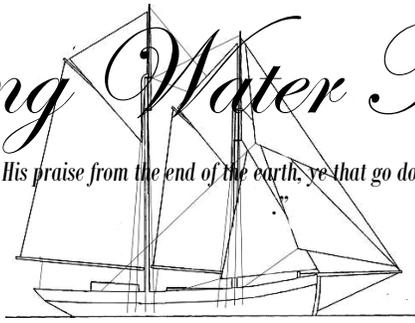


Living Water Mission

Isaiah 42:10 "Sing unto the Lord a new song, and His praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein and the inhabitants thereof. . ."



News from Bwasa and Milne Bay – May 2012

Thanks for Prayers

Those of you who responded to my request for urgent prayer – thank you. The Lord answered our request in full. PNG was drifting towards a dictatorship but God has intervened. A lot of the influence is coming from Big Business in Asia, though not exclusively, as they pursue the resources of the country in logging and mining for the maximum profit and lowest cost they seem to find that under-table dealings are all too readily available. The new broom in the Prime Minister's office is a Lutheran mixed-race highlander called Peter O'Niel who is committed to cleaning up the country and bringing to account ministers and public servants who have acted corruptly. Chris Abel's son Charlie is the Minister for Trade in the new cabinet. The general election is to be held in June when we shall be in England again. 1 Tim 2:1 exhorts us to pray first of all for kings and those in authority. Thanks you so much for being with us in prayer and we praise God for the answer.

We need a lot more prayer

Papuans are a people who are spiritually active but mostly with the wrong spirit, most people attend churches but have no qualms about practicing necromancy and sorcery at any time. God's plan of redemption has only been here little more than a hundred years but virtually nothing of practical value of God's word is actually taught by the denominations. England has had exposure to Biblical Christianity since the days of the Lollards in the Middle Ages and the Word of God has become deeply entrenched in the culture of most the English-speaking peoples, despite the lack of personal knowledge of either the Lord Jesus or His Word in recent times. But here in PNG the customs and culture of the people are rooted in the darkness of the earlier time and it can only be teaching of the Word of God and God's presence that can transform them. Some people think of culture only as the outward visible things like artwork or tribal dances but they cannot see the deeper spiritual issues underlying them. PNG is on a threshold of chaos and has been so for some years but this has, by grace of God, not happened. The personal greed of politicians here anaesthetises them to more important issues of good governance such as the establishment law and order; the quality of policing has fallen drastically. Village magistrates receive K20 (£5) a month and village constables even less. Young men here feel there is nothing for them in life and so they make and get drunk on Jungle Juice and 'steam' which make them violent and they go round in mobs. We also have pirates on the South of our island who attack vessels by speeding out on outboard powered bananaboats. Also it is grim to fall into the hands of the pirates who do like doing folk violence damaging their boats and then throwing them into the sea after ripping them off. They seem to avoid making night ambushes, which is the wisest time to travel. Police attending to their duty would rectify the problem in a matter of days. From the point of view of our work among young people on the Basic Concepts Course last year they have been losing hope for the oppression and lack of encouragement from religious denominations whose leaders are jealous of their gifting and hold them in derision on account of their youth. Those moving with God in the Gifts of the Spirit have been attacked by the enemy and have not had the strength to stand. Only Miriam remains and she is 6 sea miles from us. We still do not have a boat and really we need the schooner God promised me back in 1992.

I feel sure that He is still looking for the rare commodity – Christians or a Christian who will obey His leading to part with money for His purposes and according to 2 Chronicles 16:9a, these people would be in for a blessing. In fact the life of King Asa is worth studying regarding God's promise for those whose hearts are truly committed to Him. Anyway pray for such like to avail the purchase to us of a schooner from 60ft to 80ft in length. We have great need of this vessel.

Land Dispute Issue and the Gold Prospectors

The land dispute is still rolling on but it is widely accepted now that the land belongs to the Magisubu group of clans under Makelon's headship. One clan is furious with the consensus so it all has to go to the District Court in Alotau before final settlement. Prior to the hearing process I typed out the history of the family which, astoundingly, has been recorded by word of mouth for over 260 years. I also copied out the family tree for Makelon and we sent our people to locate their ancient marks which supported the history, with my handheld GPS as well. All the evidence was presented to the mediators and this assisted the clans to come into agreement about the site and who had descended from the original people in the story. Throughout the whole time of the dispute and mediation hearing we have held daily prayer meetings and these have borne fruit. Now we simply need to await the Court's notification of the final hearing.

NGG (New Guinea Gold) have had to supply their boat to facilitate an examination of the coral reefs in Aiwaira Bay which extends over our coastal area and I am informed that it has now been established that much of the reef is dead and dying. Of course everyone here has the view that the prospectors have caused it by dropping chemicals like cyanide into the water system. This is a general practice which of course is forbidden in developed countries but poor countries like PNG need tax income so that while they have the right legislation it is often sidestepped with short-term gains in view. Australian companies would not be allowed to do this say, in Queensland because they rightly want to protect the barrier reef but they are not concerned about the overseas operations of their compatriots (NGG is based in Brisbane, Queensland). Of course the consortium which make up NGG have been prospecting for twenty years now and the Papuans working at the site report regularly that gold has been shipped out illegally. Another point of discussion over the village fires is that the Company changes its name in order to qualify as prospectors and to carry on 'prospecting' when in fact they are actually mining as well and if this is the case and they are doing in on a prospecting licence then they are breaking the law. We don't know the actualities but this appears to be the case and we need to be able to examine it further. The Government sent the Mines Warden to seek the approval of the villagers for the renewal of the prospectors licence; three years ago they refused and this time there was no consensus either but still the Minister for Mines has overruled the people and renewed the licence. The prospectors are now in their 20th year of prospecting!

Colly and I are looking forward to starting BCC again shortly

There is renewed interest in BCC again and we shall start again when we return from England. Readers may remember that last year we had a boat lent to us by which we brought students and their provisions in from across the Bay at the weekends. This year we do not have this boat and will need one to begin courses again.

We are holding Sunday morning meetings but we are looking forward to seeing more folk attending the meetings for instruction in the Word. Villagers belief in the power of witchcraft extends to them suspecting it as being responsible for quite ordinary sicknesses. Recently a baby got ill and Colly went to the village to

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Terrence and Gilford clamping the transom
boatbuilders and should place us in way of business and income. slowly become accepted in other villages as they move from jealousy to acceptance and we are developing an unexpected level of influence among other communities. One of our Woodmizers is working at Mwatebu on the banks of the Nedebala river cutting timber for both us and people living there to build better quality housing. Our immediate plan now is to have the small 17' Cutter *Little Helper* ready for the canoe festival at the end of the year. In this way we hope that ECF/AusAID will see that we have indeed made some progress, albeit slowly and will continue this onto the big cutter as the next step. As you can see we have made progress with *Little Helper* and she is now on the stocks.

AusAID have funded us on the basis of a matching grant under their ECF (Enterprise Challenge Fund) The original plan was to fund the building of the big cutter through milling of rosewood for export but for many reasons this has not been possible. However Sikken and the boatbuilders have been working for 'rations' and the whole community rallies round to supply this for them supplemented by me in rice, sugar fuel and parts. On this basis we have been making slow progress but the original schedule agreed with ECF is closing now and we have not been able to complete the work in the time scale originally planned and this has led to some diversification but always with the original aim in view. The building of the 44' Cornish cutter and its use in trading with

Australia will put our people on the map as wooden On the other hand our activities have



Lema set up and ready for planking up

I had hoped the apprentices would be able to begin planking up while we were in England but we need to weld the aluminium alternator casing which has cracked with all the repair work done to it following the seizure last year. I have been instructing them in the plank end rebates and setting out the planking but it is still a little too fresh for them to go ahead on their own without supervision. Sikken is working on another project and it may have to wait until I return in August.

How you can help

I was asked recently about how many people we have to support full time. To answer this to those interested basically it is Colleen and two Misiman family helpers and myself but we are working among desperately

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poor people although they do have good gardens they have precious little else. Until we have built up some industry like the boatbuilding they depend on us for fuel to drive the engines, medicine and food to supplement the diet of the boat builders. Once our boat builders get orders this will change. However this change will not come overnight.

Colly and I are still living under a sago leaf roof which we share with the invertebrate life from the bush which flies in through the open windows. So we have a design for a timber three-bedroom house to fit into the character of the village and keeps out the bugs looking for a blood meal. Our timber cutting list is made up and we should make short work of it once we have cut it on the Woodmizer. ECF/AusAID have now permitted another container this the last year of their program for us it would help us enormously if you would help us fill it by finding the following items. The villagers mentioned that any boat stuff, from lifejackets and out-of-date flares to boatnails, screws. Give it to us in June and we will load it into the container. Especially we need some 450sq ft of sailcloth and sailmakers needles, palms, marlin spike, etc., medium/light sailcloth or old sails and dinghy sails which can be adjusted or cut anew. Rigging wire, rope and anything else you might feel you would like to help us with. For those of you in England this is a real opportunity to be able to help us. Let me list the items we have particular need of with regard to the boat.

1. We always need Bibles, preferably NKJV. We want to encourage Bible-reading but do not have enough Bibles yet.
2. Sailcloth – 450sq ft of a cloth weight for the size of the boat. The more to spare the merrier for us as nothing will be wasted.
3. Rigging wire and fittings, mast fittings, shackles, chain, anchors, blocks, rope ¾” downwards, paints, varnish, pintles, bilge pumps, pipe, mainsheet horse (½” dia), bronze, monel or stainless woodscrews, bolts and washers. Working Primus-type cookers, Small four-stroke outboard. (these are less temperamental and a third more efficient on fuel than two strokes)
4. One very tiny marine Diesel (5 or 6 hp)with shaft, prop etc.
5. The local primary school at Kelologia have had a grant to build a library, but they do not have any books to put in it. With a container handy to transport directly to the front line, so to speak, this is an excellent opportunity to send old books to these precious youngsters to read. Make sure they are readable, interesting and free of occult (such as the popular Harry Potter books). Reading level from basic ABC up to Swallows and Amazons level at the top end. Science, Geography and History are all favourites. Please go to your local library and see if they have anything there.

You may have some of these items knocking around, or know of someone who does. Email me if you can help, and we can make a plan to collect them from you when we come to England again in June. It is also the season of boatjumbles and there is usually one at Lord Montague’s estate at Beaulieu in Hampshire if anyone sees anything there to get for us. (it is a nice day out anyway)

Lastly on the subject of help I do have a story with a good ending. I have mentioned that sorcery and witchcraft among Papuan communities and belief in it is very hard to remove, except by faith in Jesus’ victory

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over Satan on the Cross. Recently, a young mother had a combined operation of delivery by Caesarian section and a hysterectomy and was brought back to her village after a few weeks in hospital in Alotau. If that was not enough her mother, failing to understand the gravity of her daughter's situation, within a week started to castigate her about neglecting her house and other duties eventually resulting in her attending to the criticisms to please her mother, resulting in damage to her abdominal tissue. The mother knew we prayed successfully for sick people but her misguided denominational loyalties prevented this so she called in the sorcerer instead and the young mother got worse, we only heard of it at the last minute and Makelon went to visit her and decided she needed urgent attention. Because we had borrowed a 12ft dinghy and had a little petrol left we were able to get her to the medical centre which saved her life she is now back in her village and her mother has seen the error of her ways and will care properly for her daughter. So for those of you who have supported us financially we give particular thanks. Again for those who pray because our people need protection promised by the Lord against demonic powers (Luke 10:19)

We have Beasts

Lest those of you should think we lead lives indifferent to the vibrancy of Creation, I would hasten to pen a few words about beastly activity around us. Some of these are positive and fun such as our Lollington Dog who is a typical village dog only better fed. He is a feckless beast and above all thing he likes the horizontal position day or night on our verandah, he is not fussy. Many of the islanders here eat dogs so Colleen was lightly of the view that we should have allowed Stan's nephew home on leave from teaching, to take him away for serving up in Yehuyehuwe Village, but I would not have it. Anyway he



The Feckless Beast.

surprised us all with an amazing display of recovered 'feck' by launching himself from our veranda upon Alan's calling him and hunting down two bandicoot, which was then served up. I tried some and admit that I did so with 'long teeth'.

Lollington Dog is respectful though to our eight young chickens who are growing nicely and will be ready to lay eggs soon. We saved the chicks just before Christmas from the talons of the kites by putting them into an old water tank and placing wire matting over the top. A couple of them snuck through a rust hole at the bottom of the tank and were duly gobbled up by the kite. (Is there a lesson there?) The chicks are poulets now and although a kite did make an unsuccessful attack on one, it is more usually the snakes that show an interest and they have been known to slither toward the frangipani tree at night and cause such a commotion among the chickens as to wake everybody up and the marauder is quickly dispatched with a bushknife.

Another beast is a puss which qualifies for the title of Magnificat because she is the most efficient mouser I have come across. I did mention the stalling of our well laid plans above but the mice had been having it all their own way; their industry defies the imagination and Lollington Dog could learn some lessons from them. The mice have sliced a clean 3 inch diameter hole in my travel bag, destroyed a pair of boots, gnawed holes in about 40% of our underwear and clothing, planed the surface of the soles of Colly's feet at night with their razor sharp teeth so much as to draw her blood and they have also attacked our food supplies. After all this

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they still sit grinning at us from the rafters until; that is, until Magnificat was placed one evening in our bedroom and that terminated their spree. The saucy rodents, deceased, were laid in a neat line by the puss outside her owner's house. Some of our beasts are not so nice, especially the invertebrates; termites eat away the bush pole rafters and leave a large deposit of wood dust everywhere reminding us that it is soon time to change lodgings (when our house is built). Massive wasps and hornets fly in the open windows but are generally innocuous; unlike the sandflies, mosquitoes which are looking for a blood meal. The last one and one that I take a particularly thin view of is a large bloodsucking fly! It looks like an ordinary fly but about four times the size. The first you know of its presence is a sharp stabbing pain somewhere on your body. When you swat it away it flies in a wide circle and uncannily returns to exactly the same spot it left, usually to carry on the drink of your blood. If you run it actually chases you! However they die easily and they are best handled by letting them land and swat them with one hit. They seem to be somewhat mesmerised by the prospect of drinking blood that they are quite easily killed.

Road and Bridge Building

Villages here are virtually cut off from other places except by single file paths through jungle, plantations, swamp and shore. For some time the Mwanimwaniu people have been pestered by me on the bridge issue because I did not want the tractor slipping down between the logs as has nearly happened a few times. So one morning I had to refuse Makelon his request to carry a load of firewood for the smokehouse until the bridge was repaired and that night I went to bed wondering the best way to get our folk inspired to the task.

Next morning I woke to an enthusiastic group of elders wanting to build the bridge. I guess it was the sight of the Kwila (Iroko) log

I had cut the day before at any rate they went for it full tilt for four days and at the end of last Monday we had two bridges built according to a pattern I gave them. The enthusiasm is not dead and some community leaders want to build the road all the way to the upper Sewatupwa some two and a half miles away. This road will help the community communicate and provide better access for people needing medical assistance at Mwatebu although I can see another use forthcoming for the tractor and trailer – ambulance service!



Judith crossing the new Bridge over the Bwasa Creek

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However as Papuans are motivated usually by the passion of the moment and I will have to wait until the next passion for road-building surfaces. Planning it in the usual manner so familiar to us of the west has to be worked at over a long period of time. When the passion rises they work extremely hard and then when the work for the moment is done they chill out and do nothing for a few days until next need arises.

We leave for England at a time of great downpours. In Milne Bay this is the 'wet' season until the end of July. However it is rarely dry here for any length of time and I am glad that we don't get the mud slides so common in other parts of the world. We will be in England on the 22nd June and you can call me on 07512-1243220.

Love and God's richest blessings

Guy and Colly

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