



Living Water Mission (Reg UK Charity 1012491)

Bwasa Village, Normanby Island, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea

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 . . ."

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NEWS FROM MILNE BAY

Well it is high time that you all heard from us as it is over a year now since I wrote, not that anyone wrote to me saying "Oi where's the News . . . then?" This last year has been a major season of change for us with many difficulties, challenges and blessings. First of all was the inner explosion that the Lord revealed to us that we must move from Bwasa to Silosilo in Western Suau. It was not immediately clear to us why this was necessary but the Lord showed us the reasons, many of which have become clear in the outcome of the mission and development program.

The Move

On the ministry side there has arisen among the people, an indifference to the things of God and an increasing lust to acquire by fair means or foul the equipment and tools of the mission. While maintaining an outward devotion to God everyone goes for *tapwalolo* (services) on Sunday but then they return to every wicked way throughout the week. (submarine Christianity) Those close to us at Bwasa in the Sigialu family are less affected but these people are from the surrounding villages. Colly has been working hard in the garden and produced a good yam harvest which one morning was raided and half her last harvest was stolen. One of our apprentices who attended BCC turned away from the Lord and started stealing tools from the workshop while he was still trusted. One teenager, locally known for thieving, was caught by Colly trying to break into our store room to steal tools. It turned out that he was sent by a man of one of the villages to steal tools. More frustrating was the fact that the local magistrate, having passed on the case of this man to be heard at Alotau and the teenager to community service, neither actually happened. Magistrates are paid £5 per month and village policemen £3.50 so we are not surprised, and one magistrate we know well says she is frustrated because the ADC in Esa'ala does not do his job in maintaining justice. Although many young people did turn to the Lord through BCC and our ministry, in the main, they came from other parts of the island.

From the development point of view it was always understood that the local villagers needed to have a 50/50 input to benefit from the aid package from ECF and initially this did happen with the concrete floor for the workshop. Then the gravy train of the mine had people thinking of getting something for nothing in the form of *kompensesin* especially with folk in

our area. Unearned income of this order usually proves disastrous to communities as we have mentioned in previous News'; as the funds are mostly squandered in profligate living rather than investing it in wealth-creating projects and sending good and talented young people to higher education. As of last week the mine site has closed and as soon as this was known the villagers in large numbers surged up the hill (a 1,500ft climb) to get their hands on the 'cargo' In short they were stealing and as an excuse saying they were following the example of the mine manager. A couple of days later the *kampani* and councillor were warning everyone of a visit by the policeman unless the goods were returned.



It was exactly a year ago that the Lord spoke to us at Suaialo. We were challenged by a statement of the local landowners that we would be moving to there area and that they would build a house for us! Our initial reaction was one of incredulity but an inner conviction showed us we could not dismiss this. The Lord told Colly that He had closed the door on our ministry at Bwasa and confirmed it with Rev 3:8 So we agreed that we needed to ask God for confirming assurance that we would still apply ourselves to setting up BCC

Behind me is Poupouri Is & on rhs is Sualilia

again for February (last) and in our prayer we agreed that if we had only five people we would still run the course at Bwasa. Despite announcement on Radio Milne Bay not one turned up for the course and this sealed it for us. No sooner was this known that we would be moving that the thefts started to increase. Security is very hard when you live in bush material buildings and we had to be very much on our guard. At a family meeting the community admitted that they put in too little into the development plan and acknowledged that most of the input was from us (and students of BCC).



It has been disappointing that our efforts to help people generate income had very little impact. The work we did on *Kehagu* the workboat belonging to Makelon but the fact that he had so completely placed her in the hands of a local storekeeper was a disastrous decision. I had surveyed the boat and prepared a list of things to make her safe as a commercial vessel but the manager put local teenagers on who only wanted to party on Jungle Juice and betel nut chewing. The

boat was put on the reef a couple of times and it is a miracle that it has survived this. I had lent some money of my own to help them but my input on safety and seamanship was not

welcome by the manager. At one stage he carried 70 people on her which I strenuously opposed. On that occasion a local councillor reported this to the marine authorities but they being civil servants don't get to work until 09.00 so they missed catching her in the act! Steps are in hand to recover the boat from him but much time flows under the bridge in village politics. It is a pity because she should be earning good money and provide four people with regular work.



Molly with fruit from our garden
our new location.

Anyway the penny finally dropped and we know that we must move to Silo Silo Bay. However, without a boat that is easier said than done. We have the workshop, tools, two small gensets, building materials, ministry books equipment and papers, our personal belongings not to mention the tractor and trailer to move. We hope to get cost-basis help from Kwato ministry at KB (we have supported them during the program for their operation at Kwato Island) and this way we should move the items to

There are a number of folk who would like to come with us including Miriam (one of our star students who we have mentioned before) folk from Misima who would like to come are Molly (Colly's last-born sister), Steven, Lin Lin and Nehemiah. Daniel our best boat-building apprentice has had a family drama with his family on the mainland and so there is a question over his further involvement. Sikken, Maisi and their children want to follow on after Sikken has finished the smaller workboat *Magisubu*.

Lema



Our apprenticeship project *Lema* has finally been launched although sadly Daniel had left us just before the launching.



We have a few pics here to give you a better idea of what she looks like. The top right



Under sail with Colly on the helm

shows her barely making a dent in the water but after pouring in 400kg of cement she was properly ballasted to carry her cutter rig (top left). I have been very pleased with her sailing ability and with a Yamaha 2.5 four-stroke outboard she manages



Ossy up the mast

5.5kts in a calm sea. *Lema* is my first attempt at design and I praise God she has turned out well. Although I know what I want from a boat, I crossed too many learning milestones to succeed would not have been possible without His inspiration. I won't deny that the books on boatbuilding helped me alot as did Luke Powell of Gweek chivvying me along on lofting but ultimately the shape and dimensions have to be found either from a set of plans or your own *Lema*



Showing off her fine entry

creativity. Some of the milestones were lofting, drawing lines and applying the theory and practice simultaneously of how to do this finally produced the lines from which we worked. By the time the plywood boards with the half-breadth and profile were stolen the main part of the boat had been built. Getting a grasp of how much ballast is needed which I had been seeking other builders but I only got nebulous answers and the books stopped at Archimedes principle of floatation. In the end I got a B&Q builders bag

and filled it with approximately the ballast I thought necessary to give *Lema* the stability to carry her rig and weigh it – result 400kg. On the sails we have been thrashing away to try to solve the problem of getting out Singer 147 to work without snarling up the bobbin line after a few stitches and in the end we used a 101 year old hand machine and a strait stitch to make the two headsails. *Lema* is cutter rigged with the jib set flying, I had to remove the mast and make rigging changes but she sails well for all that with very little leeway. In pic on the left you can see not only the fine entry at the bow but the cement ballast painted blue inside.

Steven and I attempted to sail to Alotau but the outboard bracket broke and I noticed that I had not sufficiently stayed to top of the mast to carry the jib. The top of the mast was bending in a 4-5 wind sufficiently to be a threat so we turned back after sailing about 10 miles. However she went very well and with no spray coming inboard at all. Off the wind she was very fast and had it not been for the wind dropping right off we would have been back in under



2 hours. So we removed the mast and fitted upper shrouds to take the tension of the jib and we made a new outboard bracket. As our rudder was stolen after being knocked off the boat at LW during the adjustment phase, I had to make a new one of those too. Now all is done and we are ready for another attempt in sailing to Alotau but I think we will do this in the New Year, hopefully before the *yalasi* kicks in. This, by the way, is the monsoon wind which hits us from the SW and can reach force 10 (50-55kts) when cyclones (hurricanes) develop in the Coral Sea mainly lasting for about two and a half months.

Schooner for the Mission



I did send some of you details of my visit to Florida to view the most excellent vessel for our ministry. So forgive me for repeating myself for the benefit of the rest of you. It is the first vessel since *Soteria* that I have been to visit as funds were made available for the purpose of survey. I carried out the survey in faith that God would provide us with funding at the right season and although we had the assurance the timing was not in our immediate favour (even if we had, we could not have coped with the delivery for some time to come) So the assurance is there

and she has been purchased by Stewart, a tugboat captain from Seattle. His dream is to sail the route of the US clippers from East to West around the Horn and I believe he is interested in our work too. At any rate I am sure he will take good care of the ship and we expressed our hope that he would consider us when he has completed his voyage. We would use her for three purposes (a) Mission transport and timber to Alotau. (b) Mission outreach to Milne Bay Province in Evangelism and BCC teaching . (c) Youth ministry in sail training. She has been in Christian ministry from new and we pray and have hope that Stewart will be happy to release her to us in the same or similar shape that I saw her last August. We also pray that Stewart has a successful trip from Florida to Seattle via the Horn.

England Visits

Most of you know that we visit my mother Machteld (Helen) who is 94; for five months over summer and during this time we seek out things that would be useful in the mission as well as giving her an enjoyable time in her last years. (last year she enjoyed a visit to Cornwall with us) Anyway I found an ancient Lister CS1 which weighs in at 330kg and will produce 6 hp/6kva which she kindly bought for us. I have fitted the alternator as can be seen from the pic. This old engine runs quietly and I was inspired to buy one because I remember seeing one at a slipway in Milne Bay which had been installed in 1938 and apart from the war years has been running through every night since. It is quiet, economical and can even heat our domestic water provided we keep the water jackets clean. We hope to load lots of other things for other missions too such as medical, clothing, tools, sewing machines and computers although we need to clarify some of the outlets and complete our registry as a



charity in PNG (we have been waiting on this for 4 years but they lost all the docs) So we await another container to carry everything , the last one came out at £6,000 but we hope the next one will be cheaper.

United Charismatic Mission, Misima Is.

Our relationship with the UCM in Misima is a warm one. They are passionate about being about God's business and they are something of a rarity for rural churches in PNG in that they regularly reach out to outlying areas sharing the Gospel and teaching the word. They have been using an outrigger canoe to sail over 20n miles of open water with up to 17 people on board so it was not surprising that the Lord gave me a dream about building a 26ft cutter for them. This will be our next boatbuilding project with a new set of apprentices.

However this is some way off yet as first we will need to build a house and auditorium at Sualilia before constructing the boatbuilding workshop. UCM will be able to look after and use the boat properly and we shall need to use our faith to get in the fastenings, fittings, equipment and a small motor for what is a considerably bigger boat than *Lema*.

UCM is unique among churches I know in PNG in that they also have a fully sponsored missionary working with Operation Mobilisation in Nepal. Of the sewing machines and bolts of cloth given to us by Tools With A Mission we gave 6 to UCM and immediately six of the local UCM churches took one machine each and began to make dresses for sale and raise some K2000 to send to Tony in Nepal. We have three charities that are of immense help to us when we can get a container that is, and they are Tools for Self Reliance from whom we have received most of our carpentry tools for the workshop and apprentices.

Computers for Charities who have given us computers which have provided computer access and training for many here. One for the school in Kelologia and another for the library they have just built and three for UCM in Misima, CMF fellowship in Misima to mention but a few. Tools with a Mission gave us 35 excellent Singer sewing machines together with bolts of cloth. All three of these charities take great care to restore each item and I am impressed by the love and labour shown by the army of helpers in each organisation.

Provisions



Colly on top of her garden above Steven and Stan

Colly is a passionate gardener but not in the English sense although she likes that too as we can see in the pic of her in my mother's garden. She has applied herself with great foresight in planting not only for our food but sufficient to seed a garden in Sualilia to begin BCC again should we get the same number of students. Gardens here are on the hillside at an angle and with diagonally cut shoots from bushes and small trees that would go straight through a man should he fall on one.

It would send the Health and Safety Executive into meltdown just to *see* it but it is quite normal here and so I took my life in my hands to look at Colly's handiwork and planning on the mountainside. Gardens on Duau and Misima are made from August in Misima and December in Duau and they are highly social occasions. A fair amount of planning is needed to put the word out in the community that your garden area has been cleaned and burned off and is ready for digging (men) and planting (women) and they all come round to do the work on the understanding of exchange that you will come round when their turn comes. They are usually made on the side of the mountains which can excusably be confused with a wall! Usually the immediate family women cook the food like a feast for everyone when the job is done. The job itself calls for people to work in the direct sunlight in about 40°C+ they begin at about 09.00 and stop at about 17.00. Invariably the gardening time is a time of exceedingly hard work. They tell me that the folk in Suau are better at business than gardening. Duau excel in yams and Misimas are very proud of their taro but they all plant tapioca, sweet potato (kaukau), plantains (cooking banana) sweet bananas; pineapples; pawpaws (papaya); pumpkins; water melons; and aibika.



Colly in an English country garden

Some time ago the folk from Damasi had a bride-price feast in which they brought a massive quantity of yams sufficient to cover a *sinebada* (senior lady) to her head while the Saribas who are similar to the Suau people brought trade store goods like rice, sugar, noodles, pigs, fish and chicken; all with great gusto and style as they competed to out-present each other. Anyway it is looking good for the future although we will need to transport a huge quantity of tubas to Suau which will be yet another challenge for us in getting and paying for a boat to carry them.

Ministry Hindrance

The UCM church in Misima invited us to teach four sessions on missions at their missions conference at Liak. We accepted the invitation and planned accordingly to get to Alotau (76 N miles away by sea) by the 12th Dec, to leave by boat to Bwagoia on Misima Is. (150 N miles by sea) So we prepared and the Lord gave me a great series on missions; how to respond, prepare and work as a missionary. We had planned to leave Bwasa on the 6th on *Kehagu* as the manager had all but given up and the boat needed repairs. In the event I affected a temporary repair to the failed sea-water pump (water seal failure) and my

suggestion that we be accompanied by *Sinali* for safety was accepted. On the appointed day *Sinali* went on her own without notice and the manager did not want to go in. On the 9th the manager agreed that we should make the attempt unaccompanied but I found the batteries absent and had to charge up and use our own and then discovered that the youths Matson had put in charge of the boat before had blown the diodes in the alternator with the resulting failure to be able to charge the batteries. I then carried our batteries to put on board and make a daylight run to Alotau when the manager changed his mind, with great drama, at the last minute with the result that we missed our connection in Alotau. On Thursday the *Samarai-Murua* front-loading barge turned up to collect things from the closing mine site and return them to Alotau and I contacted the manager who is the current MP for Samarai Murua, Mr. Gordon Wesley who gave me a green light to load our tractor, trailer and us to Alotau. We checked with the captain and everything was set. At about 18.30 the vessel left for Waioko about 5 miles away, to unload two excavators and then returned to about 2 miles offshore where we were waiting with all our gear ready to drive down the beach onto the vessel. Suddenly, in the darkening sky a lightning bolt seemingly struck her and then she was enveloped in a very dark cloud and obscured by heavy rain. When the rain cleared the barge had gone back to Alotau. I don't blame the captain as I can understand his hesitancy in coming to a small beach bounded by rocks with the threat of non-visibility.

We were despondent as we had all worked so hard in preparation to pack everything up now for the second time to unpack again. We prayed and asked the Lord about it and He showed us that we had been hindered by Satan. I was discouraged by this staggering revelation but he strengthened me in part by showing me 1 Thess 2:18 saying that as the prince of this world he has limited powers but ultimately he loses. There is a tendency for some Christian ministries to hide or obscure the negative events or setbacks that come their way, maybe they put a gloss on it being afraid that they may lose financial support but for whatever the reason I feel it best to reveal the challenges we face in the hope that readers will pray for us in getting assistance to overcome the present difficulties (cf Acts 12:5-12). While we don't understand many of the reasons behind what happens in the spiritual realm, one day we will 1 Cor 13:12. Other missionaries and recorded biblical and secular history shows that some frightful things happened to many of God's people but we have to press on as we see so clearly in 2 Corinthians 4:6-10. Some Christians seem to set unreasonable expectations of an easy trouble-free life but if we are active about God's business then the powers of darkness take note and seek to hinder and trouble us but with such people who live for God are usually prepared for the battle 2 Tim 3:12-13. To such people may I recommend John Fox's *Book of Martyrs*. Even devoted Calvinists during the Wesleyan revival had to depart from their Augustinian view of God's sovereignty to carry out their ministries only to press in and lay hold of the victory He had for them anyway. Belief in Calvinistic theology will result in a spiritual passivity to soulwinning and mission as they believe that God has predestined some for salvation and others to eternal loss; this belief is merely man trying to

grasp the secret foreknowledge of God on his own terms with this behaviour as a result. They sing lovely songs and have some great loving fellowship but they don't grasp the importance of the Great Commission at individual level and the importance of the function of the human will submitted to the obedience of the Holy Spirit. There is little doubt that God trains our hands for war and few are the wars that are won without some great battles. Incidentally if any of you would like us to speak at your churches then simply call Cameron to arrange a suitable time or contact us when we visit England in April.

Prayer and Intercession

Speaking of battles please pray as watchmen in Isaiah 62:6-12. Our needs are apparent in this *News* and anything the Lord reveals to you. Please pray also in the Spirit and again if the Holy Spirit gives you the understanding (1 Cor 14:15).

Thanks

In closing I would like to say a particular thank you to my friend Chris Abel and his wife Barbara who have been long standing supporters of myself and our ministry in every way. When we go in to Alotau it is he and Barbara who put us up; and not only that but also allow us to use his vehicles and sometimes those of his company Masurina Ltd. When we are offshore he receives our mail and gets spares for us. All this together with his work trying to bring equity into a self-serving and rapacious community let alone running the company and preparing to hand it on to his youngest son Jeff. Chris grandfather ; Charles William Abel (1862-1930) came with the London Missionary Society to Kwato in 1891 and set up the mission there. In my view its record stands as the most successful Christian mission in the country until its diminution in the 1960's. Chris has held on the Christian values of his forebears and heads up a close extended family in Alotau and in Australia. His oldest son Charlie carries on that tradition representing Alotau and the East Milne Bay mainland in Parliament as the Minister for National Planning.

We hope you have an excellent Christmas and New Year. Jesus is the Reason for the Season so be sure to share your Lord and Saviour with your family and friends. It is not long before He returns.

All our love and every blessing to you

Guy & Cally

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