

Bwasa Village, Normaby Island, Milne Bay Province. Contact while in UK until 12/9/13- 0044 (0)812570

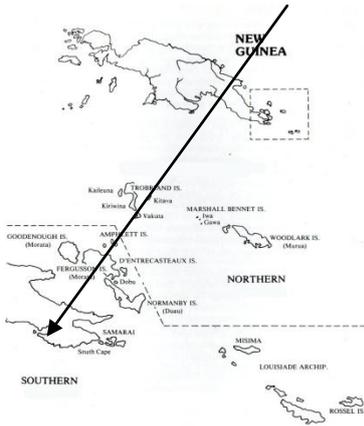
Email: guy@livingwatermission.org or Cameron on: team@yourskipper.co.uk

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; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.

News from Milne Bay

So much has happened since the last News, but for now I will focus only on the immediately relevant issues. For one thing the Lord has told us to move to the Western side of Suau and since then we have had a lot of drama with attacks of sickness, break-ins, computer failure and a lot more besides but God has delivered us from every assault the enemy has made.

The Lord, caught us totally by surprise, by showing us over Christmas through a local family, while we were visiting Suaialo Village; that we were to move into



this Silo Silo Bay area, so we checked out if this really was His will for us. The people in the area have shown overwhelming support for us to move there and have given us land on the West side of the bay; God's will was confirmed for us by a number of checks. In Duau at Bwasa, despite the support of Makelon and his family, the surrounding community over the last four years have shown themselves keen for the physical benefits of our mission but indifference to the Gospel. We can only conclude

that God felt it was time for us to move. Colly got a scripture from Rev 3:7 through which we felt that we could do no more work at Duau and that new work would open in Suau; this had already happened in the New Year as we had been invited to preach at the United Church (Methodist) in Silo Silo with 23 decisions for Christ. So our present efforts are now geared to moving. Villagers are presently building a house for us and we also have the immense task of moving our container of equipment, tractor, trailer, 17ft cutter and personal belongings to Western Suau. Please pray for this provision for us.



Schooner

Everyone knows and God has heard our prayers for a vessel. It is not so much a particular vessel as one which will suit our needs and the plans that God has for the area. The last boat we prayed about was an 81' ketch but without actually seeing it we do not always know whether it is best suited for the work. We came to England for our annual visit to my 93 year-old mother and visited Cornwall and the boatbuilders who gave us the plans of the big cutter. Luke Powell was away but Jonny Albrecht was there and as soon as I met him he insisted that I check out a 68' three-masted schooner based in Florida.

From what I could learn from the owner and the photographs it appears to be the best and most suitable yet. Her name is *Star of the Sea* and she is 68' LOA, 15'6" in Beam and 6' draft. She can carry a cargo of 20 tons and has appropriate accommodation for youth ministry.



Until six months ago she was engaged in youth ministry and relief work to Haiti following the devastating earthquake in the region. The owner and his wife started a ministry for young people in SW Florida called New Horizons and they are very keen for a ministry, such as ours, to purchase the vessel. If you visit the website you will find more details about her under the Prayer heading.



Anyway she is fully equipped with all necessary equipment, GPS, radar, VHF and SSB radio and safety equipment. She has been massively overhauled and meets the requirements set by the US Coastguard.

I immediately started praying about her and felt two things in my spirit. This was to proceed with hope that this would be the vessel and secondly that I needed to go and survey her. This would mean flying to Florida at the height of

the holiday season which is expensive. The first funds came in for this I am booked to fly to Tampa in Florida on the 17th July to the 24th to carry out the survey. The hope has since become faith and I believe God needs this vessel for the work He has given us.

Why a Sailing Schooner?

The last four years in Bwasa was plagued with a lack of transport and that we need a vessel to work between the islands and Alotau was made painfully clear to us. I have also learned more about the needs of young men in the village for real purpose and God's plan for their lives. At present many of them degenerate into a destructive pattern that robs them of any hope and substitutes it for shallow selfish pleasure. They develop a lifestyle that induces derision by the community including young women who they so hope to impress. They wear their trousers so low that one fears they might fall down; they drink jungle juice (a dangerous locally made alcoholic drink) and like to carry a ghetto blaster on their shoulder with a view to impressing girls. LBJ's for short (Loosebum, Boombox & Junglejuice) they stand in need of catching to prevent their further fall into a useless life. I have known many of these young men as individuals and they often have great talent and ability. Given the foundation of God's word, a lot of love, plus a willing spirit on their part with wisdom, discipline and training they can fulfil that plan. I have experience of training them for carpentry and boatbuilding as well as teaching them God's word.



Our schooner will meet the essential need in males (especially) for adventure. We will firstly train them in the basic concepts of God's word; which includes



the new birth; introduction and baptism in the Holy Spirit; and how to live a life pleasing to God. After this they will enrol for a voyage from one to two weeks in duration in which they will test what they have known and face the reality of life at sea away from the environment they presently know. They will learn team skills with new people

and how to work together under discipline. There is a saying that 'all work and no play makes Jack a dull lad' and we feel that our sea-going experience will be

anything but dull and afterwards these young people will be ready for training to help them into a useful future and make a godly contribution into society be it in the village or town.

It is a clear responsibility of all who are called into the ministry to preach and teach the Word of God. If this is done according to His way then the impact of this will be felt in society. People listening, obeying and loving God will not easily want to fall into sin such as stealing, crime, lying, witchcraft and corruption to name but a few; but they will want to please God instead. All the aspirations of the secular world such as skills training, computer training, business development, education for both young and old can be realised in Jesus. That is how a community can develop with the resultant higher quality of life. This will simply be a by-product of a healthy relationship with the living God. Hence when the Lord told us in Matthew 6:33 to put His Kingdom first He was not on an ego trip; He knew it is for our benefit because of the spiritual polarity it gives us in this world. It is essential if we are to realise this truth while we live on the earth.

So then, the schooner is simply part of the overall plan and I fully expect that we shall relate Christian churches, as the Lord intended in John 17 with many believers participating on this basis. Firstly we need to buy it then to select four crew and train them, as well as securing funding for bringing the schooner back to Milne Bay includes paying for the crew to fly to Florida on crew visas. Lastly, begin the journey to the Panama Canal and the voyage across the Pacific Ocean a journey of about 3 to four months. The entire operation including the purchase will be about K400, 000. Those readers who understand prayer please join us as we ask the Lord not only for the financial resources but also the wisdom in handling the selection of crew; voyage preparations and favour for our passage in addition to covering for the absence of everyone for the duration of the exercise. Of course, for me too, as I go to Florida to meet the owners Bob and Ellen Nichols and survey the ship. Those of you who have resources or proper access to them and who believe they wish to invest in this work of God in the lives of Papuans in the Suau area and of Milne Bay Province then either contact me or Cameron Springthorpe at the address above.

When I have completed the survey and report I will get it up on the LWM website.

With love and all Blessing in the wonderful name of Jesus

Guy & Polly