

the Childs Family

GOD'S SERVANTS TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MARCH 2012



Count it All Joy!

Have you ever taught a lesson to someone, only to have the Lord test you to see if you will follow your own advice? Just recently, I preached on being thankful for trials, because they make us to be more like Christ. The following Monday morning, we all got in our truck to head to town. The roads were dry, and it looked like a great day for driving. About a half hour away from the village, some clunking noises made me stop the truck to find out what was happening. Two of the U-bolts that hold the axle to the springs had come off, and the whole axle was starting to come off! Fortunately, our phone was able to get a signal from where we were, and I called some mechanics in town to come help us. I thought that since it was a 1 1/2 hour drive to town, they might be there in about 2 hours. Two hours passed, then three . . . four . . . after six hours, they arrived! During that



time, we had many opportunities to talk to the nearby villagers. Some saw our plight and brought us bananas, sugar cane, and even a pot of sweet potatoes and greens to eat!

When the mechanics had fixed the truck, we thought that our adventures were over. However, on the way to town (in the dark), our headlights started

flickering, then they went out completely. Even our emergency flashers would not work! What a blessing it was for the mechanic to be able to come, find the loose connection and rejoin it so we could drive back with lights! We finally arrived in town eleven hours after leaving the village--a trip that normally takes two hours.

On Tuesday, we took our truck to the workshop, and were still laughing over our experience on Monday. Apparently, the Lord wanted us to be tested a little more. On Tuesday afternoon, Lauren got a rash which began to spread over her entire body. The blisters and rash were incredibly itchy, and it was hard for Lauren to sleep. However, by morning, it was becoming hard for her to swallow because her tongue and throat were swelling. At 6 a.m. we went to see the American doctor in town, and he started giving epinephrine to help. It seemed to help her, but every two hours when the epinephrine would wear off, the severe rash and swelling would



come back, and her blood pressure would drop drastically. Instead of getting better as the day progressed, it got worse. Several times, Lauren's body was in such a state of shock that the doctor was afraid she would die. Late afternoon, he said that we needed to do an emergency medical evacuation to take her to a better hospital in Australia. The Lord provided an airplane large enough to fly our entire family directly to Cairns, Australia. The doctor was on the plane monitoring Lauren as we went. When we arrived, an ambulance took Lauren to the emergency room. As I am writing this letter, Lauren is out of the hospital and feeling much better. It will take some time for her body to fully recover, but we praise the Lord for protecting her life!

We plan to stay in Australia just long enough to find out what caused Lauren's allergic reaction. If Lauren were to have a reaction again when we are in the village, the doctor said that we may not have enough time to get her to town.

Our House Project is Complete!

Many of you have been praying for God to help us as we finish building our house. A couple weeks ago, we moved into our new home! It is wonderful to have running water, sinks to drain the water, and a toilet! We lived just fine in the grass hut for over a year, but we are thankful for the luxury of a nicer house.

God is Building His Church

We appreciate your continued prayers for our people here in Tirokave. We are thankful that our Sunday morning attendance has grown to around 60. Keep praying for those who hear the Word to respond to Christ and accept Him as their Saviour.

In the last couple of weeks, we moved our church meeting place to the property where our house is located. The people are in the process of building a more permanent church building. We are now centrally-located in the village of Tirokave. Our prayer is that the new location will make it easier for more people to come to hear the preaching.

People Need to Read the Bible

We are planning to start a small literacy school within the next couple of weeks. When we came to PNG, I had no plans of teaching people to read. However, can you imagine trying to stay close to Christ without being able to read your Bible? Most of our congregation have no clue how to read or write, and they want to be able to read God's Word for themselves. Pray for me, as this will be the first time I have ever taught people to read!

Thank you once again for upholding us in prayer. Without your prayers and God's amazing power, we could accomplish nothing here in PNG.

In Christ,

Ben Childs

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