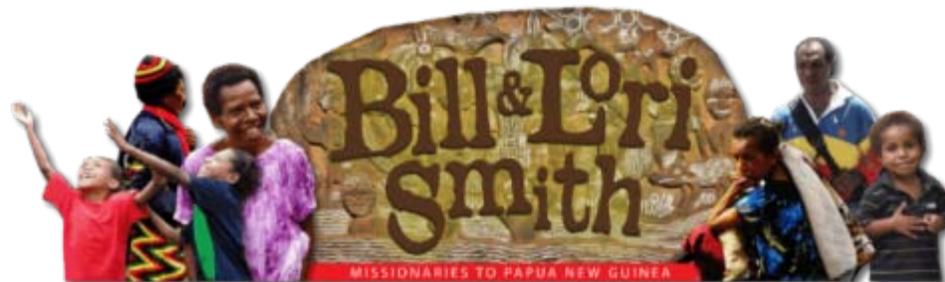


Thankful Hearts



Dec 1 2013 [www.billandlorismithpng.com](http://www.billandlorismithpng.com)  
HEARTS

THANKFUL



**Aaron** is my sweet little “chorus boy”. Words have been hard for him, but God has given him the gift of music. He is very rarely not singing or humming songs of praise to our God. Our trade language version of “Rejoice in the Lord Always” is one of his favorites. On the rare occasions that Joyce is fussy, he is right there cooing that song to her helping her to be “happy” again. [He is a boy with a thankful heart!](#)

Truly we have so much to be thankful for, it is NOT hard. This past week of enjoying fellowship with our dear national coworkers, it has been truly a time of counting the many blessings in MY LIFE that many, if not most, of our brothers and sisters here do NOT have.

So many burdens shared, cried over, and prayed about this past week lay heavy on my heart.

One of our **dear graduate families** have a mentally disabled daughter. She is now a teenager. They have loved and cared for her through the many years, but she is now physically stronger than both her parents and is putting herself and her family in danger at times. She has seizures, but fights taking her medication. It is a very hard time for them! PLEASE pray for **Albert and Wendy**. We are so blessed with healthy kids.

Another family is more remote. They have been faithful in a very hard place. Her **sixth baby was born after just 6 months of pregnancy** and he has really struggled. That type of baby here, where early intervention with medical care is not possible, often struggles with mental and physical problems as result of their premature birth. Pray for **Pastor Heron , Doreen** and their family. Medical care is not readily available and their baby has great needs. WE have been so blessed with our little boys that had issues at birth and afterwards. Aaron and Amo, despite their minor developmental and learning needs, are in good health and strong happy boys.

**Pata** was able to come with his dad for their graduation. He was unable to walk into the graduation but his daddy carried him and held him on his lap for the entire celebration and ceremony. We so enjoyed getting time with their family later that day as they came to celebrate Thanksgiving with our family. Pata ate and ate! HE loved our traditional American food. His parents were happy as they have struggled to get him to eat much and he has become so thin and weak. **His left side was still weak and walking is hard** but he is working on getting that side functional again. Amo was so sweet, helping his dear friend and playing with him. With some of our missionary team mates unable to come, GOD opened the door for us to have some of our national families join us. What a joy that American traditions can be celebrated by all believers as THANKFULNESS is a part of WHAT we enjoy in Christ most of all. Please pray for Pata. He returns to the cancer ward in two weeks when they will give him a review and make the decision if his treatments will continue or if they have done all they can for him and his situation. The peace Nicodemus, Jumba and Pata have is such a blessing. THEY KNOW WHOM they have believed in...and HE IS ABLE either through life or even death to cure the disease of their son and give him a new body! They are ready for which ever is God's plan trusting that will be best!

We are so thankful that our family, and Amo especially, have been able to get to know Pata and his family. What a joy to ease their struggles a little and let them know we all are praying for them and love them.



Parents struggling with kids rebelling from GOD, Pastors struggling to get enough money to meet their families needs and pay for schooling and clothes and food, church issues, fighting and violence...hurts. Many tears were shed, but overall the same words followed the heartfelt cries...."it will be worth it all, when we see Jesus!" It is hard to see the many in need as God has so faithfully provided for our kids and family through the years. As we struggle now with our son Andrew to see GOD provide for the expensive aviation training, we KNOW He will come through one bill at a time! Each time someone asks me why I work so hard in the clinic for NOTHING when I could be making SO MUCH MONEY doing the same thing...why my very gifted administratively , teacher husband does all he does without financial benefit when he could make BIG BUCKS in some business or school...we know it will ALL be worth it when WE see Jesus, too. Even as hard as it is to be so far away from the girls, our folks and especially our grand-treasures, it will ALL be WORTH it someday! We will SEE HIM face to face!



What a joy it is to just lavish a little love on our faithful heroes in the ministry...our **"GBBC children" grown up carrying huge burdens for Christ**. We had over 80 precious ladies crammed into our home each day sharing fellowship over food and cold drinks, crying and praying and fellowshiping together. Bill had Pastors coming constantly all day every, day just to unload their burdens and seek prayer for their many needs. He had to work late in the night and early morning hours to get done all the administrative things needed for graduation, but what a huge honor he felt to be

able to be the “Aaron” in the lives of our brother “Moses” fighting battles by faith in hard places. We are tired...and Lori’s foot KILLS....but it was a great week. Sending out this year...while honoring three of the Pastors that were with us who have all been faithful in ministry 20 years since their graduation...just reminded us WHY we are doing this! LASTING FRUIT. We pray for these 22 now launched into ministry to be used as vessels of honor for GOD, too.

Through the week we saw GOD provide. It was harder for pastors to travel this year as fuel prices have exploded here and the cost of public transportation is much more as well. Infrastructure decline with rough and dangerous roads made coming a challenge, too. Our numbers of attending Pastors and wives were less this year, but the spirit of excitement was palpable as the dream of our expansion of GBBC was shared with them all. We are seeing GOD explode this huge project. Amidst difficulties, our people are dreaming of a place of quality Christian education for their kids. The kids are the future of change...our hope. The applications for next year are flooding in...GOD is breaking down barriers and bringing a refreshing unified spirit with these changes.

As we prayed last week, God provided great rain each night and sun each day. It was perfect. As we prayed GOD answered very specifically each detail of our conference and graduation week. It never ceases to amaze us that GOD cares about all the tiny details of our lives.

It has been exciting to see how GOD has also provided for our family.

\* Holiday times are always hard when oceans, and indeed a half a world, separate us from our kids, parents, grand kids...loved ones. But, All of our girls had family to enjoy THANKSGIVING with them. Though their mommy and daddy are so far away, GOD has blessed them with wonderful families through marriage (and engagement!) to help as they miss OUR family. That made this mama’s heart happy. My girls are loved. WE enjoyed having all our boys together HERE with us. WE are blessed.

\*GOD has enabled us to make the **first Mega payment** (tools and flying now kick in!) for Andrew’s aviation training. One down....nine to go for this upcoming year! WE are eager to see what GOD will do with Andrew and his desire to serve the Lord as a missionary pilot. The huge bills are NOT a problem for our BIG GOD! Pray for **Andrew** as his mind and heart are full of many ideas to sort and pray over since he has begun his time here. HE has had great opportunities flying with a church planting missionary pilot as well as working here at the Hangar of NTM aviation these past weeks. Now he is going to work around our campus getting things done for us before he returns to the USA after Christmas. Boy has it been great having him here. Every minute is cherished as a blessing from the Hand of GOD.



\*WE have just **three weeks until our very needed week away on the coast of PNG!** **PRAY for GOD to provide the finances needed for that time of rest.** If we don’t go apart, we truly will fall apart! Palm and coconut trees, hot humid

salty ocean breezes.....some of the many blessings of serving the LORD on a tropical Island! Sorry...don't mean to rub it in while many of you struggle with ice and snow!



**It has been excited to see how GOD has provided for our ministry.**

\* God has provided K700 just this past week as for the [expansion of our school](#). Our national Church folks sacrificing, Pastors sacrificing...our people are excited to HOLD OUR HANDS as we progress at GBBC.

\*God is [providing for camp](#). WE have an opportunity to get our meat from a larger distributor...which should save us a lot of money. (No pig BUTTS this year!) Pray as we start to purchase things needed for camp...five weeks and counting. Our camp devotional book is now written and we are getting all our "ducks" in order. Things are getting exciting. We are having our kids here start to express interest in pre-registration...PRAY HARD for the right kids with the right hearts and the SPIRIT to move!

\*\* If you are interested in helping kids with their [camp fees](#), for \$30 you can [sponsor a kid coming to camp and also provide for a church project as we make them work for their camp fees in church ministries](#). please give to [www.abwe.org](http://www.abwe.org) PNG Camp account 0774013-011

\*\*make sure you like the [GBBC youth camp 2014](#) Camp Facebook page to keep up with what is happening at Camp 2014!

We have THANKFUL HEARTS. God has been SO very gracious to us. He provides, sustains us and the many that work with us, and He enables us to keep on going day by day as we follow HIS plan for us here in PNG. We are so thankful for the many that are here with us through prayer and support. We are truly blessed.

[Please continue to pray :](#)

1) these last weeks of the year tend to be our most hectic at the [clinic](#). As the government hospital shuts down a lot of their services over the holidays our patient load explodes. PRAY for us to find the needed medical supplies to keep up with the needs.

2) PRAY for our [YOUTH Camp , Jan 13-18th](#). Pray for God's PROVISION (money, food, water), POWER (for ready hearts and God's direction for all those speaking) and PLENTY OF KIDS to come.

3) For [Lilian and Pata](#) as they battle cancer.

4) For the ministry at Lusilo. Rainy season brings much challenge in getting UP that mountain road each week. PRAY for our safety and for the provision of a full time national pastor to minister with those dear ones at the TOP of the mountain!

5) for the **expansion of GBBC** as we start making preparation for the new programs next year. Pray for our students going out on their holiday to be faithful and for God to supply their school fees for next year. PRAY for the students staying back on campus during their break as well. We are thankful for each one GOD allows us to impact through our Bible College ministry...and as they go out into ministry.

[Please pray for the needed funds right now to do necessary maintenance on the GBBC campus during the school holiday- \\$10,000](#)

6) It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas here at the Smiths in PNG. Though sweating while decorating for Christmas and making Christmas cookies still seems odd, even after over TWO decades here (I'm a Minnesota girl), the outreach of the message of CHRISTMAS does not change with climate. We are getting excited to see what GOD will do over the upcoming Christmas Season...PRAY

Ministry was never promised to be easy. We are called to carry a cross as we follow Christ. Pain, sacrifice, shame, blood and tears spilt come with that deal. BUT, truly there is no greater blessing and no more thankful hearts when we see the lasting fruit and the fresh crop of young strong graduates we have had the joy of impacting venture out to war. Ministry may not be easy but it is very fulfilling and satisfying. "He is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose" Jim Elliot AMEN!

No reserves, no retreats, NO REGRETS!

Bill, Lori the boys and Joyce.

[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

*Copyright © 2013 ABWE, All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)