

Pineapples of praise [www.abwe.org](http://www.abwe.org)



December 28 2014 *(links to help are at the bottom of email- thank you)*

WE are in the peak of **pineapples season** here in PNG. The burning hot sun is ripening the juicy, candy sweet fruit, to golden perfection. YUM! WE eat Pineapple almost with every meal and when the heap (I have 10 huge ones right now on my counter) goes down, my sweet patients or friends bring more. Not a bad problem I must say. BUT this week while cutting yet another pineapple, it hit me...the picture of this fruit...so much like life. **OUTSIDE the sharp crown and prickly exterior** can be enough to keep one from **exploring the sweet, juicy, fragrant INSIDE** just waiting to be enjoyed.



GOD brings some things into our lives...well many this past year it seems...that on the outside look daunting at least. HUGE problems, great loss and pain that can overwhelm us, yet as we choose to enter into the trial in HIS strength and carry the burden WITH Him shouldering the greater load, the sweet, satisfying refreshment we find makes that trial truly and ultimately become a blessing beyond measure.

Reading this past week in Ephesians 2:10, **I was reminded of the Truth that I am HIS workmanship**. I am God's project! HE is working in and through my life to transform me into the image HE desires...the image of HIS SON (Romans 8:28-29). While studying I came upon a jewel of knowledge. The word translated into Workmanship is "poiema", the **Greek from which we get POEM**. I am HIS POEM in the making! I love poems! They express our hearts...I am God's creative and artistic creation! WOW. My life is a series of HIS heart being woven and spun into my desires and responses to all I face in this world. It may look dark and overcast but the rainbow of hope and the bright sun will soon be spun into the mix because He knows my frame...my heart...and He promised never to bring more than I can deal with in HIS strength.

As we close the chapter this week on the year of 2014, with all the pain and joy mixed together in God's perfect orchestration, we prepare for what is coming next as we wait anxiously and faithfully for His promised return.

Our Christmas felt a bit out of the "norm" this year to be sure. TO be honest, it really did not feel very festive at first. Esta's really difficult week of illness, followed by the emotional and physical struggle of intense grief with her loss impacted us more than we could have ever imagined. IT was so hard to really do ANYTHING to get ready for Christmas as our hearts were just hurting so much, yet two little boys needed mommy and daddy to remind them of the amazing JOY of the BIRTH of CHRIST. IT was just a huge struggle with mind over heart...decision not to let feelings of sadness dictate our actions.



In the midst of the struggle, the **pineapple of this whole situation truly became apparent**. We had rejoiced and mourned.... Sang praises and wept with a village. **Esta's family** struggled with us through these past three months of her life. The ups and downs. The hospital stays, surgeries and recoveries' We all watched her blossom then become destroyed by the deadly virus attack on her sweet body. THAT connected us...exactly what we had prayed for in the beginning....with her family and village.

The week of **special meetings at Lower Bena brought MANY of Esta's family to worship with us**. Even her daddy and Moses's daddy came each service. WE saw people make decisions to come to Christ. WE had the opportunity to share the GOSPEL to the huge groups each night (Over 200 Christmas Eve and Day!) to very listening ears. Our sweet STAR...our baby girl Esta....remains a light of hope for her people. The comet of her life has and is making differences. Hard to be sure...but so sweet and satisfying when we look from eternities perspective. THANK YOU GOD for weaving her into my life poem! I will be grateful for eternity.



The **pineapple of Clinic** remains ever present. Not being able to get away this year, every day sick people find their way to our door. I think that is good for us for now as we battle still with the desire to just retreat into a hole and let the hurts overwhelm us. Helping and serving is the best medicine for grief!

One elderly woman came this week with a hand so full of nasty infection it literally looked like a ball. The pain was overwhelming. I had to cut open and drain the massive infection. I felt so badly as hands (palms) are so very sensitive, the pain of the procedures really should have been dealt with under general anesthesia, but she wanted ME to help her not the hospital and I have no surgical training nor facilities. SO...we just got through it. I had tears streaming down my face at the end...she was restraining herself from shooting off the bed during the procedure...but once we were DONE...the

wound was irrigated clean and the nastiness drained out and strong pain medicine given...the relief was great. She is looking and feeling so much better. **I got the typical, "I love you so much I am going to eat you alive"** from her as she squeezed the gizzards out of me. Getting through that hard outside the inside of the situation is much sweeter for her. I shared the illustration with her after things were calmed down again of the danger of sin...how much it hurts us and makes us sick and brings death. OH how wonderful we feel to be cleaned and washed by the blood of the Lamb! Praying for Hereme to come to HIM!

Broken arms from Christmas games....cuts and bruises that needed care....vomiting and diarrhea causing misery in this time where we should be able to eat and enjoy....body pains...babies coming...so many opportunities to reach into lives that are needy...cut through the ugly, sharp pain and bring sweet and refreshing love based care.

**Pineapples.** Pray that we can touch lives with HIS LOVE and through us they See CHRIST!

As we close out the 2014 calendar with it's hard and sweet moments, and open the new 2015 one waiting for our life stories to be written upon it's pages we do so with hope and joy and praise.

I will not seek to know the future years  
Nor cloud today with dark tomorrows  
fears.  
Instead I ask clear light from Heaven to show  
How each step by step my pilgrimage  
should go.

-Anon.

No restraints, no retreats...NO REGRESTS!! ONE step at a time on the Path of HIS CALLING!

Please keep praying this week:

\*Pray for **our kids as they all travel to Grandma and Grandpa Sheldon's house** this week. Rachel and Rodney were speaking



at a possible prospective ministry this past weekend (PRAY HARD ABOUT THAT ONE!!) and will drive up to NY where the other three kids are already there. WE miss them SO MUCH. IT is somehow harder this time of the year. WE rejoice seeing the many pictures of families all gathered. WE are not jealous, truly, as we rejoice with those rejoicing...but we sure WISH we could be with our family, too. PRAYING for internet making SEEING them available . WE will go camp out in town for a while to try their better internet but prayer can make a stronger connection than any of our attempts!

**\*Pray for camp now just weeks away.** WE have much



to do and great anticipation for GREAT THINGS GOD will do in the lives and hearts of the kids that come. PRAY for a great number of kids...for adequate supplies of food...for GOOD health (I have had a few kids from a few Christmas camps come really sick..not good!)...and great responses to GOD'S Spirit!! (it is not too late IF you would like to help some kids get to camp let us know...\$30 per kid for the week will enable them to come and their work to earn that help with help their local church!!)



\*Pray for our **continued outreach at Lower Bena**. Bill will be going to Sydney Australia in February to have surgery on his hand to fix the bone that has healed in the wrong position. Until then, he is still unable to travel on rough roads. WE will continue to be working at Lower Bena at least until this time. WE are seeing the timing of Esta's death and the shift of our attention to the area of her family as God's perfect timing, so none of this is without plan or purpose we know. WE are praying to see GOD make a huge impact now "at such a time as this"...in Esta's family and village! PRAY GOD will use us at Lower Bena!!



\***PRAISE GOD for the container that made it safely here the day before Christmas Eve..** all the items arrived safely without damage. WE paid really high customs fees and truly have no idea of the breakdown of fees yet as the payment had to proceed paperwork...so pray for all the financial details to still work out...**BUT IT IS HERE.** WE were bruised, exhausted and very stiff for Christmas morning, but our home was in order and we had a warm family Christmas with the many blessings so many gave us to help in our ministry here. (All the ladies have already come to check out the new carpets people shared with us...I had wall to wall bodies as they all slept on the soft "new to us" rugs!! Every chair has been tried and "approved"...they all said that you all gave us America to enjoy here in PNG...ha! Thanks for all your gifts of love. I had only one bed sheet for each of the boys' beds that had not been eaten by the SUN...now we have several changes and blankets and towels too that are not shreds! THANKS!!) Our National brothers and sisters just came and wept with joy for all GOD had blessed all of us with! Wish you all could have been here to watch the celebration your acts of generous love brought! TO GOD BE THE GLORY! CHRISTMAS TWICE.

**\*We praise Lord for so many of you that have sent notes of love and encouragement.** As we have cut through the really rough and painful "skin" of our mourning Esta, we are seeing so much sweet and fragrant fruit from her death that our pain is easing. PINEAPPLES OF PRAISE! Thanks for standing with us through this



hard time! WE are so blessed with many that shared our burden as the LORD carried this yoke for us all.

**PRAY FOR GOROKA BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE**- Pray for God's wisdom and direction as we seek HIS direction for expansion. Pray for God's provision in HIS Timing.

"We are not the ones that cure...we are the ones that care. Only GOD can cure . HE has called us to be HIS hands and feet and mouth. He only desires that we be available"...

"HIS WILL NOTHING MORE NOTHING LESS..NOTHING ELSE!"

Bill, Lori the boys and Moses (Esta in our hearts!)

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE LAND OF PINEAPPLES AND PRAISE!

---

Youth camp link: <http://www.abwe.org/give/online/name/Youth%20Camp-0774013-011>

GBBC Expansion link

<http://www.abwe.org/give/online/name/GBBC%20Expansion%20Project%20-%200774413>

Numonohi Christian Academy:- <http://usa.ntm.org/teach-positions-available>

Clinic ministry <http://www.abwe.org/give/online/name/Bill%20&%20Lori%20Smith-0112863-020>

Bill's trip to Australia for hand surgery

<http://www.abwe.org/give/online/name/Bill%20&%20Lori%20Smith%20-%200112863-001>

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

*Copyright © 2014 ABWE, All rights reserved.*

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