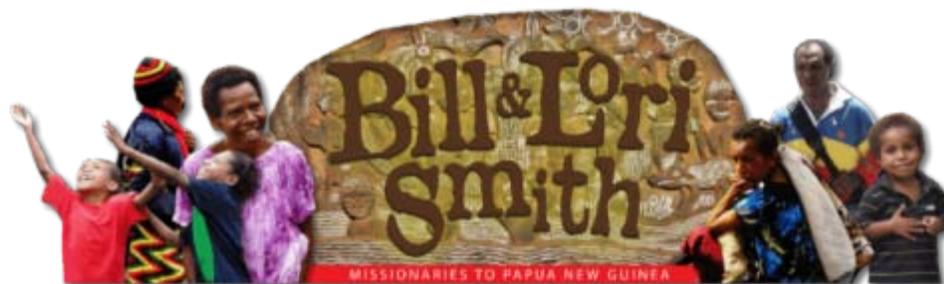


Hurting & Hope



February 9 2014

GBBC expansion video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4V8l8UoPCU>

HURTING AND HOPE



I said good bye to my dear friend **Lilian** this week. It has been one of the most challenging times I remember in our over 25 years of ministry. How can one be hurting so deeply and yet so joyful all at once...only through CHRIST and HIS HOPE. There is no sting or victory in death.

Last week, we visited Lilian in her home on Monday. She was so very weak and her pain truly overwhelming her. I brought her the stronger pain medications but was very concerned with her situation. Unable to even get up and walk she was totally incapacitated with her illness now. We knew death would be soon but my heart just bled when I saw only four little children were there to take care of her. NO adults were present to care for her...she was truly totally abandoned now in the ultimate time of her need. Even her biological mother left her alone to suffer. I began to pray earnestly that GOD would not allow her to die alone...and that HE would not allow her children to watch her die. OUR gracious GOD answered both requests when on Thursday morning He miraculously gave my dear friend her last burst of Strength! She said goodbye to her children, and got herself ...somehow...to my door. Her phone had no charge or units to call...she just came and literally fell into my arms a mass of skin and bone, misery and pain. I got her bathed, fed and tenderly tucked her into "her bed" at our house. Her daughter Cecilia came with her ...unwilling to leave her mommy. Such a sweet girl. I knew in my heart Lilian had come to me to die. Her pain very intense, I gave her a pain injection which sent her into blissful sleep. Four hours later her breathing changed...I knew her time of the finish line of this painful race was near the end. HOPE was now in sight for my dear friend. I held her, loving her to the very end. Her heart was strong as she was still so young, but at 5pm I told her to just let go of this pain body, relax and let herself go into the presence of her Lord and Savior. She smiled....took her last breath...and at 5:10 pm I pronounced her death. We had told her family that her time was near but they did not come until after she was gone. BUT....SHE DID NOT DIE ALONE! I had a great time of cuddles

and prayers with Cecelia before bringing her into the room. I reminded her that mommy was not in pain any more...she was with Jesus and whole and happy again. I stayed with her until her daddy and family arrived. We hugged, cried together and I reminded her that she now knew Jesus and HE would never leave her! HER CHILDREN DID NOT WATCH HER DIE...Cecelia was happily playing with Aaron and Able when her mom graduated to glory.

Within an hour of Lilian's death, our home was filled with more than 50 wailing hopeless people. NOW that she was GONE they came to her side. Their cries of mourning and tears were just unbelievably intense. A very burning anger filled my heart as they had treated her so badly in HER LIFE but were pretending to agonize over her death but we knew that they in their selfish lostness needed the LOVE of Christ, too. Her body stayed with us that first night as did all her family and our friends. We were surrounded by our Christian brothers and sisters from the village next door as they came to grieve with US. It was an amazing opportunity to share Christ's love in word and deed to Richard and Lilian's family. As we fed them, wept with them, shared God's Word and prayed with them, they SAW Jesus in our lives and our home.



The hurt is so intense...the tears still falling frequently...but NOT for my sweet friend. SHE is at peace with her Lord. HER cancer is gone and her pain is finished! I grieve for her babies. The precious two I hold in my arms and the two that are now lost in the midst of a very unsaved family. I know both Israel and Cecilia have professed salvation in Christthe babies need a way of knowing the GOSPEL so they can be with mommy too! PRAY. GOD has a way for them!!

The funeral will be Tuesday...pray for the HOPE of the Gospel that gave such joy in death to our sister Lilian to reach into the hearts of the many LOST AND HOPELESS that will be there. Pray for our hurting hearts!! Praise for the HOPE we have because of Christ!!

Hurt this morning was so evident , too,as we went to PRISON to share the GOSPEL to the inmates there. Bill had over 40 men and I had around 30 ladies ...all paying their debt to society for wrong choices made. I could hear the hurt in the voices of these ladies as they shared their grave concern for their children left at home. WHEN would they be released...HOW would they do when they got on the "outside" of prison. Fear, hurt, anxiety. What a joy to share the HOPE of the GOD of LOVE! 6 men wanted to receive Christ. 16 ladies wanted to make decisions in their lives and asked for prayer. The only hope of peace is CHRIST...we hold the ultimate cure for HURT!

Our hurting Emelyn has renewed hope as well. We begin the painful process of removing sutures this week...but we pray the end result will be a healing foot! PRAY for strength for Emelyn as she will hurt a LOT this



week. PRAY for protection from infection! PRAY for grace as she has to learn to walk again on a less than balanced foot now. I know she desires GOD be glorified through this horrible situation she has found herself in...knowing GOD makes NO mistakes!

Two of our churches are hurting. Hurt feelings...hard and painful words exchanged...split congregations with much bitterness and bad feelings between two groups whose houses are all just a matter of a few meters apart. We have seen this sin of division bring such hurt....but there is hope. The leaders of both churches are meeting right now with Bill as their mediator. Bill and I both have confronted the pastors and their wives about their bitterness and unforgiveness....may GOD give victory ...forgiveness....unity in HIS BODY once again. It has been a long road...will be a long way to full recovery...but we serve an incredible GOD! Nothing is impossible for HIM.

Hurt and hope. One of our mom's was 44 weeks pregnant (usually they deliver at 38-42 weeks but the baby and mom were doing well so we waited for GOD to bring the baby in HIS TIME). She was literally the size of a barn. She has been miserable for the past month or more. FINALLY, after three false labors with a very SAD mom sent back home....she had her baby Monday night! Knowing the baby was a WHOOPER (9 pounds ,four oz.) I anticipated a bit of trouble getting those big shoulders out! It is a bit scary when they get "stuck"....the babies turn bright BLUE. PRAISE GOD for a Dr friend who taught the SCREW THEM OUT trick...he arrived perfect and precious!! Mom and baby did great! She wanted a boy so badly...her hope realized! GOD is so good. Life and death, joy and sorrow...HURT and its resulting HOPE ..life in PNG.



In the midst of our joy...delivering big boys and celebrating **Able's second birthday**...was sadness. Lilian's death, a house filled with mourners (no more food..ha! They ate us out of house and home...ha!), and the hurt of watching her two children mourn with such deep agony for their mommy (Able knew something bad happened...he has been clinging constantly to me since) and knowing Joyce will never know her mommy until Heaven. Hurt...HOPE....Joy in the source of our hope...JESUS!

Thanks for praying for us:

1) OUR GBBC students are getting more settled in. Tomorrow they all come visit the clinic...get dewormed, tetanus shots...the kids get immunizations they have missed...eye tests...should be an interesting day. Giving all the tetanus shots, I had better not socialize on campus too much for the next few days...hurting arms may throw

stones..ha! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4V8I8UoPCU> GBBC expansion video

2) OUR **AARON** is still in need of passport prayer...no response to any of our calls...emails...messagesthe US Embassy either fell into the ocean or disowned us! Bill is going to the Capital after the funeral this week to see if "face to face" will work better. He has some mission work to do as well as we make great progress in getting GBBC expanded into University status and established on it's own identity. PLEASE PRAY. GOD IS ABLE as we pray asking Him for the impossible...to help the USA Government HELP US!

3) OUR **EMELYN** will have a hard and painful week as we slowly remove the sutures holding the stump of her amputation together. PRAY that the healing is as good inside as it looks from the outside and that we can avoid infection. PRAY as she must learn to walk again with such an huge injury to that foot.

4) OUR **AMO** had some bitter/sweet news this week. They are making some really great discoveries about his reading challenges and processing of information. In some areas he is doing well and in READING he has improved but still struggles. It does look like New Tribes Mission school will have space for him next year. Our coworkers, the PRIGGE family, left today to start their new life in the USA. PRAY for them to adjust well in their transition. Amo is hurting but our house is FULL today with his many friends STILL HERE...he will be OK.

5) OUR FRIEND, **Janelle Clark**, arrived safely after her long trip from the USA. A few bumps along the way but she arrived well and will have many exciting experiences these next 10 days as she lives our life with us. Going to prison, a PNG funeral (complete with sorcery and spiritism we fear), and the other insanity of our life that makes each day an adventure!

6) OUR KIDS: pray for GOD to make a way for **Israel , Cecilia, and especially Able and Joyce to be in a safe, GOD honoring place**. We love them all with our entire hearts!! GOD will open a plan for them as we keep knocking at His door in prayer! Seeking options this week...so pray pray pray!

God's grace...God's provision.... GOD's PEACE!

No reserves...no retreats....no regrets. HIS WILL...nothing more ,nothing else.

Bill, Lori the boys and baby Joyce

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