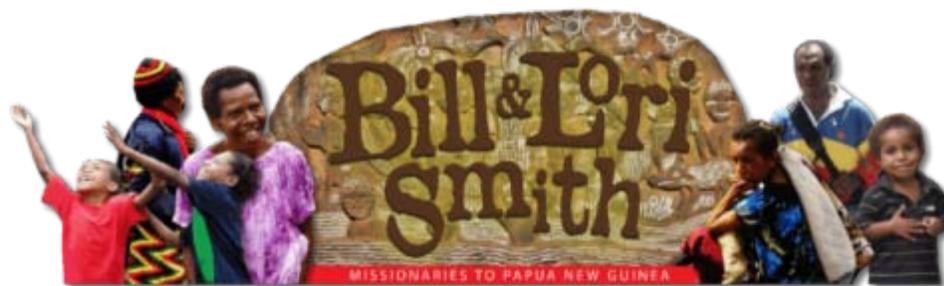


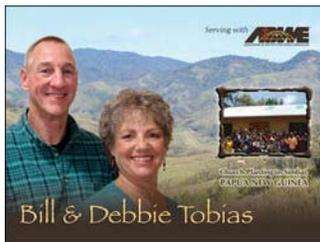
He gives & He takes away... Blessed be the Name of the Lord www.billandlorismithpng.com



God has given so much to us. We are so very thankful for His many blessings upon our lives and ministry. **YET, life sometimes brings those times when GOD choses to take and it hurts deeply.**

Every day had it's blessings and sadness, but **Friday was one of the most difficult and yet glorious days of our week.** We saw the blessing of life and the hurt of death both. THE joy of hope and the hurt of loss. Open doors and closed opportunities.

We shared last week about the hurt of our neighboring Kami village. They are in the midst of great tension as tribal conflict is "in the air". How amazing that during this time of difficulty GOD chose to make a miracle happen. One of the oldest members of the clan was near his death. Some of our Bible College students, graduates and Pastors had been visiting him. He was a very strong Lutheran man holding onto his church membership and baptism into the church as his trusted way into heaven. We have prayed for this dear old man for many years. Recently he made a profession of salvation trusting CHRIST alone. Shortly before his death on Tuesday night he made sure his family knew that he did not want the Lutheran Pastor to preach his funeral. He wanted our Baptist church to be the place of his home-going celebration. OPEN DOORS like never before in this village...LIGHT in the midst of darkness, threats and fear. When they took his body to the village Friday, our Pastors were the ones to preach to the masses that came for his "house cry". The funeral service, Saturday was attended by ALL their clan and many others I am sure. HE was a young man (without whiskers yet...so 12 or 13) during World War Two. He must have been in his 80's, so he was one of the oldest and most prominent men in our area. His home going will be changes I am sure, but we have settled our land (he was the main signer of the Kami for our GBBC land purchase) and his recent decision to honor our church family there in Kami should help reduce some of the conflicts his children will inevitably, as the new "land owners of kami", bring to our area...at least less problems for us! Loss, yes, but New Life GIVEN and now enjoyed...hopefully by many through this death! GOD gave and took away...but took away with NEW LIFE and we rejoice.



Friday also brought a great "tragedy" to our team family. Our dear coworkers, Bill and Debbie Tobias have been in Sydney, Australia waiting for Debbie's knee replacement surgery. It was scheduled for this past Wednesday, but last minute delays cancelled her procedure. WE were all frustrated WITH them over these delays, but Friday made the merciful Hand of GOD in that delay very clear. Their oldest daughter Maurissa had been out for a walk with her young son, and from what is speculated, Noah somehow wandered onto a semi frozen pond and broke through the ice. As the great mom Maurissa was, she went immediately to him trying to rescue her son without thought for her own safety. She apparently got him out of the water, but could not get herself out. They found Noah nearly dead on the surface of the ice, and his precious mommy floating in the water. By the time he was airlifted to a hospital, Noah had joined his mom in eternity, also. Having not undergone surgery, though in much pain, Debbie was able to travel with Bill back to the USA to say good bye to her baby girl and grandson. The pain is overwhelming for them now. They urgently need your prayers as does TOM, Maurissa's husband. Please be praying. Bill and Debbie were able to get flights immediately, directly to the USA, as they were already in Australia. Had they been in Simbai or even here in Goroka it would have taken more time and been so much harder for them to get to the arms of their other girls and family where they so desperately needed to be. The funeral is scheduled for Tuesday. THEY NEED OUR UPLIFTING PRAYERS! HE takes away.....but HE also gives; HOPE, MERCY, PEACE.

Tears still flowing and my heart still broken with the news of this horrific event of Maurissa and Noah's deaths, I welcomed into the world a precious, healthy, pink and strong baby girl. She was born just hours after our Maurissa was taken. I held her very lively body close...feeling the hurt of a mommy that now must release her dead "baby girl" into the ground....and my heart sang with the hope of knowing we WILL see Maurissa and her son again. They may be gone from this world...by they are alive and well in Jesus' arms now. To make the "giving" even better, the family of this new one chose to honor the memory of Maurissa by naming her after our sweet girl now in eternity. Baby Maurissa left the clinic all dressed in her new pink outfit and pink blanket...ready to face the good and bad of this world....the giving and taking away.

Clinic was a dark one on Friday. All felt the hurt my heart was feeling. ALL were reminded with us of the brevity of life, and the need of living each day as if our last...as it MAY truly be.

Our hospital is still on strike...so many are dying without medical services available. Being a Provincial Hospital it is affecting thousands! I was at the hospital this past week and two dead bodies were just left in the hallway outside of the surgical ward. These dear ones were obviously TOO sick to wait for the strike to finish before their illness won over their lives. I wept for them...not even knowing their names...fearful that

their eternal destiny was not what they had hoped for. The reality of JESUS being the ONLY WAY to heaven is very clear to them now.

I have so many of my patients in desperate need of surgical or medical intervention. PRAY

*An elderly woman with a pelvic mass the size of an seven month pregnancy. She is in SO MUCH pain.

*A little girl with a probably fracture of her leg. Swollen and painful and now infection in the bone I fear...she is burning with fever and her leg is so swollen and painful she can no longer walk. She can not straighten the leg. I have her on high doses of antibiotics for the infection but she needs surgical debridement of that bone.

* A girl with a molar pregnancy (large abnormal cyst like clusters filling her uterus) IF it starts to expel she will most likely have a life threatening blood loss. She needs a D and C to remove this from her uterus.

*A man with a very enlarged prostate. IT "feels" like cancer. He needs it removed. The longer he waits...the more it could spread.

*Joel with continued lowering blood hemoglobin with no obvious cause... fearful of cancer. TIME is not his friend if that is the case!

*Lisa's baby with neurological issues not able to be seen yet by the pediatrician.

Our loss and pain that is still so real in our hearts opened a door for us now in this time of darkness. Through GOD taking our precious Esta He has given us so many open doors at the hospital. I have had so many opportunities to become close with the Dr's and nurses at the hospital after our walk through the valleys of Esta's life and struggles. My friends and comrades there are hurting, too,. right now in this strike.. They are seeing needs of the people , and they ache to practice their call of medicine, but they are also desperate for the Government to hear their cries. They have totally inadequate facilities, no supplies and even their deserved pay has been lacking for many these past 6 weeks. They can not practice safe medicine in their current situation. They feel there is no other choice but strike as they are not being heard any other way. Our country is so very rich in resources and exportation, but with such poor and hurting people. OH GOD GIVE...answers! Give resolutions! Our medical care has been taken away from us.

Yet in the midst of all of this hurt, we have been given so many opportunities to serve our community. Our clinic is seeing usually a hundred almost every day...hurting, sick and desperate people with NO OTHER PLACE TO TURN. They came to us. I can love on them, hug them in their hurts and help them with the amazing gift of medicine. LONG hours...THOUSANDS of dollars of medical supplies...this month has been so hard, but

so profitable. Light shines brightest in darkness. We have to be all to everyone as there is no alternatives right now. THREE babies delivered just this week at our clinic (all sweet pinky girls!!) as there is no labor ward..one was a tiny preemie but strong enough to live without assistance (no special care nursery). Each one helped...served...loved has heard the REASON we are here. THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. **My patients have been in tears at the end of the day, overwhelmed by seeing how much we had done for so many all day and still had love and medicine left for them.** We are impacting lives!! GOD is making a difference! You are making a difference as you pray and financially enable us to reach out to these in need. GOD has taken away our health care system for a while....but He has given us OPEN DOORS into our community as well! Blessed be the name of the Lord!

GOD took greatly this week. Many are struggling and suffering. Our hospital wards full of people crying out in pain with nobody to help them with needed medicine. Our villages are full of people hurting with fears of warfare, fear of domestic violence, fear of hunger and fear of death.

Our field team is hurting deeply at the loss of yet another of our precious MK's. We ache for Bill and Debbie ,longing to hug and help them but now we are a half a world away from them.

Our neighbors, the Kami people, are struggling with the loss of their leader in a time of preparation for warfare and danger.

GOD we come to you as our stronghold in the time of fear. "I sought the Lord, and HE heard me and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to HIM and were radiant and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The Angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them. " THIS was my DEVOTIONAL REMINDER FOR FRIDAY....so perfectly timed by GOD to remind me WHO I am in battle WITH!!

We need the angel of the Lord right now to encamp around our beloved team members, Bill and Debbie and their family. They NEED the LORD desperately now to encamp around about them and enable them to carry this deep hurt overwhelming their hearts.

WE need the Angel of the Lord right now to encamp around our hospital and bring peace and settlement of the many disputes causing disruption of services so desperately needed by so many.

WE need the Angel of the Lord to encamp around the Kami people and keep peace in the midst of threatened battle.

GOD we need you desperately! ... those that fear God.. .GOD "delivers them".

GOD gave...He took...and HE enables us as you pray!

1) Pray for our [Rachel and her precious baby Zoey](#) as they are in their last few weeks of this pregnancy. PRAY for an on time delivery with a healthy mommy and baby. PRAY for grandma to be there ON TIME and to know WHEN and HOW to come back to the USA for this special EVENT. Delivering three lovely baby girls this week has grandma aching to hold OUR newborn baby girl!!

2) PRAISE GOD for our new [PASTOR son, Pastor Rodney Taylor](#). GOD has called our Rachel and her family into full time ministry as they have waited faithfully and patiently this past year. DO you hear our shouts of joy!!

2) PRAY for [Andrew](#) as he is seeking some [possible special funding through special grants for his missionary aviation program](#). We are seeking GOD's miraculous provision for expensive flight training. We also seek prayer for his safety as thinking of my baby boy up in small airplanes , over mountains in all kinds of weather makes old mama here a bit nervous at times!! TRUSTING GOD!

3) PRAY for our dear coworkers, [Debbie and Bill Tobias](#), and for their [entire family](#) during this time of shock and grief. Pray for Tom, Maurissa's husband who is mourning the loss of wife and son. PRAY that GOD will truly use this time of loss to bring much GAIN for His Kingdom!

4) PRAY for our family as [we prepare to say good bye to our precious Moses](#). The date of March 26th has been set for his transition. I have him in my arms right now with tears of joy for each minute GOD has given me with him and his family. His family and Esta's family just left. They spent the day with us. OPEN doors from wounded hearts! CHANGE so exciting to see!! IT is worth the pain to come, I know.

5) PRAY for our [Levi as he has had his first illness](#). He is now one year old and had not had ANY illness to date...miraculous to be sure (and due to his mommy being a VERY GOOD nurse who is very careful to keep him safe!!) He has diarrhea still. PRAY that he can fight this off and stay well hydrated in the process. Mom and dad also shared some in his "fun" so pray them strong as they are all feeling YUCK!

6) PRAY for [medical supplies and finances](#) to keep us able to reach out to so many in need right now. [WE are so excited for God's provision of most of the funds needed to repair our roof and the ambulance \(the roof over where our ladies deliver has a leak...each delivery I had to plead with GOD to keep rain away!!\)](#). Our facility and vehicle are VERY used and VERY needed!!

7) Pray for God to make a [way for Amo and Aarons education](#) needs for next year. Pray for Amo as he continues to have testing this week. We are praying the tests show an accurate picture of where he is academically. Praying for improvement!!!

Yes God gives...and takes...but His name be blessed!

No reserves, no retreats, NO REGRETS

Bill and Lori, the boys and Moses, with Esta always in our hearts

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