

Thanksgiving



## THANKSGIVING

No, I did not mistakenly remove too many pages from the Calendar. I just truly feel thankful as I meditate this weekend on Philippians 4 and am reminded to rejoice in the LORD always.



This is in a way a very challenging weekend to be thankful. It is the last weekend with my [baby girl, Ruthann, and her sweet Eddie](#) to be at home here in PNG. The two and a half weeks have flown by but were just SO filled with joy and memories it is impossible to let the sadness of her leaving home AGAIN darken the amazing thanksgiving of my heart. As we all, her PNG close family, gathered in our home last night for our traditional “pig feast” honoring the PNG tradition of bride price for our girls, the many “uncles” and “aunties” gathered here shared their love and affirmation of our sweet young couple. They gave words of advice and encouragement to our kids as they continue to invest in their lives. We are SO BLESSED to have family that goes beyond just blood and skin color. With the help of our “village” of friends, we have seen raised before our very eyes an amazing young woman of faith, full of grace, knowledge and abilities that GOD will use. So, yes, my baby is leaving home...but I am SO VERY THANKFUL for this special time we have had with her back here in the land of her birth and the home of our hearts. I am SO THANKFUL for the many blessings she has brought to us and so many others. I am so thankful she is ready to step out into this world at such an exciting time of her life.

I am so thrilled and thankful to announce [some exciting things from the baby ministry so dear to my heart!](#)

\*Lilian and Richard have chosen to honor my precious mom in the naming of their lovely baby girl. I am holding **LITTLE JOYCE** in my lap as I type this note. Her mommy and daddy just left after spending the afternoon with her. Lilian is still in a lot of pain, but the more powerful medications have helped a lot and she is finally able to sleep most nights now after months of sleepless pain filled hours of dark agony.



\*Baby "peanut" is now 3.6 kilos and has risen to the 80% for PNG babies for his age. An amazing transformation! He has had his first immunizations and has done well. He is ready to graduate now from our care. The

father's family is in agreement for the mother to take him and breast feed him, so hopefully in the morning she will come and we will begin the transition from bottle to breast milk! PLEASE pray. His mommy is very young but she seems eager to love him. Pray with us that this transition will go well. Pray for the future of this little man as his parents are young teens and will not be married to each other so his "place" in the village and family will be unstable. We are so thankful for All GOD has done in this little life. I am eager to share his story with him in a few years when he is able to understand. I will love him forever...and that intense love allows me to release him to the arms of his sweet mommy for the very healthy milk that she can offer him.



**We are so thankful for the many answered prayers.**

\*God sent us two nice rains this week. What a blessing. As I shared, with an extended number of family members these last weeks, and three babies with LOTS of dirty diapers, we REALLY needed that rain water. Unfortunately, though we have the water needed, our small little two tub washer (one side agitates and the other side spins so that the same water can be used and reused over and over when water is short!) **DIED. PLEASE PRAY. It will cost \$400 to replace and it is** an URGENT need in our home. 

\*God opened the door into many lives this week at the clinic as you prayed.

- One young girl, Stefany, actually attends one of our area churches. **She is 16 years old...and 13 weeks pregnant.** She was so distraught, begging me to help her abort her tiny baby. Again, the joy of entering into that secret weaving womb of her body to see her little one so perfect and sweet just brought this young mom to tears. We prayed together and read Scripture together reminding her of the view point of GOD on the matter of this sweet little life growing within her. Pray as this weekend, Stefany was suppose to talk with her Pastor's wife about her situation so that she can have her support when she confides of her sin and her now secret situation to her parents and eventually before her church family, too. As we shared with this dear young girl, one mistake is wrong but does not need to produce a SECOND wrong with the murder of her baby.

-Many were very sick still with the raging TIGER viral epidemic still raging on! IT is just so amazing to see the impact of relief as pain and fever relievers start to work. What an open door to share the life changing powerful message of the GOSPEL that also totally relieves the horror of guilt and pain from sin. So many share that we may share...what thankfulness we all have to see GOD hug these many sick through all our efforts combined.



WE are so thankful for all GOD is doing at [Lusilo Baptist church](#). We met today INSIDE a building..well sort of. It had walls!! No grass thatched roof yet, but the side woven mats now cover the frame. We are so excited to see the permanence of the GOSPEL light now up there. They plan to complete the church then build a small grass house so our family can go up and spend the weekends with them. We pray that more time invested with the dear ones there will bring much fruit. Next week, with a building that has walls, we can actually meet in three different areas...inside the church, and outside the church on TWO sides. WE CAN START SUNDAY SCHOOL!!!! The people are excited to have this additional time of learning from Scripture each week. How cool it is to watch a church start as a seed, grow and grow and we pray eventually reproduce as well. How thankful we are to be church planters!! Investment in lives one church at a time.

We are mostly thankful this weekend for our precious **BILL**. Though it is not Father's day here in PNG this weekend , all our children remembered their daddy with a call today. Bill is the most amazing dad there is. His children rose up and called HIM BLESSED!!! This week is also a special one as we celebrate his birth as well. What a special gift he has been to so many!

WE are both very thankful for our amazing dad's as well. Both our fathers are wonderful examples of faith , and we have been honored to follow in their footsteps carefully lain down before us. **Footprints of our fathers that led us to follow our FATHER!!**

GOD is so very faithful. His provisions of grace and care of our needs truly leaves us amazed.

Thank you for being a part of our lives and ministry and THANKFULNESS this week.

Please continue to pray:

- For **Peanut** as he transitions to breast feeding and back into his home. PRAY that the family of his mom will be supportive and helpful as she learns how to be a mom though she is still just a child.

-For **Lilian**. Her pain is too severe to allow her to work in any physical way. She use to teach at the local village preschool and would LOVE to go back to that position as it would allow her mind to stay busy thus allowing her to focus OFF the pain that is so overwhelming at times. PRAY that they will allow her back into this position. With her

pregnancy and it's complications she lost too much time from her classroom so they sacked her. PRAY they will allow her to at least TRY to teach again.

-For **RAIN and for a washer** to use that rain water IN! WE need \$400 to replace that very vital part of our house hold!!!!

-For safety for **Bill and Ruthie and Eddie**. Bill will accompany our sweet kids on Monday, through Australia so that they do not need to hinder their testimonies by staying overnight anywhere unchaperoned. Bill will pick up the amazing gift of some tools in Cairns , Australia, then after the kids start their return home to America, Bill will return through our capital and complete mission business there before coming back home to Goroka on Wednesday. Pray for the adjustment of the kids as they need to get back to work soon after their return...jet lag is a killer for sure when so many miles and time zones are traveled through!!



-**Pata** continues to receive intensive chemo infusions for his Ewings Sarcoma. He completes his treatments in two weeks then will be reviewed after several weeks off. His daddy, Nicodemus, is with him and his mom, Jumda, is here with the other kids. Jumda looks so very sad at times. PRAY for us here to be a blessing and encouragement for them. Pray for their many expenses. Thus far we have been able to cover the expenses to help them, but they may be asked to pay **\$600** or so for their hospital expenses during this time of Chemotherapy. PRAY For GOD to help meet this need for them.

Without God life is a monotonous repetition of hours, days, weeks, months, years and generations. WITH God, it is a journey of a lifetime...and beyond! Thanks for joining the journey of our lives and ministry as you partner and pray! Our hearts are FILLED with THANKFULNESS for your part in all we do, and all GOD is doing through us as we just follow HIM faithfully! May we use the moments we have to INVEST for eternity.

No reserves, no retreats NO regrets !

Bill, Lori, the boys and baby Joyce!

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