

Tragedy: the mask over the face of opportunity and hope



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## TRAGEDY: the mask over the face of opportunity and hope

**“Our all wise ,all knowing God reigns in realms beyond our comprehension to bring about a plan beyond our ability to hinder, alter or stop”**

Living in PNG we face overwhelming sadness, tragedy and true depravity daily. In just one day at the clinic I see multiple cases of desperate illness and human suffering words could just not describe. Marital abuse, child abuse, violent acts causing physical harm and rape, are as commonly seen in our clinic as the common cold . Those are just normal, day to day, life style



issues facing my neighbors in the villages surrounding me, but they just tare my heart apart. TRAGEDY...that humanly is just so hard to understand. The “how could a loving GOD allow this to happen” is clearly answered, though in the reality of perspective. God is working in and through our lives in a way we truly can not fathom...His ways truly are not ours...they are SO MUCH BETTER! Yes, there is hurt and tragedy and even despair, but that is all just surface in HIS great plan. It is a mask over reality. God offers the hope of a rainbow in the midst of our raging human storms of hurting. Truly our GOD is GOOD beyond measure.

The **mask of tragedy truly covers a dear family** I met this week. **Samuel and his wife Lilly have a 17 year old daughter that has been plagued by relentless seizures** since she was just a little girl. They have been everywhere and tried everything with no help found for their precious child. They are forced to helplessly stand by and watch as these endless convulsing seizures just completely control their lives and destroy their lovely daughter. They came to our clinic for help. Obviously this is a serious issue and there are most likely not a lot of options for her care here in PNG. After examining her and finding some other health issues we COULD deal with, I was able to share some new drug regimen ideas that have not yet been tried. But all those solutions are just surface. The tragedy of a young woman who has

become lost in the midst of an untreatable illness is like a mask covering their true need...but that unresolved problem brought them to US. I had the joy of sharing the hope and love of Jesus Christ, first with the dad for several hours on Thursday, and then with all three of them when they came to the clinic for her exam on Saturday. Please pray for GOD to help them to SEE HIM in the midst of this storm. They are religious people and sincere in their faith, but their faith is in their mission NOT in the saving power of Jesus Christ alone.

The [mask of tragedy covered a sweet little two year old boy](#) as well. There was a huge fight in the village across the river from us. I had several victims of the fight that lingered into the clinic that morning. One man with a smashed up face needing sutures. Another with a fractured wrist. A woman came with multiple lacerations and abrasions from being hit with a stick and board. A real knock down drag out fight for sure. BUT, one of the victims was a sweet little innocent two year old boy. [Someone wanted to take revenge on his parents so they cracked his head open with a huge boulder.](#) POOR baby. The laceration was deep and just pouring out blood. He was scared, hurting and his eyes had the look of panic seen only in injured children and animals...I HATE that look. It means I am in for a fight. AND, I was! There is nothing I dislike MORE than suturing kids. I literally leave the wrestling match with sweat pouring down my face and shaky knees and sick stomach. This whole thing was just so tragic..what an unbelievable thing to do to a sweet little boy...a mask of tragedy that opened the huge opportunity for me to invite his mommy to our ladies National Conference here at our own Kisim Bek Church on campus. As the wonderful anesthetic calmed his pain and his body (he fell asleep while I worked...thank you JESUS!) I had a great chat with his mom. (My kids tease me about my multi tasking but it does come in handy at times!) I shared with her what my sessions were going to be about and she seemed really interested. I pray she comes...it may just be the opportunity of a life time ...eternal life time...for her!



Our [sweet Lillian had a really hard week.](#) Her [situation is just the definition of tragedy.](#) A case of cancer most likely easily taken care of as it was first discovered at such an early stage...but here there was nobody to help her. None of the Doctors and surgeons took her seriously, and SO the story goes. By the time Able was safely delivered it was just too late. Now after Joyce's birth she is in very poor condition to be sure. Last weekend she made the common mistake of feeling better because of the pain medicine, so she STOPPED taking it ...bang! She was DOWN HARD. She hurt so badly she could not sit or stand or walk. They got her to our home where I could use injectable pain medication to get the huge pain back down to where we could manage it. It took all day to accomplish that task. What tragedy as this young mother is dying before us. Yet, a huge rainbow of hope is there. We are seeing GOD get a hold of the heart of her husband. Just months after he abused her and threatened their family and their home was literally TORN apart, GOD has brought them back together. The whole day Lillian was here laying on my living room floor, too weak to

move, her husband sat there with her head cradled in his lap. He just caressed her head that was throbbing in pain from her sudden withdraw of medicine. The **scene literally brought tears to my eyes.** What a transformation of HOPE. She can die in peace with her family now intact and her husband being the father he needs to be for their children. GOD is so loving!

**The tragedy of a sweet little boy**, whose parents have given God their lives and surrendered to serve Him, getting cancer...now that is a hard one to swallow. As I have contemplated the **situation of Pata as I pray constantly for him, the mask of Tragedy is really starting to fall away, and the blatant orchestration is beginning to shine forth.** Because Pata WAS the child of Bible College students he was here when the abnormal signs of his cancer began to appear. We were able to get help to identify and diagnose early the cancer and through our connections get him into treatment months or even YEARS before he would have been diagnosed and treated..if ever...if they were in their home village. Also we are seeing GOD use the very intensive treatment (intensive treatment ALONE here is miraculous!) to decrease his symptoms. **The weird lump on his back is gone, his pain is gone, and Nicodemus said he is eating so much it is hard to find enough food to fill him up!** ALL amazing signs of improvement I would say! But most importantly ,his daddy, a man with an amazing heart of evangelism, has been "held captive" in a hospital full of sick and dying people for over a month while he cares for his son. WHAT do you THINK he is up to???? Sharing CHRIST!! How many people have heard or believed or been challenged in their faith...hard to even count! Is it hard...so hard. They are scared they may not have their son with them on this earth for as long as they had thought. IS it best or good??...ask the many transformed because of this trial. We are seeing the mighty hand of GOD move in this young life. I sent that was our lives are suppose to be about anyways?! "just sayin"!



The **explosion of tragic misunderstandings**, offences and attacks that brought disunity and discontent to the point of the **church asking their pastor to stay out of the pulpit for over a month now on suspension of his Pastoral duties was just so hard to watch.** Our spiritual kids were just hurting each other and ripping the very church they prayed so much to grow in and through apart. They have a lovely church now to worship in, but hurt and retaliation of that hurt was keeping it basically empty each Sunday. This week Bill and two other senior Pastors had meetings there with the church family from Thursday through Saturday night. People not seen in years there came.....Saturday, the last meeting...people lined up to seek and give forgiveness. Hugs, tears, apologies and merciful forgiveness erupted...the mask of tragedy ripped off and the opportunity to bring revival and renewal has come! PRAY. Two men still are being very obstinate and causing many problems trying to lead the people against their pastor. PRAY for GOMEX and AITAPE ...that GOD either gets a hold of their hearts or gets them out of our way so that the church can

keep growing.



Even the **true tragedy of our twin tub washing machine breaking down....BIG PROBLEM** (diapers PILED high around here!) ...opened a cool window of opportunity. That tragedy was just a mask. The true opportunity came for **a whole bunch of little kids at a VBS there Pennsylvania to share their hugs with us, identify with our need, and open their eyes and hearts to things beyond their own neighborhood and lives. They raised the money we needed** to replace that very important part of our household!! Our GOD has LONG arms as we truly felt hugged by Him because of all those sweet sacrificing kids!!

Hurt and pain keep opening the door for us here to reach into the felt needs with the answer for the REAL needs of their hearts. **The clinic has been an incredible tool, but it is not an easy one for sure.** It takes much financial sacrifice, many long hard hours of work, and much heartache and tears to constantly expose ourselves to hurts so big there are no words to fully convey them. We can not do this alone. We need your joining hands with us to help finance this outreach and mostly your prayers that GOD would use and bless our efforts to make difference one tragedy at a time...one suffering soul that finds new life and hope in Christ is worth all it takes!!

**Special request:** Back in April the Department of Health promised us about \$5000 worth of medicine. It is sitting in boxes at the local pharmacy- but the health department has not paid the pharmacy for our meds or anyone else. Please pray this week GOD moves to see that medicine released or God provides in another way. Our stocks have been sufficient but are getting low.

As you prayed last week:

- 1) GOD gave us 12 loads of gravel needed for our expansion of our college ministry....FOR FREE (they normally cost \$300 each so add up that blessing! WOW!)
- 2) God has sent rain and our water tanks are about 3/4 full!!!
- 3) God has brought renewed unity, we trust lasting!, at Lower Bena...keep praying for Gomex and Aitape!
- 4) We treated over 3000 cases of illnesses in our clinic last month...and all the medicine needed was there!! That is HUGE! We stand amazed.

Prayer needs for the week ahead

- 1) We have a distant cousin of Bill that is coming to visit us...he is traveling now. PRAY for Adrian and his safety and for GOD to use his time here with us in PNG as a huge blessing.
- 2) Andrew NEEDS to come to PNG for his practical assignment in his Aviation program...and MOMMY NEEDS him to come, too...   
Pray for the plans, visa needed and finances for his missions trip here. WE really really need his skills with mechanics and so do the various other aviation ministries here. HE

is a wanted man!  Pray him home. He needs to be here in September and he will need to be back in the USA to continue with the flight and A&P school for his missions aviation training in January.

3) Pray for more rain

4) Pray as the rain and recent earth quakes make our trip up the mountain to Lusillo very hazardous to our bodies and car...[pray for some work to be done on the roads up there](#). If the people don't do it, they get mad if others do...so we need GOD to move their heart and them to move the dirt into the pot holes!

5) Pray for [Pata as he continues to get his chemo treatments](#). His mom and siblings went to Lae this past week so they can be as a family for a while. They **now have over \$500 in bills to cover the care of his treatments and examinations and diagnostic testings. PLEASE PRAY God will meet this need.**

We are so thankful to partner with you all. As I think of my favorite poem,

"[The Weaver](#)" it reminds me that as the back of a tapestry looks very confused and messy with the colors making no obvious pattern, the other side is a whole different story!!

GOD has a perspective so far removed from our own...as we work, trust and thank HIM in the midst of the tragedies we face, HE WILL BE GLORIFIED in our lives! THAT IS THE GOAL!

No restraints, no retreats NO REGRETS!

Bill, Lori the boys and little Joyce

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