

Its all about Faith!



July 14, 2013

It's all about

FAITH

“Faith is God’s invitation to make the impossible possible. He is glorified when we are enabled to do what we’re unable to do”

Why is faith so hard? I have often asked myself that question when struggling to take that step out into the unknown and TRUST the unseen future to an all knowing GOD. IT should be easy! Faith is SUBSTANCE (of things Hoped for) and EVIDENCE (of things unseen) according to Scripture. God , who lives within all who have trusted in His Son and received the free gift of His salvation, is greater than all the world (1 Jon 4:4) and nothing is too hard for Him (Luke 1:37). He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think as He works IN us (Eph 3:20). Yet, we struggle. I think the key for me to open that door of faith is just TRUST.

Here we are, a half a world away from the culture of our birth and rearing. Our older children and parents and all our siblings are there on the other side of the world. Problems or needs that arise in all of our lives and families become heart wrenching anguish as the miles then feel like billions and we feel lost in our inability to be there and “fix” things or physically “help”. Yet the GOD that spans all time and space is THERE already. We just need to trust HIM and HIS way not our limited plans and abilities.

Here we are with illnesses that have no ready cure. Hard battles that need to be fought and no human strength to go to war:

Sweet **Pata was not quite the picture of health** I had expected to see after we had communicated with his dad when they were making the decision to return to Goroka. The swelling on his back is decreased, that is true, but NOT gone. His lungs, though improved, still have the fluid at the base indicative of the CANCER that rages still in his little body. He is eating, but only fruits.

He is playing well and has improved strength that is true, but playing with a bunch of snotty nosed, coughing little kids is NOT really the best alternative for an immunosuppressed little cancer patient in the midst of chemo treatments. The Doctors here at our hospital were happy to follow through with the chemo treatments for Pata but with them not dealing all the time with these chemo meds we already had a compromise where a drug that interacts with the chemo was given him before this last treatment. I was able to catch the mistake before the chemo started, but the few doses he already had taken did seem to really cause a LOT of bad reaction this time. I am thankful for my background as a chemo certified nurse so the drugs are very familiar to me, but it is a challenge to "bring out problems" with the Doctors here when they may feel we are challenging their knowledge or care of this patient. PRAY with us for open door of communication with the Doctors and ways to help in a non threatening way! Pata did get back yesterday. They had forgotten to take out his IV when he was discharged, so we got that taken care of and got him a bunch of fruit, crackers, tea and sprite to drink. I loaded him up with cars, color books and new crayons so that he would be happier to stay AWAY from the other kids for a while as his immunity builds back up again. GOD help us TRUST YOU with the life of this precious little boy. Help us TRUST that YOU will use the medicine to combat this strong enemy trying to literally snuff out the breath within him. GOD, nothing is too hard for YOU!

Sweet [Lilian was here this week](#). She wanted so much to come and have time with her babies but she was too sick. The pain was too great. The cancer is eating away at the tissue within her breast and causing her tremendous misery. IT is so hard to watch her agony. She wants so much to attend our national Ladies meeting here at our Campus July 22-28 but she is not sure she can physically make it. GOD help us TRUST YOU with the life of this precious sister we love. Her precious children are held in my heart and hands as this young mom can not care for them, but they are all held in YOUR HAND of care and protection.

[sweet Kumafalao , the teenage daughter of Samuel and Lili was here for evaluation on Friday](#). She has been seizure FREE for TWO WEEKS as we all prayed. That is the longest they can remember going without seizures. We are using a drug (one of the TWO only available here in PNG) that they used before just at a higher dose. The side effect of being very sleepy has been really problematic, but once we get her blood level stabilized over the next two weeks we hope to try tapering off the dose. PLEASE PRAY that GOD will do the impossible and over ride the side effect of this drug. PRAY that GOD helps her body adjust and have impossible energy and stamina. Her parents have religion but they do NOT KNOW CHRIST. They are seeing the power of PRAYER and are just truly blown away!! They have been to Singapore and all over PNG for help, but it was here all along just waiting for them...it was GOD that was wanting to reach into their impossible problem and be the answer...so PRAY!!!! GOD is doing something amazing here. This situation is a perfect setting for GOD to show that FAITH is the key for the impossible to become reality as it is of HIM ALONE not our cure or care. GOD help them SEE YOU in this suffering and help them TRUST IN YOUR SON ALONE for their salvation. May they see the IMPOSSIBLE become reality as the GOD that Specializes in IMPOSSIBLE works in their midst!

Sweet suffering...ugh. Thursday this week [Lori](#) began with fevers and aches. Not bad problems but I knew my body was fighting "something". I had an infected sore that the added immune boost was helping so that was good. Saturday afternoon , though, all war broke loose inside my body. My fever hit over 104 degrees. The body wrenching pain brought me immediately back to my near death experience with Dengue Fever ("break bone fever" is a more accurate name...ha!). All last night I was burning up with swollen hands and fingers and every tiny part of my body aching. Praise GOD for Ibuprofen and new mercies in the morning. No fevers, fluid staying down and though everything still HURTS, I can move a bit! (obviously I can still type, though my fat fingers are hitting more than one key at times!!!). I have treated this "sister" to Dengue , "[Chickungunya fever](#)" , also a viral mosquito born illness, for months now, so now it is my time to gain a more personal perspective. I am so glad I did not get this on my trip back to the USA as I feared...GOD is so good. And now my sore is also healed...finally!! Benefit to sweet suffering!! GOD may we TRUST YOU when we are weak and hurting. May we see YOUR STRENGTH made perfect in our weakness.

[Sweet conviction](#). Every day at our clinic we have an evangelistic message. This Friday Bill's cousin's son, Adrian, shared his testimony of God's work in his life and the forgiveness and freedom he found in Christ. [Joann, a 16 year old girl heard that testimony](#). She had been to our clinic for the first time a week ago and the verses she heard just kept pounding in her heart (her exact words!). She came for treatment for sexually transmitted infections and those issues were cleared up with medication but her heart need was still there. She came into the clinic exam room and burst out in tears. She needed what Adrian had found! God help us trust YOU. The cost and the work and the commitment of the medical outreach is so great, yet YOU continue to use our meager efforts to bring lost souls to You. HELP US TRUST YOU for the medicine, supplies and money needed! Keep our clinic doors open so the LIGHT OF JESUS CHRIST can shine clearly into our community!! You can do abundantly more than we ask, hope or think!

*O to be nothing, nothing
only lie at His feet,
A broken and emptied vessel,
for the MASTER'S use made meet.*

*Emptied, that HE might fill me,
As forth to His service I go;
Broken, that so, unhindered,
His life through me might flow.*

*O! to be nothing, nothing
Painful the humbling may be;
Yet low in the dust I'd lay me
That the world my Savior might see.*

-unknown

SWEET SUCCESS: what a joy it has been this last week. Years ago when we dreamed of having a Masters level program for our PNG men, we hoped that it would help us with our many personnel needs at GBBC. How true that has become. We have a couple, **John and Elizabeth**, that have been with us since our first church plant at Ufeto. We have seen them bloom beyond even our wildest dreams. These two weeks they are teaching our Teaching Methods class. It is so real for them as GOD has used them not just at Ufeto but all around the country as champions for Christian Education. They are now teachers of teachers and this is our first step of faith as we begin to grow our College to the next level of offering a degree in Teaching as we possibly partner with them. GOD help us TRUST YOU as you work to open these doors for our enlargement of our border May we see GOD richly bless and provide for our school as we follow His leading step by step.

Here we stand with needs we are unable to meet. We need GOD and HIS intervention as we pray:

1) **RAIN!! We are really really hurting for water.** With hundreds of women soon arriving on our campus, that need just gets more urgent each day. PRAY

2) **The National Ladies Meeting is just one week away.** PRAY as all the many details need to come together. How many are coming????? How much food is needed???? That is the "fun" of doing large meeting here. Pre-registration is just a concept few grasp here. We live in a last minute, easy going, it will all work out, culture...but then again that has it's blessings, too! Pray and TRUST and GOD will DO it! (I guess I got my answer for time needed to prepare my sessions...I am too sick to do anything else today! Praise the LORD)

3) **Our kids back in the USA:**

Pray for **R**uthann to find full time work in the Rochester NY area. GOD has given her a car , and education, and a place to live...now we just need that job!

Pray for **Andrew as he prepares for this Fall's Missions Practical** for his Mission Aviation Training here in PNG. He is working on preparing material about his plans and objectives. PRAY for open doors in churches so that they may stand with him in prayer and maybe financially as well as he takes this step of faith into his future of missionary service. He needs to be here in PNG by September and will work through until the end of December when he will go back to Spokane to further prepare with the mechanical and aviation training.

4) **Pray for Lilian and Pata as they battle cancer, and for Kumafalao** as she needs to have improvement over the sleepiness from her seizure disorder treatment.

5) **Pray for our local level elections starting this week.**

Pray for peace and for orderly voting. Pray for the RIGHT MEN to be elected for the right reasons. SADLY, as in other areas around the world today, corruption continues to hinder good leadership of the people in this great Nation.

6) **Praise the Lord for provision for the clinic as you prayed last week.**

Three of the local clinics gave supplies to us out of their limited supplies! It was not a lot of help...but it was help! Little by little...GOD is enough! That was a result of the meeting you prayed for on Tuesday. When Bill went to that meeting, one of his mom's old "work girls" was now working in that office in a high position. Julie has already opened more doors for us...THANK YOU LORD!

7) **Praise the Lord for two little lives saved today at Sunday school at Lusilo.**

Two lives that now can be used for GOD. Pray for the many that have left the church services each week to be involved in all this campaigned frenzy. WE have TWO men in the church running for the same position and neither have been faithful in the midst of this time of seeking election.

8) **Pray for my illness to be very quickly resolved.**

I don't have the time nor help available when I am sick. So I guess it is one of those "physician heal thyself" things as I try to care for my own needs and those of our family all at the same time. Thankfully the "Great Physician" is on call as this pain is pretty relentless and I truly DO NEED HIS HELP! But as always, Mom's just can NOT be sick! Dads and kids get great care when down and out but moms just have to keep going. SO moving on!

It has been a very very stressful weekend, but not giving in nor giving up!

No reserves , no restraints and NO RETREATS (though a hot bath retreat would be nice for my aching body if only we had water...ha! "calgon take me away!")

Bill, Lori , the boys and baby Joyce

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