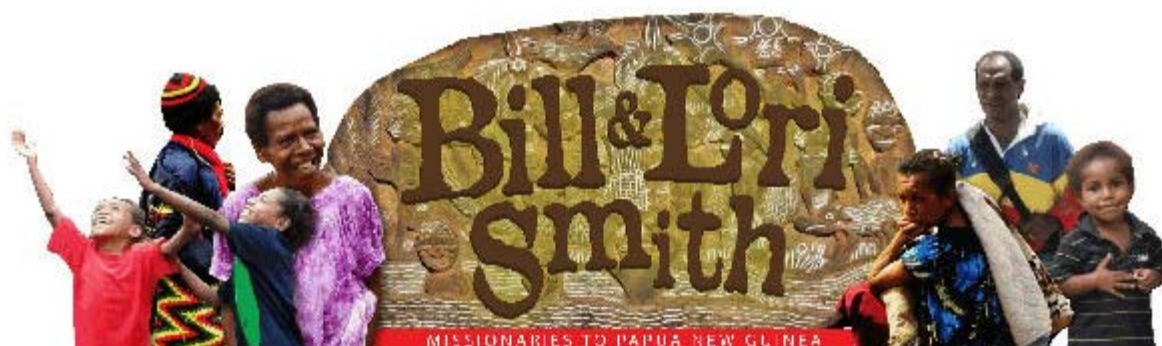


## Epidemics



January 13, 2013 new website [www.billandlorismithpng.com](http://www.billandlorismithpng.com)

Illness and epidemics have kind of been a big focus of the week here.

We have been really praying for the USA and the news of horrible flu and pneumonia resulting in deaths and many hospitalizations of dear ones there on that side of the world. We have been praying so much for Lori's parents to stay strong and healthy and for our beautiful nurse daughter (and our many health worker friends!) doing extra shifts caring for the many there in need. WE have heard of many of our dear brothers and sisters struggling with the nasty bugs hitting hard...praying for renewed health for the sick and protection of the still well!

Here we have faced a really big increase in our number of serious pneumonia cases as well. Not sure it qualifies as an "epidemic" but in just one day, for example, **I treated 22 very seriously ill patients with pneumonia.** Horrible fevers, relentless body pain and coughing until they feel like they will cough OUT their intestines (a direct quote from one of my really sweet, funny ,older patients!)....NOT fun!! Thankfully the most seriously ill have all been adults and the kids, though plagued this week with a horrible stomach bug causing painful diarrhea, have been spared. We have not seen deaths here to this point from it as our clinic cupboards are full of wonderful medicinal ammunition thanks to so many sending love packages and finances to help us prepare for this battle for lives!



## Diphtheria

We may be facing a truly **scary epidemic** in our area, though. Friday we had a lady come with very advanced DIPHTHERIA. It was one of those “oh no” moments when I looked into her throat and SAW the **Grey membranous** appearing covering all over her pharynx. IT was something we normally just read about in history books, but the tell tale signs were all TOO real. She was already in respiratory distress with her **blood oxygen just 42%** (after full blast oxygen via a mask and an airway insertion we could only get her up to 80%...not good!). Her extremities were already flaccid from the attack on her nervous system from the toxins of the nasty bacteria and her bowel and bladder were unable to be controlled...did NOT LOOK GOOD. She had been sick for a month, and had been to our local hospital where they did not even look into her throat despite her main complaint being a horrible sore throat. (The doctors are also inundated here with so many many sick people that physical examination, sadly, has become a luxury!) Had they only LOOKED and seen the very bizarre trademark of this deadly disease, the Grey membranous covered throat, maybe she could have had a chance, but instead she was treated for malaria and sent home. We did all we could for her, but she survived just long enough for us to get her to the hospital. By the time they tried to get around to start looking at her, she was gone.....into eternity. **LOST**

WE found out that **three other women in her village also died** within these past few weeks from something very similar. Many other of my neighbors across the road may have been exposed to this horrible horrible threat as well. We are not sure of the extent of this...we are now actively at war against a deadly foe,



## EXCITING ANSWERS from our prayers last week:

As you prayed for the grumpy patients at our clinic, GOD answered in a unique way. They were mostly all TOO SICK to be grumpy this week. Most just laid there outside on the grass until we could get to them for their treatment. Thankfully Lori was much improved and felt good all week as you prayed for her cold!! Our neighbors being sick to complain or cause problems was sad but to be honest was a bit easier to deal with...ha ha.

As you prayed, GOD has **provided us with a NEW GAS STOVE!** WE found a stove ,able to be altered to be used with our propane gas tanks we need to use here, near the place where the container coming to PNG is being packed!! GOD provided enough money for us to purchase and ship it (and hopefully enough to pay customs fees, too!). Our fridge keeps chugging....so keep praying for it to hang in there until GOD provides a replacement for it as well!! Our recent battle with power “brown outs” and huge power “surges” along with our normal, daily, outages have not killed it yet!! The POWER of PRAYER has been greater than the electrical power struggles here in PNG!!

As you prayed, the dear friend of Lori that had been influenced by her fellow former church member and disciplined by her church CAME to talk with Bill this week. She came in

being now proactive in battle.

Diphtheria, a deadly bacteria, has been nearly irradiated from the USA ,and most developed countries, thanks to immunization of our children. HERE, though, immunizations are relatively NEW. Many adults did not have that option. Immunizations were not available for them...they are unprotected and physically unprepared to stand against this formidable enemy. What a horrible death this dear woman faced....to think of others going through that...our heart aches!!

Facing this battle, one can not help but correlate the picture it gives...the death lurking around us each day.

**The reality of the delicate nature of life.** The **reality of the urgency for the hope of the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ** to be proclaimed.

The dear, unresponsive one I prayed over as we sent her off, urgently rushing her in our ambulance to the hospital (though in my heart I KNEW it was a futile effort)was, as far as I know, unprepared to face our Holy and Righteous GOD. She had not put her trust in the ONLY ONE that could provide her with a WAY to our Heavenly Father. She came too late for us to help her physically and spiritually, but we can shine as beacons of love and light to the family and friends she left behind.

**Thank you for praying for our ministry outreach here. The needs are so overwhelmingly great, but we have a GREATER God**



a totally different spirit, however, than our brother did last week , thankfully! Her heart, though hurting over various issues, was responsive and sensitive to Scripture shared with her. Bill challenged her to humbly apologize to the church for the hurt she caused and to graciously forgive those that have wronged her. She is a strong woman, but as we humble ourselves...GOD will lift us up! PRAY!!

As you prayed, we may have some more frequent flyer points to use for our plane tickets for Aaron's needed return to the USA. An urgent medical evacuation of one of our dear friends daughters this last week due to a very serious leg infection really hit home in our hearts. Had that been our son in need of urgent evacuation, it would not have been possible. They were Americans...it is a whole different story when US citizens need to travel fast! While we trust our faithful GOD for His protection, we also know that our son is entitled to that special privilege of USA citizenship too...so we pray! If GOD provides us with these potentially numerous points, we may have a way to provide for that trip for Lori and Aaron in MAY...pray!!! Have points...will travel!!

As we prayed, Bill was able to meet with our Local Member in Parliament. It was a good meeting. He seems very eager to help us get the land needed for GBBC expansion settled, help our clinic get more government medical supplies that we are entitled to receive but have NOT been getting, and even get the road up to Lusillo in better condition (we have had three deaths this past year up there that could have been avoided if the road was accessible for our ambulance to get to the patients in time!). **A lot of promises....we will see as GOD brings them to reality... as we PRAY ON!**

## ABLE

PLEASE continue to pray for Able. The situation there keeps going from bad to worse. This week he came to our clinic with pure blood stools. We are not sure if Lilian is unable to take care of him due to her physical and emotional stresses thus he is eating contaminated food, or if he is just unfortunately sick...but he was miserable. LORI was miserable sending him back again....ugh. **PLEASE PRAY for GOD to INTERVENE for this dear family and for GOD to get a hold of Richard's heart.** Lilian said that he physically attacked them this past week and burned her clothes in the fire and did other horrible things. We are not sure what all to believe as we realize we are hearing only one side of the story, but our hearts are burdened for sure.



## OUR ROADS?

PLEASE continue to pray for our roads. This week we have had massive amounts of rain. The roads, already horrible, have had land slides and are in even worse shape. PRAY for SUN to dry the roads on Saturdays so we can make it up the mountains either by vehicle or walking....to reach the dear ones at the top! The



As we prayed, Bill had more people calling with inquiries about students coming this year to **GBBC**. We have only a few weeks before our new academic year begins. Our boys dorm is full and we have space for just two single girls and a few married couples....how cool if GOD will fill up our entire college space!! PRAY. We sure need more laborers for the harvest field in PNG!! Lets pray the students accepted will come...the returning students will return...new students will fill in the remaining gaps and GOD will provide for all needed to prepare them for ministry!!!



## Aaron & Amo

Please continue to pray for Amo and Aaron in school . Amo has started the **"discovery"** program at school to further help him with his learning issues. It is one of GOD's amazing blessings to have a Christian school here in PNG that is geared so personally for the children's success. PRAY for his teachers and us to have

frame of the new church building is UP!!! GOD is building HIS CHURCH and the gates of hell and the torrents of rain WILL NOT PREVAIL against it!!

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Epidemics.....Inclement weather.....spiritual battles.....family needs.....behind the maze is the MASTER! Things may not seem logical or fair, but when GOD is directing them we KNOW they are RIGHT! God sets His truths in the picture frames of life...and we are seeing HIS love shine amidst the hurt, struggles and destruction.

“Allowing the GREEN light of GRACE to shine bright, eclipsing the amber light of caution and the red light of STOP, because in the hour of need HIS GRACE is truly all sufficient”!

wisdom as we work with him. Pray for his need to focus and concentrate and pray for GOD to just help the “mystery of reading” to clique in his brain!! PRAY for Aaron as we have started “mommy’s school” with him. Language continues to evade him, so we are starting to have more concentrated focus times on words, names and pictures and shapes to see if we can assist his acquisition of SPEECH! We know GOD gave us these precious boys for a reason...they have special needs GOD desires we help them with. We just need special wisdom and God’s intervention for the boys as they develop in their areas of struggle. Thanks for joining us in our heart journey with our kids!

No reserves, no retreats, no regrets!!

Bill, Lori and the boys.

<http://billandlorismithpng.com>

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY DEVELOPED WEBSITE. Our son, John Lindsay, has done an amazing job getting this all set up for us!! You HAVE to see it to believe it!!! All we could say is WOW!!!

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