

# GOOD NEWS!

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In this day and age of shocking and horrific news filling our papers and news broadcasts to the point we almost shudder just thinking about hearing “news”, reflection of the amazingly **GOOD NEWS** heralded by the angels over 2000 years ago is even more blessed.



Each **Sunday at Lusilo**, I teach the little ones a new alphabet letter, a verse, a song and a Bible story go with that letter. Many of the kids well above the typical age to start school are still uneducated up there where fighting and hatred and fear are the driving forces of life for their parents. Many times the kid's well being is just an afterthought. Mixing “literacy” and Sunday School is a great way to get new kids to come and now some of the parents are coming as well. I had to laugh at the amazing timing of GOD as this week the letter was **“G”**. Our story was the **GOOD NEWS** proclaimed by the Angels on that first Christmas morning!!

TO tell the truth, the realization of that amazing Good News and all that it encompassed leaves me literally speechless. (I can hear your snickering now...YES I CAN BE WITHOUT WORDS on rare occasions!!) The Gospel message encapsulated in the reality of GOD becoming the lowly form of a man in the most needy and helpless stage of human life, a newborn....born in a smelly, dirty stable to a young and inexperienced couple....the glad tidings brought by the Angels to the social “down and outers”, the smelly and dirty, unsophisticated and uneducated, shepherds out watching their flocks by night....it is all just too amazing. The love that sacrifice and humble “downgrade” took is beyond what we can humanly fully comprehend. The Angels sure were flabbergasted by the whole thing. WOW.

## **GREAT NEWS.**

That news has truly transformed my life and the lives of many others. That news is the very **LIGHT** of GOD that radiates like the multitude of Angels aglow in the fields and the star illuminating the night sky intriguing and guiding the Wisemen to follow so they, too, could worship this special Promised One! That **LIGHT** is the **LIGHT** that we hold forth and proclaim. IT is the power that compels us to be separated from our children and family during this a special Season, so that others, too may be transformed by the **POWER** of the **GOSPEL** that **LIGHT** proclaims. Because that babe in the manger was the **TRUE LIGHT** of the World, and the **LIGHT** and **LIFE** of our hearts as we have received His freely offered gift of salvation!

## **GOOD NEWS...from our family:**

Many prayers enveloped us this past week. Our long and eagerly awaited week away in the Coastal town of Madang was amazing. The place we stayed was not “fancy”....no phones, very limited internet access, and only two TV stations. There was the



ocean beach area the size of a small park's sandbox and the ocean.....but that was ENOUGH!! Amo had limitless explorations finding myriad sea creatures to fascinate him and occupy his time. GOD brought little boys each day for him to enjoy playing

with. Aaron just enjoyed the cool water in the sun blasting heat...all he needed was to float to be happy! We just unwound and relaxed, and returned to Goroka safely and ready to get back to work! Despite horrible roads and increased reports of violence on the roadways, we had a bumpy but uneventful trip there and back. Your prayers protected us!

As soon as we got back our **Amo's cuts and nicks** from the coral and trees climbed each day got massively infected...but we were home and once medicine was started he was back ON HIS FEET again...thankfully the sores did not hinder his fun when at the ocean.

WE got **home to find all was in order**. Our national "aunties" that cared for the two baby boys while we were gone could not thank us enough. I did not think of it this way, but truly they also got a Paid vacation. They got to stay and live in our house stocked fully with food for them to enjoy (which they gladly consumed EVERYTHING without a problem!) had propane gas to cook with and our rain/tank water to wash in. They said they just had the best time while we were away...ha! The baby boys stayed in the cool Highlands away from the risk of malaria, we got to sleep all night (though my body being "programed" did wake up at feeding times through the night!), and the Aunties got a "vacation" from the village. Win Win Win.

Now we await the heart ache of **Able's family coming for him**. His mom, miraculously as you have prayed for Lilian, is strong again. They were suppose to come and take him back today...I am looking at his little bags all packed and ready...but they could not catch public transportation today...maybe tomorrow. My heart is pounding and my stomach feels horribly sick as the anticipation of saying goodbye looms so close...but remains deferred . It would be better just to get it over with but that is out of our control. PLEASE PRAY. They seem to want to be a family again, and we pray earnestly that GOD will continue to give Lilian the strength physically and emotionally to deal with her family, her pregnancy (which is going well thus far!) and her on going battle with breast cancer as well.



### **GOOD NEWS from our kids back home:**

God, in His amazing last minute way, provided fully for our Andrew. His \$2000 needed was paid ON THE DAY they said they threatened to kick him out of his program at Moody. It seems that the grant needed one more document the school did not give to Andrew to complete...so that is now done and it seems all will be in order for the next semester, but his position in the program is fully secure now. We stand once again in AWE of our GOD!

God willing and His allowing the weather to be permitting, **ALL our kids will be at Grandma and Grandpa's** together for a few days this Christmas. PLEASE pray for that to happen. Not that I am totally sure why, but having all of them together eases the ache in my heart being so far away from them all!!!

## GOOD NEWS from the ministry:

The church at Lusilo is growing rapidly. New faces each week...new opportunities as the Christmas week approaches to reach in a very large scale way into their community! We are going on a **Christmas Eve camp out...ha**. Our family will be going up the mountain early Christmas Eve afternoon.



We will have our party for our remaining students on campus and next door/village neighbors that morning then we are mountain top bound. WE have a generator and we PLAN TO USE IT!! We are going to blast Christmas music, show evangelistic videos and have a very LARGE, we pray, Candle light service there that night under our tarp stretched over bamboo (our present church building) in the main market area of this our ,latest church plant! **WE are praying for 200 to come & we want to see many accept Christ as their "Christmas gift"**. We will have food, fun and fellowship ALL NIGHT, finishing with a sunrise Christmas service, family fun and food that next morning. WE hope to have a small toy for each kid there..something SAFE play with. *(Their toys usually consist of broken beer bottles, razors and sharp sticks and stones...even used condoms...it is really hard to watch them "play" with things so unsafe all the time!)*

**WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR PRAYERS FOR NO RAIN ON OUR CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT AND MORNING!!!!**

Christmas in that village area is usually a violence filled, alcohol and illicit drug flowing, immoral, all night party and we want them so desperately to see the LIGHT of TRUE CHRISTMAS this year!! PRAY!!!!

If Christ had not come, we would not have hope...we would not know GOD...we would not have a reason to celebrate...there would truly be NO GOOD NEWS. But PRAISE GOD...Christmas is real and JESUS came that we may live lives that are abundant and full!

MERRY CHRISTMAS !

...filled with the LIGHT of the GOOD NEWS of the GOSPEL of a living Savior born to die that we may TRULY LIVE!

No retreats, no reserves NO REGRETS

Bill, Lori and the boys.



[Amo chilling out with a mate](#)



[Decorating Christmas cookies](#)



[Aaron having the time of his life](#)

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