

Our God is SO BIG!

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Living in PNG it really is not difficult to ponder the amazing vastness and greatness of our GOD. We are surrounded by the most majestic mountains. The sunrises and sunsets here are nothing less than spectacular as the skies put the pallets of the most renown painters to shame. The rugged, tropical paradise foliage, the colorful birds and butterflies...all are like no other place I have ever been. Yes, as GOD says we do see HIS existence clearly through His creation so that none are without excuse.

BUT it is not the surroundings of Paradise around me that show me most about my GOD...**it is the LIFE we experience day by day here that shouts HIS GREATNESS.**

God is so big that HE works even in tragedy.

This week was a very hard one, to be honest.

I had asked for prayer for my two **"racing mamas"** to have their babies. Well, GOD in His own sense of humor did answer that prayer.

On Wednesday, I barely got home from a long day of clinic, sat down to eat dinner (long awaited as I don't ever eat during clinic time, so I had not had physical nourishment for my body in over 12 hours)....when that ever familiar knock came at the door. It was **Jessica**.

First babies are usually in no rush. She had a hard time of it, with words of threats, even hitting at those of us trying to help her at times as the horrific pain of motherhood took hold of her young body. She later "forgave" us all when it was done and she held her amazingly beautiful daughter. As we promised...as soon as you push out the baby, the pain is done...and amazingly enough it was!

It was then about 1:30 am when our little princess made her grand arrival. By the time I got her, the baby and the delivery room all cared for, got Jessica cleaned up...the bed changed and ready for her to crawl back inside for needed rest... as soon as she ate the hot meal I had ready for her as a reward of her hard efforts...our sweet **Agnes** came. Two of the ladies that were there helping their relative, Jessica, are some that also work for me in caring for the kids. It was about three am at that time, and when I FINALLY got to go home to let Bill know I was probably not coming home anytime soon, I found my sweet hubby with THREE wide awake and unhappy kids. (HA! I think he was working harder than me that night.) The two ladies were willing to go and stay with the babies so Bill could cuddle Aaron back to sleep in our bed and get needed rest himself. What a blessing these precious colaborers are for us! Always ready to help.

I headed back up to the clinic to get Jessica settled in yet another area so the delivery room could be ready for another MOM **...Agnes!** I had to laugh...they truly did race to the end.

Agnes had her membranes (bag of waters) rupture spontaneously...on their own...but not a lot of action as far as labor pains yet. THUS the long ordeal began. I kept a close eye on her through the night and into the next day. Not much happening.....like watching a pot for boiling. She would have a few pains then none. By morning I sent her out to walk....still not much through the day. She and the baby seemed to be doing OK, but

as the time ticked for her pain to begin, we were concerned about infection and such. I began antibiotics at the 12 hour point as bacterial infections here are as common as breathing. WE Waited on.

I thought it would be fun if they both delivered on the same day after all, but midnight came and went. We kept our vigil. By about 2am, the pain finally kicked in with amazingly great force. As she started to dilate (the road for the baby opening) I was able to find a cause of great concern. The great "discomfort" she had earlier that previous day was the baby doing some last minute shuffling. She had turned breech, bottom down head up...not the good kind of breach with neatly folded little legs, but because of the space being tight, just her head and chest shifted upward so that her chest and legs were parallel. **NOT a good position** for delivery to say the least. I was feeling her legs on top and the firm ball on the bottom...**but the bottom ball WAS her bottom**...tricky little thing! Well....not good considering that there is no operating theater here in Goroka now that our sterilizer is once again broken. The closest c-section was a really rough three to four hour drive away...NOT one you would do in the early morning hours with the now really intense labor pain in a high risk mom for sure. Thankfully **a dear Dr friend prepared me** to deal with many of these nightmare OB case scenarios. We had to get that baby to deliver legs first to save the mom's life.

It was not a pleasant ordeal, but GOD truly blessed. The ladies in the room prayed with earnest as I was able to get the legs down and we started to get the sweet baby girl (one advantage of that kind of delivery is that the long awaited surprise is over faster...it was a girl!!). But, I watched with amazing agony as the little life of this baby slipped away during the process of carefully guiding her body from it's womb home. I knew that the cord must have been compressed along the way...a frustrating thing that is totally out of anyone's control in this type of delivery. Mom was struggling with more than normal blood loss and weakness which I expected with a normal delivery being she is MY AGE and this is her 11th delivery, but now with this complicated one...it was much worse than I had hoped for.

So, **for the very first time at our clinic**...with the many many babies we have had the joy of welcoming...**we had a stillborn**. But the time I was able to safely deliver her, she had already slipped deeply into eternity. NOW I had to turn my overwhelming emotions of grief to deal with her mom struggling with massive hemorrhage.

We praise GOD for medications....IVs....help! I was able to **get her stabilized and the bleeding stopped** so we could transport her safely to the hospital for the now needed blood transfusion. Her blood pressure was low but acceptable and her bleeding under control. Our hearts aching for the precious, still little body carefully wrapped and left behind, but we needed to get Agnes back to full strength. TEN others were needing her!

Getting to the hospital, we found it as expected. A labor ward FULL of mom's ready to deliver at any moment, the midwife fast asleep, and only one assisting nurse's Aid there sort of helping the moms as they labored alone (no family or others able to be with them in our labor ward...they are alone through their agony!) The doctor was gone to Kundiawa, that three hour rough ride....where he had done a needed c section. They said he may come back some time that day?? We got **Agnes situated on the floor....all beds were full...got her IV's running again** as we lost her site on the rough transport in from our clinic....and started to replace her fluids again until the Doc would come and order the needed blood. She was OK. I was saturated in her blood from the delivery and her hemorrhage, but oh well for dignity!

OUR GOD IS SO BIG.....just after we arrived, GOD sent the Doctor unexpected back. HE was tired and grumpy...but when he arrived, he was able to understand the extent of the delivery details that seemed to be evading the midwife I was dealing with. With the blood loss we need for replacement blood

not just fluids, so he got busy helping order that life sustaining fluid.

We got her settled and left with more of a sense of comfort that she would get the blood needed and be fine. God is so good. So easily we could have lost both her and the baby leaving her ten kids without a mom.

Her life was spared as you all prayed with us.

OUR GOD IS SO BIG...getting back to the mess of a clinic, it was time to care for the precious little body set in love aside so we could focus on her mommy. As I washed and dressed and examined this little one, I found some very evident problems with her. Had she survived the delivery...she would have had many significant issues if indeed she even lived beyond her first few minutes. I fear that she was, in actuality, anencephalic (without a brain inside her sweet baby skull) but due to the fact that her cause of death, asphyxiation during delivery, there was no need to further investigate...but had she survived delivery, there would have been some definite mental issues with her...she most likely would have been a "vegetable" baby needing extensive care throughout her life. Though I am sure she would have been loved and her parents willing to care for her, what a huge burden for them with the many kids already, their advanced age (they are OUR age) and already having three deaf kids to deal with. GOD lovingly took her sweet impaired little body straight to heaven where He replaced it with a perfect one! HOW loving is our God for her and her family called to follow Him in ministry.

OUR GOD IS SO BIG....coming back to face the need to bury his precious baby daughter, our brother Alfred was blessed with the amazing family of GOD and comfort and needs were provided for. A neighboring Christian brother offered his private family grave area just across the way from us for the baby to be laid. Another brother lovingly crafted a little coffin box for the tiny little body. All of us Aunties made sure she was cradled in blankets and looked lovely for her siblings to say good bye to her. **The kids, especially the hearing impaired ones, were confused. They feared their mom also died..it was so sad.** They tried to make them understand and involve them as able. Alfred and this baby girl's army of siblings, carried her to the grave site and buried her before decay could kick in.

OUR GOD IS SO BIG...as I visited with **Agnes and Alfred** at the hospital this afternoon, bringing in food and items needed for our sweet sister. (here you provide all your food, toiletry needs...your own sheets and towels and toilet rolls!) I was able to explain the scenario of everything that happened so suddenly, and also of the condition of their baby girl and the difficult life she, and their family, would have had, if GOD had not intervened and just lifted her out of that situation into His safe and loving arms. They felt great peace flood over them. Their grief and pain was eased.

OUR GOD IS SO BIG...Monday our sister is scheduled for a tubal ligation to complete her child bearing years...I have been encouraging that since they arrived at school last year until it was "too late", so now the "deed" will be done and her body that worked so hard with 11 pregnancies can repair and put aside this great task of giving life! They were now both very eager for this as so very easily she could have been lost this time. The Dr said NO MORE pregnancies and I shouted a weary AMEN !

Even in tragedy...we see HIS hand of mercy.

My body aches all over from the stress and physical labor of this week...the day upon day without any sleep and little time to eat and physically rest....but VACATION is coming THIS week! AH.....a week away from "all this" for time with Bill and the little boys (babies will be left here in the cool highlands with caring Aunties watching over them in our home so we can get away and SLEEP through the night for a whole week...ah!! WORTH the money paying them for this blessing of help will cost!!).

God's timing is perfect...we really NEED to refresh...and HE has provided that oasis of Madang for us.

Rejoicing in HIS blessings:

- 1) It has been an intense time of burning hot sun and NO rain....and GOD is sending **sweet rain** as I type!
- 2) God has heard our prayers and supplied **some amazing financial gifts** to help the need and budget deficit at the Bible College this week! We still need about \$1000 to cover the work scholarship program during this Christmas break.
- 3) **God had prepared not only the knowledge** to know how to care for and protect the life of our sister in Christ (thanks DR BI), Agnes, during her time of great need, but HE also provided the **life saving drugs** needed to care for her as well.
- 4) God provided a gift of some frequent flyer points for our needed trip back to the USA to get Aaron's citizenship finalized (mom and dad desperately need that so we can claim him as a dependent for USA taxes....we pay taxes in both countries and every penny is crucial to keep our mission aviation boy in school right now!). We still need many more points or love gifts to help with that need. Grandma and Grandpa back in the USA are praying REALLY HARD to have a little precious time with their youngest grandies...so we will see what GOD does. (I think He especially hears the prayers of ailing sweet grandmas!!)PRAY with us for direction as we must pay fees and do a lot of paperwork for Aaron's visa to enter the USA IF we go....if this is not God's time then we don't want to waste that money nor start the process...very complicated.

Requesting YOUR partnership:

- 1) Please pray for our **family as we drive to Madang** this week. It is a long trip, on bad roads, during a time of the year when there is much danger of hold ups and safety issues along the way. We need you to cover us in prayers for protection as we travel. (time in the USA is Thursday late afternoon and evening).
- 2) Please pray for the **babies left here in Goroka with the Aunties**. It is very hard for Lori to leave them as they feel like our own children in so many ways, but it is best for them (they are both chubby now and the heat will be intense...and the malaria prevention medication is not pleasant!) and for us to have time as just our family. PRAY they stay healthy and that there are no complications!
- 3) Please pray as we are in a very exciting time of year. Christmas here brings special meetings and evangelism and outreach opportunities. There was a meeting all last week in Aaron's home village area of Makia....great open doors there our son has created! Bill spoke twice and others spoke the remaining days and nights...pray for lasting fruit. We will have special meetings at Kokinaga the weekend prior to CHRISTMAS and then a special Christmas Eve night service. **We will stay over in the village after our candle light service and have videos all night (we will bring the small generator...!)** which in that remote area will be SURE to draw a huge crowd, then we will have special Christmas services, food and fellowship and a time of family fun and hopefully special little gifts for the kids up there who have NOTHING! (If anyone would like to have a part in the outreach financially, let us know and we will give you details in how you can help). PRAY for MANY to come seeking...and finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST this Christmas...as JESUS IS TRULY THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.
- 4) Our home could best be described as a down town mission soup kitchen when the number of people fed here daily is calculated. It is our joy to reach out and show love through "DAILY BREAD" both literally

and figuratively...[but our stove AND fridge are on their very last legs](#). They have been faithful helpers to us, but need replacement. IT will cost about \$3000 we don't have to get us reliable yet simple tools for this part of our ministry. Pray with us that GOD will provide for this need.

5) Pray for [our kids back home \(and more so for mom and dad here!\) as this time of year is extra hard to be a half a world away](#). We miss them and our other family so very much. So as you all gather with your loved ones and hug your grandkids and enjoy fellowship, please remember those of us that, for the worthwhile cause of CHRIST, carry the cross of separation from those we love dearly. We are thankful that most of our kids will be with Lori's parents this year in NY (maybe all if GOD provides weather and finances for our Rachel and her family to run over for a day or so from Ohio where they will be with ROD'S family). That is a huge blessing for us that they can have each other. But our hearts hurt. As you pray we will be strengthened!! THANKS! We are all earthen vessels of clay, but as we pray for and love and encourage each other, we stand strong and carry out our purposes!

6) [ANDREW](#) is having problems with his [PELL GRANT](#) at Moody Bible Institute. He was given the grant in August and then about a month ago we were told he does not have it . We have to sort things out by December 12th or he is removed from school if we dont pay the \$2000 that is outstanding. No one seems to be able to help us fix the problem. [PLEASE PRAY FOR GOD TO WORK THIS OUT!](#)

“Our GOD is so BIG...so STRONG and so MIGHTY...there's NOTHING our GOD cannot do!!”.

Can you hear us singing that sound all the way across the oceans right now??? TRUST SO! JOIN US!

May GOD be glorified in the hard and blessing times...in the hurting and rejoicing times... in our weakness and our strength through HIM.

No restraints, no retreats, NO REGRETS!!

Bill, Lori and the boys.

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