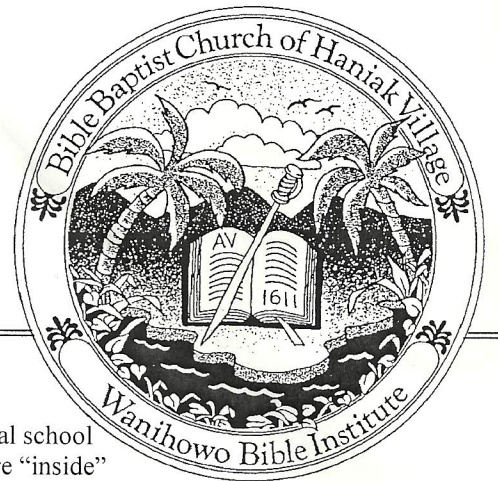


THE JOHNSONS

Tom, Carol, James and Jeffrey
Independent Baptist Missionaries to

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



September - November 2010

At institute class in town; the church members moved from meeting up at the international school down to their church building, which isn't finished yet. Here in the tropics you seldom are "inside" except at hotels that have air conditioning; so most church services are "heard" out on the streets. Well at the Meni Beach Baptist Church (which is built on a sand bar in the middle of a Mangrove swamp) the outside noises come in as well. A pet Cockatoo; was "parroting" something he had learned; so during the 2 hours of institute classes; he was squawking "Em Nau - Em Nau" every 10 seconds; which is Melanesian Pigin for "That's it, That's it".

One Sunday; another man named Alois from the next village wanted to ride to town, sit in on the Institute class and buy some gas to bring back. "Shooting the breeze" with him; I learned he had been a butcher for 20 years, in the former capital of Lae; (it was bombed flat during WWII). After he got saved about 10 years ago, he said he was working in his garden one day and a man from the highlands; a "squatter" attacked him with a kitchen knife, he had his machete with him but they fought and rolled on the ground for a few minutes, he threw his machete in the bushes and got his attackers steak knife away from him and slit him on one side of his stomach and rolled him over and continued to the other side, the man cried "oh mama", disemboweled he died. You just never know who's sitting next to you. Moral of the story: never argue with your butcher.

Pastor Willie preached a funeral for a sister in Christ from the Meni Beach BC. Her husband Patrick used to ride with us up to the village for Sunday service; when we were building our house 14 years ago but still living in town. Patrick would take my printed notes and preach them in surrounding villages on his own. After we moved up; I lost contact with him over the years. Gradually he fell back into the old life of drinking. One drunk night; he knocked his wife Rona to the ground and stomped on her and she died. So now their 4 kids have a father in jail and no mother. At the funeral, Willie was able to give the gospel to all of his extended family members that wouldn't give him the time of day since he got saved, they all listened and he was very relieved. The Lord continues to open doors for many of our members here as well.

Since Joseph has come; he has had some of the village men come and help him. At times Hubert and Philip actually worked together; years ago this would not happen. Many times a person will get saved and begin attending church only to be knocked out by a relative that's in the church that did something to affect them. All are related in some way; only in the last 40 years have they begun to "marry" outside of their own village. Amy asked Justina for a little toddler girl's name that she began to bring with her to church; her answer was "hetwik" or headweak. No name just "weak in the head."

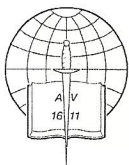
Regina; still as spiritually energetic as when she first came to church in 1998; takes short "mission trips" to a town on the Sepik River called Angoram. Joseph and I load her up with tracts and some bus money and off she goes. It's a catholic stronghold where the first - current prime minister comes from.

The Alois from our village continues to grow spiritually and is actively trying to convince his brother and relatives around him to get saved. He takes tracts back up to the Pogera gold mine where he works as a mechanic and passes them out, four trusted Christ so far. His testimony last Sunday was about how he used to shoot off his mouth when he was drunk and try to order everyone in the village to act like he wanted them to; now he's convinced that to keep to your own house and lead your family spiritually; is the only way to live and influence others.

The "alternator" on my house generator died; but the diesel engine is fine. I shipped it up to Mt. Hagen and it's being "rewound" by an Aussie expat, we "detuned" Joey's generator to US power so we could continue to build - operate here in the village.

Thank you all very much for the prayer and support,

Tom & Carol Johnson



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