

## *Hope you have a blessed and Christ centred Christmas*

Astounding grace  
that God the Son should choose  
To leave His Fathers glory, and refuse  
To clutch His dignity, exploit His right,  
And make Himself a no one in our sight.

The Word made flesh,  
The Son of God a man  
The timeless one clothed in a mortal span  
Now born of dust and in a manger laid  
Transcendent God , in human likeness  
made.

*All praise. Christ and His astounding grace. All praise His name*

It sounds like it could be a white Christmas for you – but rest assured it will not be for me! I expect the sweat to continue to trickle down my back and legs as I sit on the ground for the Christmas convention from 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>. The topic this year is spiritual maturity – so I trust that will be stimulating for many of us. I've got used to not hearing about Jesus' birth at Christmas – and we just make up for it at other times. We'll be singing carols tomorrow with any nationals that want to join us. ( Have to say I did not appreciate being blasted by Christmas carols when shopping in Hagen – am not used to such things any more!!)



**Please pray for the Christmas conventions** in many of the villages in PNG - that many who are without Christ will hear the truth and be changed. The village where our convention is has many young men who are often drunk and fighting. Please pray God's Word will break into their hard hearts and their lives can become useful ones.

Pray for 2 of my friends , Swatike and Ruth , who are married to non Christians who will be coming to the convention, and for my house girls' brothers who are drinkers.

Many of the pastors are going out to remoter villages to share God's truth. They have just spent a few days together praying in the bush

preparing themselves.

Please keep praying for **Andy Sanibai**– his cancer is advancing visibly, and he is in a lot of pain. We do not have much in the way of pain relief – so it is hard to manage – and hard to watch him in pain – especially for his mother. She is reading Preaching Job (PPP) and identifying with Job as his friends urge him to confess, and accuse him of sin. She continues to amaze me with her faith – I nearly cried when she said she'd thanked God for Andy's sickness. Please pray she can keep standing firm as she gets tired with poor sleep, and 24hr shifts by his bed.

As often, I come back to Romans 11: 33

*“ How great are God's riches! How deep are His wisdom and knowledge. Who can explain his decisions? Who can understand His ways?...*

*For all things were created by Him and all things exist through Him and for Him. To God be the glory for ever.”*

### **Thanks for your prayers**

- ❖ Thanks for praying for the bible study and retreat on sickness and fear. We had a good time and I was aware of God's strength and help.
- ❖ 7 pastors and I had a good time at the Preaching Course, Level 2. Hopefully we all learned more about preaching OT narrative. I look forward to continuing to work with them, and we have already set our homework and next date to meet.
- ❖ I was thankful to meet with the National Women Coordinator and make a little progress on the Women's policy.

- ❖ Cholera still has not reached Rumginae and seems to be on the ebb in other places. TB patients are creeping back into the vacated ward.

## What next?

I have a busy few days trying to get notes finished and things prepared ready to go on holiday to Australia January 4th. Still need to get tickets booked...etc. I am looking forward to a few weeks away, staying with friends by the sea close to Perth, WA. Unfortunately it is their summer – so I can expect high temperatures! Could do with a break from that – but at least it won't be humid like it is here.

Next year looks like a busy one, so feel the need of some renewal and refreshment. Look forward to some good times with the Lord and some good books.

**New Year** I hope will be a time to reflect back on all that the Lord has taught me this year. I am always amazed at all the reasons to give thanks to Him, all the answered prayers, the unexpected blessings, and the help through the hard times. So I look forward to that.

I hope the ending of 2010 will be a good time here at Rumginae for putting right tensions in relationships, saying sorry, etc. There is often a sense here of the need to begin a new year afresh. And it will be wonderful if some of the unresolved issues of this year can be confessed, forgiven and forgotten.

I pray that for all of us this Christmas will be focused on **JESUS**.

May you have time to reflect again on the wonder of His amazing birth and God's incredible plan of salvation.

What kind of greatness can this be that chose to be made small  
Exchanging untold majesty for a world so pitiful  
That God should come as one of us, I'll never understand  
The more I hear the story told, the more amazed I am

*O what else can I do but kneel and worship you and come just as I am, my whole life an offering*

What greater love could He have shown to shamed humanity  
Yet human pride hates to believe in such deep humility  
But nations now may see His grace and know that He is near  
When His meek heart, His words, His works are incarnate in us here.

In the lovely name of Jesus

Rosie