

October 2011

Rosie at Runginae

*“ So then my friends because of God’s great mercy to us I appeal to you;
Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him.
This is the true worship that you should offer”*



Romans 12 is my 2011 chapter. So it was wonderfully encouraging to hear verses 1 and 2 feature heavily at the **ECPNG Regional Conference** September 26th – 30th.

The Old Testament sacrifices were dead – so they did not struggle to get off the altar! God wants you and I as **living** sacrifices – with all our 5 senses working yet given over wholly to Him. God wants us willingly to give our whole self to Him - even when the fire gets hot and our senses say we should get off! Are you and I still on the altar?

We were challenged that many of us listen to our senses and get off the altar, going after what pleases us. Our 5 senses must be dealt with. We must die to ourselves and our own desires. We must be transformed in our thinking. We must seek God - and what **His will and desire is**.

There was a strong call to humble ourselves, repent and return to the God we have left. We must seek Him and His will - and do what **He** wants not what we want. I could have shouted many AMENS through this conference. **Praise God for answering prayer – abundantly more than we could imagine**. It was the best!



Pr Adidia, the Vice President for the Western Province, was the speaker. He explained that God dealt with him first and now these messages are for all the church leaders. God has given him 3 tasks;-

1. Rebuild the altar in the Western Province – be dedicated to God as living sacrifices.
2. Restore God to His rightful place
3. Rebuild Beulah – his local church, which was initially established by the missionaries.

I praise God for raising Pr Adidia like Nehemiah to restore this broken down place. I am praying for some Nehemiahs and believe he is one of God’s answers. Please pray that he will be as effective a motivator as Nehemiah was. May people respond, rise up and work – take up their weapons – the sword of the Word of God - and use it powerfully.

Please pray for Pr Adidia and his wife. Help them complete the task they begun. It is a very hard one and only by God’s Spirit can it be accomplished. There is so much to be put right. You’ve heard a little of the strong hold spirit beliefs have. Then dishonesty is rife - from lies to misuse of money, time, resources, from the bottom to the top – yes of the church. Then there is division and disunity, deep seated tangled roots of bitterness and unforgiveness going back generations. The PNG people are fiercely tribal and have elephantine memories. They have not forgotten the killings carried out by their grandfathers when some tribes were decimated. Payback is in their blood system! So to forgive and forget at a deep level is humanly impossible. But with God all things are possible.

You can play your part by firing the arrow of prayer across the miles.

Another very moving part of the conference occurred in the opening ceremony. I have never seen anything like this - and count it a privilege to be a witness. The people of Dewara turned out in style, from the small ones to the big, adorned in cassowary headdresses, grass skirts, bodies painted. 100 or so danced and sang with kundu drums. The boys/men waved bows and arrows, the girls/ladies waved leaves. They swayed and interleaved in harmonious fashion – the tiny tots following along in synch – almost. They were so cute.

It was amazing and so good to see a village that had clearly worked well together- preparing not only a big kitchen, mess and toilets from bush materials, copious sago, firewood etc, but also meaningful entertainment.

And everyone joined in - including those who are not yet following Christ.





And then **the best part!** They played a drama enacting very effectively how their grandfathers fought off the attacking Suki and Zimakani tribes. One man hunting unexpectedly came across a Suki spying out the land. Alarm and fear. A fierce and vivid fight followed. The children fled to hide. Some of the women were captured by the invaders and carried protesting away. The men fired their arrows and enemies fell to the ground writhing, then the death throes, until they lay still with the arrow sticking out of their dead body.



The victorious tribe went back to their women waiting to welcome them with nets to collect the heads. Great men bring back the biggest number of heads. The women danced to celebrate the victory and success of their raid.

That is how it was in the 1950s. Many of the Dewara tribe were killed or captured. As they watched, many Suki church leaders dropped tears as they recalled what their ancestors did.

But then praise God the good news of Jesus came to these fierce tribes. *“The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes first for the Jew, then for the Gentile”*

And so the drama ended with the women dancing – not with nets, but holding up high the Word of God, a man blowing a conch shell, as they all danced forward to the cross. They lifted the cross and carried it back - rejoicing now in the cross of Christ. This is when I dropped tears. How amazing and powerful is the cross of Christ. As Stuart Townend says *‘This the power of the cross, Christ became sin for us; took the blame, bore the wrath, we stand forgiven at the cross’.*



And then..... **better still**..... two Suki men came to the grandstand, took the mike and asked a representative of the Dewara tribe to come up. On behalf of their ancestors they apologized and asked for forgiveness, which was accepted. Agisa said *“My grandfather Agisa was a great head-hunter. I want with God’s help to be a great soul hunter”*

We stood and prayed and cried thanking God that the cross of Christ breaks down tribal barriers. Truly we can be *‘One in Christ Jesus’*. Praise God that I, the only non PNG present, can also be part of the worldwide family of Christ. That was such an amazing beginning to the conference. Praise God.

[Pray that the reconciliation which has begun will be completed.](#) Agisa wants to find a way to complete the process. It is complex and intertwined with many issues to be forgiven and forgotten between these and other tribes. [Pray God will complete the work He began.](#)

To have a good conference means that you have good food – I’d say spiritual, they’d say physical! We had plenty of both! The swamps were full of fish, carried hanging on poles between 2 men. Deer too – yum, have to say that was very good! Boy can they eat!!



God’s Word was like a mirror showing our dirt. Now may He help us to clean up. 2 Kings 23 is so apposite. Josiah read God’s Word. It showed him his mistakes. He followed what it said and he cleaned up the whole land.

[Please pray earnestly that the church leaders who heard these messages will begin a BIG clean up.](#) Starting in our own hearts, homes, local churches, communities and rippling out through PNG.

It was very moving to see more than 2/3rds of the 200 or so church leaders spontaneously moving to the front to publicly rededicate themselves to God at the end of our conference.

May this be the beginning of a great work of God’s Spirit in this church.



We 3 made up the North Fly contingent! South Fly and Middle Fly both had ≥ 100 . So North Fly has missed out on the call to humble ourselves and repent. [Please pray that God in His mercy will revive and renew us too.](#) [Pray God will help us to begin the reconciliation process.](#)

And at Rumginae.....

As usual people come and people go! (If I listed them all I'd fill the whole page!)

Pilots: - The **Marsh family** have relocated to Goroka.

Matt, Linsey and Ned Painter are in Australia praising God for the safe arrival of their second boy, Jack. God willing they'll come back in January. We have no permanent pilot. MAF have an all time low of pilots.

Doctors: - **Sharon Brandon** is in New Zealand telling supporters about Rumginae.

The **Priest Family** finish at the end of November returning to Australia for schooling for the children.

They've been here on and off for 10 years so will be much missed by all. Daniel is also our Team Leader, so we will need to rethink leadership issues. **Addy** is back from India.

David, Emma and Joshua Moore are here for 4 months. David first came in 2002 as a medical student – it's good to see him back! Rumginae does get under people's skins! Sharon first came as a medical student.

Sharmoni loves Christmas at Rumginae so will be back again for a month to help out. Christmas will be quiet on the mission front with only 3 single ladies!! How strange compared to other Christmases here!

Tom and Vicki Covington our Area Team Leader has returned to US unexpectedly for health reasons. Please pray for them as their life has been interrupted.

Looks like Addy, Sharon and I will be holding the fort next year! We will need your prayers. Not sure how we will cope with the maintenance issues – but God will find a way. God knows best and our part is simply to trust Him and follow as He leads. One couple were hoping to come and help, but that is on hold.

Weddings.....

Another family wedding! God has provided a new partner for Rosie. She hopes to marry Brian Edwards on December 10th. Please especially pray for Luke and Russell as they adjust to a new family dynamic.



Talking of Christmas.....

We have no changing colours or dropping leaves to remind us that winter and Christmas are coming. But facebook reminds me that some have already finished their Christmas shopping and wrapped their gifts!!! Christmas is also greatly looked forward to in Papua New Guinea. But in a very different way to the UK – not music and decorations in the shops. At Rumginae we plan a big 2011 Christmas convention. At the moment there is a field. Soon bush shelters will appear all over the field as villagers build their accommodation out of sticks and leaves ready for a good time together of celebrating. Then a grand stand...and hopefully some toilets! until finally we are ready.



Throughout PNG many villages hold Christmas conventions for 3 or 4 days with singing and praise, God's Word, and many items. Papua New

Guineans love to sing, dance and do dramas. Many items are presented in many different languages – resulting in many hours of sitting, sweating, on the grass! No chance of a white Christmas here!!

I love the Christmas times here – though they do take some stamina!



Papua New Guineans traditionally did not celebrate Christmas – they did not know who Christ is! They do celebrate the New Year - by throwing mud at each other! Now many come and hear God's message - even those who do not usually come for church. What a wonderful message it is. Jesus Christ – God's only Son – humbled Himself and became a weak dependent tiny baby – so that He could live and die for the sins of His people. Amazing. Something worth celebrating all over the world!

May you enjoy your celebrations as we enjoy ours. And may we all remember that Christ is the reason for celebrating CHRISTmas.

May Christ take centre stage.

Thanks again for your prayers and interest in the work here.

In the lovely and precious name of Jesus Rosie

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