

Rosie at Runginae

October 2012

"My word ..will not return to ME empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

40th Anniversary of ECPNG(Evangelical Church of PNG) Women's Fellowship September 2012

40 years is significant in the Bible. It's interesting for example to see how Moses' life is in 40 year segments. Here in PNG the good news of Jesus first came to the Balimo area in 1932. Then 40 years later ECPNG Women's Fellowship was officially birthed in 1972. In September 2012 we celebrated the 40th Anniversary and launched the Women's Policy and Handbook at Balimo.

We had a great time! PNG women are very good at celebrating. The opening march through the town was something to behold! Thousands of women with their banners and uniforms all marching behind the leading drummer. We certainly made people look – the road was lined with curious observers!!



Drama after drama showed the missionaries coming to their villages, greeted with suspicion and fear. Yet the Holy Spirit was at work opening people's hearts to the truth.

It is amazing to think how from that small beginning there are now thousands of men, women and children who love and follow the Saviour.

The ECPNG women at this celebration numbered about 7,500 – and that was only a few of the women who would have loved to come.

Praise God for what He is doing.

I never imagined I could enjoy teaching at

such a large event! A big crowd listened responsively to '**Unwanted babies**'. And the message touched many hearts. One girl sat and cried through the message because it was her story. My translator came to see me early next morning to say the message was for her. She went home to find her son's girlfriend was in hospital losing an unwanted baby. The words rang in her ears 'Respond God's way'. With God's help that is what she did.

This is clearly a much needed topic. So **pray** for God to open the right doors for other opportunities to speak on behalf of those who have no voice. **Pray** some tiny lives can be saved - precious gifts from God. **Pray** we can help prevent the increasing number of wrong relationships, and the pain that these bring in so many ways. It would be good to find openings to teach 'Make a good choice for marriage' to the young people.



Praise God the **Women's Policy and Handbook** were agreed at General Conference in August. Many copies were then printed - and arrived in time for launching in September! The ministry motto is 'Partnership in God's ministry' **Pray** this will begin a new phase of working together with the men, reaching men, women and children for Jesus. There is still much to be done. **Pray** the women will accept the changes, and see this as a new opportunity to move forward together.

The Handbook aims to correct some of the wrong behaviour and teaching, as well as give guidelines for practical things like managing money, running fellowships etc. It is good to get it finished – **pray** it will be used to grow the church.

It was a joy to teach '**Marriage and Love in the Family**' for our Rural Training Courses – a greatly needed topic. In most places there was eagerness to know and learn about family life. Although we challenged cultural beliefs and talked about forbidden topics, generally there was a good response and a desire to hear from God's Word. I got much laughter for my role play on poor communication, showing a wife impatient with her husband. It clearly rang true!

I loved seeing husband and wife discuss together their different roles in the family and praying for each other. That is new for me to see in PNG.

Now we wait to see if there is any change.



There were certainly plenty of challenges! I am very thankful to God for the course book, which can be studied and used to teach others. All made promises and plans about what they will work on in their family.

It was also encouraging to see well thumbed and dirty copies of last years course booklet – Grace and Discipline. And to see some growth and changes in the leaders.

Pray God will direct us in what to do next year to continue to build up the churches through the North Fly.

Work continues on PPP editing, booklet production, preaching clubs....

Coming up Langham Training of Trainers in December.

I am asked to help as a facilitator, helping to train the selected 20 participants to teach God's Word. I am not sure how to do this – so please **pray** for God's wisdom and direction.

Area Ministry Training Committee November 3rd where we will make plans for our ministry programmes for next year.

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

In the lovely and precious name of Jesus

Rosie

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*Happy the home that welcomes You,
Lord Jesus, The most true friend, most
honoured guest of all
Where hearts and eyes are bright with
joy to greet You
Your every wish are eager to fulfil.*

*Happy the home where man and wife
together are of one mind, believing in
Your love;
Through love and pain, hard times and
suffering through good and evil days
Your care they prove.*

*Happy the home O loving Friend of
children, where they are given up to
You in prayer
where at Your feet they early learn to
listen To Your own Word and thank
You for Your care.*