

Return to Rumginae – at last!!



As I write I look out to this view – except the river is lower. Not bad eh! I am looking forward to my river dip shortly. It's been a slow adjustment to life in Rumginae. Maybe God knew I needed a slow start! Christmas is a time when people are busy and scattered so it is taking some time to catch up with my friends and to hear their stories. I am very thankful to now be back in my house, on the veranda in the mornings! I had 4 weeks in Addy's house while maintenance was done to stop the white ants completely destroying my house!

God has of course been at work here in many different ways. God is building His church – but not without its challenges.

Discouragements

Many (>12) out- of- marriage pregnancies and wrong relationships of students, staff and children of pastors and friends.

Briompenai and Menumsore (villages either side of Rumginae) not having regular church services.

Rural Training courses and 'Do not Fear' not running in 2014.

Church leaders misusing money and involving with spirits.

Primary school headmaster teaching the children to fear the spirits.

Having to find my friends rather than them finding me!

Ants!

Encouragements

Rumginae Bible School dormitory finally being built

Pr Mase standing firm

Maintenance progressing under Geoff's direction (short term missio)

Honanabi district responding well to their bible training and churches all having pastors.

Salome faithfully teaching her women's fellowship and having a lady come to Christ.

6 ladies finishing the PPP 2 Timothy studies.

District women's leaders studying Ruth together.

Enthusiastic and godly hospital chaplain who is starting bible studies with the longer term patients.

One of the school teachers doing the Do not fear book and Genesis bible studies with her class.

Briompenai church now meeting again and responding to Colossians 3: 1-16. Leader wants to forgive and put right with another church leader.

One young man at Briompenai who 'gave his life' Christmas 2013 still attends church and wants to go to Bible school.

I still have my house meri (Jevelyn) who has worked hard cleaning my house this week.

Sharon doing bible studies with 3 Briompenai ladies

That's good – I'm glad the encouragements are greater than the discouragements!! And here's another one.

Do you remember Sewoknai? I think you have prayed for him.

How would he go in 2014 with me and his other missionary friend away for most of the year? So many people and things around to pull him in other directions. But I knew he was in God's good hands – and our part was to pray and trust.

I was encouraged to find Sewoknai still seeking to walk with God. 2014 was a very hard year with more episodes of being rejected by the village people. He was accused of sorcery along with his father and beaten badly. He did go to the police but then 'felt sorry for them' and did not press any charges. He also told me he failed and made mistakes. But 'God kept me'. Like a toddler learning to walk we all fall down and make mistakes. The important thing is to allow God to pick us up and keep going.

This is what he wrote:-



'Sewoknai out of fire'.

1. It is not easy for me to give my life to Jesus. My friends and my family do not like it.

2. It is very hard to change some things in my life. But I know that GOD will help me to change and to live as one of his friends.

Notes to follow that will help:-

Meet with some of God's friends – Christians

Join a group at a church where the Bible is taught

Join youth group

Fellowship (church)

It's hard to convey what a change that is for him. He struggles to trust others.

I asked if he had anything from the Bible to share and he turned to Psalm 1, which 'he comes back to'. That was very encouraging!

We pray we will be like this and be fruitful trees for God.

Sewoknai is thankful for those who pray for him across the world. At times remembering this is what kept him going. Please continue. It is very much an up and down path! He, and all of us, are in a spiritual battle. We need to pray for one another that we do not fall into sin and keep on faithfully.

I hope you are encouraged to see the effect of your prayers.

I asked Sewoknai to choose 2 of his old friends and pray that God will change them.

Please pray along with us for David his brother and for Awinip and Samuel and other old friends. They too so much need to be rescued from the fire.

Off again!

Thankfully not the power at the moment – although we have again run out of donated diesel and wonder what to do long term about the power supply as demand exceeds supply.

It's me! I am still unpacking – but will soon have to start packing again!

I am off on Wednesday 21st to Pioneers Team Leader training in Bali until Feb 3rd. Have to say it seems like I have only just arrived and am still catching up! So it feels too early to leave. Please pray the meetings will be really helpful to all of us leaders in SE Asia and Pacific. The preparation has already been challenging – on servant leadership, multicultural teams and resolving conflicts. Pray for good interactions. Most people I will not know. But pray this will equip all of us to be better team leaders who can build up and encourage those we work with. **Thank you**

Psalm 1

Happy are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God, Instead they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream that bear fruit at the right time and whose leaves do not dry out. They succeed in everything they do.

Since then you have been raised with Christ set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above not or earthly things. For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When **Christ who is your life** appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but **Christ is all** and is in all. Colossians 3: 1-4, 11

