

Feeling in need of prayer again! Thankful for you all and your faithful support of me.

I have SO much to be thankful for – especially in the light of what many of our brothers and sisters are facing as refugees or internally displaced people. So please praise God with us for all His wonderful provision and blessing on us.

'Because your love is better than life my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live and in your name lift up my hands' Psalm 63:3,4

Life continues with its particular challenges at the moment.

The effects of the drought are showing and being felt. Our pilot reports seeing white winding paths where rivers used to be and dried up lakes. His landmarks are changing!! Communities are finding it hard to get drinking water and food. There are disaster relief committees setting up and planning. Pray for wise and honest use of resources so that those in greatest need are provided for.

Jesus had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

I am encouraged by Mark 6: 30 -44 as I remember our God of compassion – and Almighty power. (And Jesus' patience with his irritable disciples!) He who fed thousands of people can likewise pour water on this thirsty ground and provide for the needs of many people here. And it's not only physical rain we need – but an encounter with Him.

River swimming takes on the feel of a community bath! Good place to meet up as people wash their clothes, dishes and bodies. Very social feel now to my daily swim! It's friendly.

Thankfully there is an easy system to pump river water into the big hospital tank (which is then bleached). (It's not meant for drinking. The drinking tanks are low)
Staff are struggling to get enough water supplies and there is a palpable feeling of low morale – which also shows in the work place. Some communities are charging to use their water springs!! (I don't think this has happened before)

We have some significant struggles with relationships especially in the hospital leadership –so please do pray that satan will not cause division. Pray his attempts will be thwarted and God will bring good out of what satan intends for evil. Pray for peace and God to dissipate the anger that is felt.

Praise for short showers yesterday and today.

Praise for help in preparing notes for bible studies for the students on 'Read the Bible' and 'Marriage'. Pray they will be excited to read God's Word more and more.

Praise for Libi returning home with a normal heart rate.

Pray for more attention to God's Word and less attention to visions. We had a guy (he was meant to be preaching!) speak for 1 ½ hours about his 'visit to heaven and hell'. The ladies were all very excited and flocked round him after the service. Today I heard they have asked him to speak at Briompenai on Sunday – so I am praying he won't!

Pray for help and stamina

1. **'Who is God'** for women trainers was re-scheduled a couple of times (as we learn to expect but doesn't always get easier!!) Due to start tomorrow (11th) for 4 solid days. But disappointingly the Area 1 participants will miss. That means I have to teach 4 more sessions (which I am not feeling ready for). Pray for good gelling of the group (about 6 of us) that we will learn for our lives and also learn from each other how to teach others effectively. Pray for good times of feedback after the teaching –as that is not always something people find easy to give or to receive. I also have a session with the students on Sunday evening on 'Purpose of marriage' -as well as Sewoknai coming straight after morning church.

2. **Regional conference at Balimo** from about the 18th to 28th. It is very dry and hot at Balimo – and the meetings are very long – and very long winded! I expect I am missing the reasons why, but often seems to me that people go round and round and basically say the same things! (And often do not seem to reach a decision –sometimes just delegating it to another meeting!!) So I need the love and patience of Jesus to fill my heart.

I plan to take a bookstall –so need wisdom as to which books to take as freight is expensive.

I need wisdom and good memory – as they all remember me and I struggle to remember them and where they come from etc!!

It will be more difficult diet wise now I am basically gluten free and finding other things also upset my stomach. (am still working out how best to manage my guts!) Am also a bit anaemic and therefore more easily fatigued than I am used to.

So all in all I am not too much looking forward to this conference! Please pray I will be an encouragement and be encouraged. Be good to have some conversations that God can use to grow us in Christ and spur one another on to love and good works.

It's **Independence Day** on 16th – 40 years of having PNG government. Rumours are that 000's and 000's of kina is being given by government for Independence Day celebrations. It can be fun and very good for meeting friends. It is often mostly sports with some dancing and traditional activities. But seems to remind some people of their animistic gods and pull them back to old practises.

Pray we will all realise our utter DEPENDENCE on God – for every breath that we take – as well as for everything else! I plan to celebrate my dependence – and plan to meet with Pr Meduas wife to pray in the afternoon.

Pray for all of us followers of Jesus to understand better how to live daily **in dependence** on Jesus.

Drunkenness is causing a problem – with people sometimes drunk and disturbing around the mission station in the day and night.

We don't have an effective system to deal with them and people seem a bit afraid of them – sometimes with good reason. Pray for wisdom and courage for the national leaders on the station.

The **new leaflets** are now printed - so pray God will use them to help open eyes to see there is hope and purpose in life – when it is lived for Jesus. Pray for wisdom to know how best to give these out and who to. Often people here are quite happy to take something to read. May God use these leaflets to turn many lives around into lives that are useful for Him.

Jesus had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

I lost my calendar at the washing place – but things I remember are coming up:-

October 3rd TEE studies for youth leaders continue. Sadly only 2 seem to be committed to this. It's encouraging to see their participation. Pray for wisdom as we think more about further youth leader training.

Prayer day and half with Mase, Nico and John – which I am leading

Planning with Bible School teachers towards the re opening of the Bible school in February.

October 8th -10th General Ministry Training Committee. I've not been for this before so am not sure what it involves. But am very interested to take part and thankful for being invited. It is certainly my interest. Pray for good relationships with the other members and that we will work well together. Pray especially I will get to know and work well with Dacky who is the new Director of Ministries.

Thank you for praying.