

## Lewis and Judy's Labours of Joy February 2021

Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. Habakkuk 3:18

Translating Scripture, Preparing Bible Lessons, Writing Tracts and Booklets, Training National Missionaries

And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8

Truly the LORD our God went before us through this past year 2020. He guided us; He fought our battles for us; He opened and closed doors; He encouraged us; He dealt bountifully with us; He comforted us; He guided us; He gave us joy and peace; He chastened us. He was always with us, as He promised. He never failed us, as he promised. He never forsook us, as He promised.

Encouragement through other believers. We praise the Lord for Liberty Independent Baptist Church and their encouragement and support through times of trial. For LIBC, the year ended with three days of special meetings, their theme being Galatians 6:14, But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. Praise God for one soul saved during this time and many who repented of sin and were restored to fellowship with the Lord and with the church.

Comfort in time of sorrow. When the New Year began, a new life began for my sister Priscilla. She left her earthly home where she was a pilgrim and a stranger and was received into her eternal home where she met her Saviour face to face. She was the first of our siblings to pass away, but we rejoice in the hope of being together again soon. She leaves one daughter, Karan, who was very close to her mother; two grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. Please pray for them.

Guidance in time of need. The Lord continues to go before us as we move ahead into this new year. During our recent trip to town for shopping, rest, and celebration of our December anniversary, we had planned to look for a place where we could get some tracts printed. We looked uptown, but didn't find anything and didn't know of any other place to look. A few days before our flight back to Owena, we were

out looking for a little café that some friends had told us about. We passed the café without noticing it and came face to face with a printing business at a bend in the road. To make a long story short, it was evident that the Lord had led us to this place. The owner, Ben, was willing to print the tracts and even had them ready in two days—1,000 each of two different tracts. We were grateful for the nice job he did, and also grateful for the opportunity to share the gospel with him. Ben was delighted to get copies of the tracts for himself. The tracts are for LIBC to use for a tract distribution campaign in July, sending teams out to villages of neighboring people groups to pass out the tracts as well as copies of Genesis-Exodus in Melanesian Pidgin.



If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.— C.T. Studd

**Open doors**. The Lord is starting to answer your prayers for the Owena youth and for opportunities to interact with them. Recently, a young man named Graham came to our door asking us to charge his phone. We asked him about his walk with the Lord as we had heard that he had turned aside to worldly living, whereas previously he had manifested a strong testimony. He replied quietly



Graham

and soberly that he had quit going to church. Not having time to talk right then, however, he promised to come back and see us. And he did. As we inquired about his salvation and if he were sure he was saved, he thought a bit and then replied, "Yes, I know I'm saved, but sometimes I have doubts." We shared with him some Scriptures on assurance of salvation and later printed out and gave him a copy of a lesson we had written on assurance. He was very grateful, especially to know that we had thought of him and prayed for him. "I didn't think anyone really cared," he acknowledged. He has since gone off to town for high school, but came back to see us before he left to let us know that he had confessed his sin to God and before the church. We encouraged him to find a good church in town where he can have fellowship with other believers and teaching from the Word. He asked us to pray for him that he will stand strong and hold a good testimony throughout this coming school year. Thank you for praying, and please pray for Graham and the other youth who have gone away to school. Living in a dormitory with unsaved youth, they face many and strong temptations.

The mission students have also had some opportunities to interact with some young people. Eight newly saved teens asked some of the members of LIBC to teach them some things that will help them to grow in the Lord. Mike and Dallas are working along with other young men from LIBC to minister to these young people.

Because He is worthy,

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Joy in serving. The first missionary training program is drawing to a close. Several courses have been completed, and others are near completion. Pray that these seven students will diligently apply their hearts and minds to their studies unto the end. It has been a joy to see how they have grown spiritually since classes began. Lewis has asked one of the men, Mike, to consider training next year to become a teacher in Soldiers of Christ Missionary School. Please pray for Mike as he seeks God's guidance in making a decision.

A closed door. The mission students' outreach ministry to the village of Kairaba has been put on hold for now due to tribal fighting and other problems. We pray that things will settle down, and this ministry will pick up again in the future.

## Other praises and prayer requests

- 1 Praise God for a good measure of health.
- 2 Praise the Lord for wisdom and guidance as we continue translation of Old Testament books. We have nearly completed the work of proofreading the New Testament translation. Please pray that we will always handle God's Word prayerfully and carefully.
- 3 Praise God for His help with lesson preparation for the missionary training school, and His help with teaching the classes.
- 4 Pray for spiritual growth for new believers.
- 5 The greatest desire of our heart is the salvation of many more souls, and for the Lord of the

Our God of Grace often gives us a second chance, but there is no second chance to harvest a ripe crop.

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