

Lewis and Judy's Labours of Joy

August 2020



*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

¹²Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Titus 1:12-14

Living Soberly, Righteously, and Godly. As we see this present world in turmoil, men calling good evil and evil good, people living in fear of disease and death, the wisdom of the world exhibiting its foolishness, souls looking to man for the answers to their questions rather than to the omniscient God, how important it is for us to live soberly, righteously, and godly! We have a blessed hope that we need to share with those who have no hope. The great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ will soon appear to catch his bride away, and we have the only message that can redeem the lost from all iniquity for all eternity.

Rejoicing in Blessings. On May 18, missionary training classes were begun with four students—Dallas and his wife, Elise; Pastor Amos; and Mike. Pastor Amos's wife, Mata, and Mike's wife, Taqita, sat in and listened. Not many days later, however, Mata decided that she wanted to have lesson papers and be a part of the class. Then Amos's daughter Bonita joined us; and a few days later, Taqita asked to take part. So our little school is complete with seven students. What a blessing each of them have been to our hearts! It is such a delight to teach men and women who have such enthusiasm and motivation and have been giving themselves whole-heartedly to their studies.

These students are continuing the outreach ministry to Awa that was started by Amos and the young people. Actually three of the students were part of the original outreach group, and they are excited to be able to continue that ministry. Rovi is so hungry for teaching and the men spend extra time teaching him. He continues to be a witness among his own people by sharing whatever he learns. The Awa people have had missions and churches for a long time; but most of them have no real understanding of the gospel message, and their lives have not changed. When taught just simple lessons from the book of Genesis, as the men seek to lay a foundation for the gospel, many have responded thus, "Thank you for teaching us; we never heard that before." Rovi also wants to take the students beyond the Awa villages to another language group where he has relatives so they too can hear the message of salvation.

How we covet your prayers for these students, for Rovi and the other Awa people, and for the many lost souls in the regions beyond!



Left front: Mata, Amos; back: daughter Bonita
Right front: Dallas, Elise; back: Back: Mike, Taqita

**God uses men who are weak
and feeble enough to lean on
him. – Hudson Taylor**

**If God wills the evangelization of the world, and
you refuse to support missions, then you are
opposed to the will of God.– Oswald J. Smith**

Patient in tribulation. Along with the blessings, there have been trials, particularly within the church, Pastor Matthew was exhibiting more and more areas where he failed to measure up to the qualifications for pastor, and he refused the counsel and correction we tried to give him. There were several others, as well, who sought to intreat him and help him to acknowledge his sin, but he denied any wrong. Therefore, Pastor Amos and I felt it necessary, according to I Timothy 5:19,20, to rebuke him before the church. There was immediate strongly-voiced disapproval from all of Matthew's brothers and families plus a few others. They refused to hear anything we had to say and no longer wanted our help, encouragement, and counsel for the church. They said that we are wrong, and that Pastor Matthew is their leader. Pastor Matthew stood up among them and declared, "I am your pastor."

We are grateful for Pastor Nuanda who sought to act as a go-between in the situation. However, Pastor Matthew insisted that he is has done nothing amiss. Pastor Nuanda is very concerned for Matthew, as he himself walked that road before, spending many years under the chastening hand of the Lord before he acknowledged his sin. He tried to warn Matthew that he will meet great trouble ahead, but Matthew refuses to heed his warning. It gives us much sadness to have to break fellowship with these people whom we dearly love; but in obedience to God's word, we have had to do that until there is evidence of genuine repentance. Several of the church members who have seen the wrong are now attending Liberty Baptist Church, pastored by Nuanda.

Yes, the ministry has its heartbreaks, but the joys outweigh all the difficulties. Praise God, He is faithful and always causes us to triumph in Christ. Please pray for conviction of sin and for repentance for those who persist in following their own course.

Because He is worthy,
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Other praises and prayer requests

- 1 Please pray for continued health for us, especially as the Covid-19 cases are increasing in this country.
- 2 We are thankful for a time of rest in town after all the recent stress of dealing with the church, and some little trials too. We praise the Lord for caring for our bodies' needs as well as the needs of our souls.
- 3 Please pray that we will be able to find an economical generator to replace the one that has recently quit working. The last of our solar equipment should arrive soon in PNG, and we are praying that all will work out for its soon installation. However, we need a generator until then, and even afterward to keep the solar batteries charged at times when there isn't much sunshine.
- 4 Praise the Lord for wisdom and guidance as we continue translation of Old Testament books, work on proofreading the completed New Testament translation, and prepare lessons for the missionary training school. Please pray that we will always handle God's Word prayerfully and carefully.
- 5 Continue to pray that we can work out the logistics of ordering a good printer from Australia. This project came to a halt when the pandemic started, but we are told that the supply line between Australia and PNG is now open. Praise God that one of our supporting churches has offered to help with the cost.
- 6 Our greatest desire and prayer request is for the salvation of many more souls, and for the Lord of the harvest to send forth many more laborers.

Facebook proves the very fact that it is a lie that "we do not have enough time" to be gathered for prayer in the name of world missions. – Unknown

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