



Lewis and Judy's Labors of Joy



March 2017

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

Highlights of Lewis's trip to Papua New Guinea.

The Lost Passport

On December 1, en route to Papua New Guinea, I arrived in Manila, Philippines, around 4:30 a.m. after a 13 1/2 hour flight across the ocean. I took the hotel bus to Remington Hotel where Bro. Hardecker had booked a room so I could rest. When asked for an ID at the reception desk, I went to give them my passport but couldn't find it in any of my bags or pockets. They accepted my US driver's license for ID. I then called Bro. Hardecker and asked him what he thought I should do about my passport. He suggested that I go back to the airport and retrace all my steps. The hotel consierge called the shuttle bus driver and the airport, but the passport hadn't been seen. With a prayer in my heart, and although weary from the long trip, I took the shuttle bus back to the airport; and as I was going across the road to go into the airport at the place where I had exited, security stopped me and wanted to know what I needed. I told him my story and that I wanted to look for my passport where I had last used it. He suggested that I check lost and found first. The guard took me in and told the receptionist what I needed, and I confirmed it. The receptionist took me back into a room where the boss was talking to a security agent, and they were filling out paper work. She told her boss that I had lost my passport. The boss held up a document and asked "Is this it?" I looked closely, saw that it was mine, and said, "Praise the Lord!" After I signed the paper work, they kindly handed me the passport. The security guard let me use his phone to call Bro. Hardecker so I could inform him that the passport had been found. We had a little praise service over the telephone.



Our Focus

Serving the people
of Papua New Guinea
through
Translating Scripture
Preparing Bible Lessons
Writing Tracts and Booklets

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Hungry Hearts

What a grand welcome awaited Lewis when he finally arrived in the village of Owena! A few of the church members, carrying the Papua New Guinea flag, met him at the airstrip when the plane landed. The rest were waiting near our Owena home, ready to greet him there. Another Papua New Guinea flag, a welcome banner, and a banner on which was printed Romans 10:15 were raised above the fence gate. The youth were lined up inside the gate ready to honor him with leis, a new bilum (string bag), songs of welcome, a brief welcome speech, and handshakes.

We praise God for His enabling Lewis to preach and/or teach 31 sessions in the five weeks he was in the village, and for God's wisdom in counseling and in dealing with special needs. The people were so hungry for teaching and encouragement from the Word of God. They kept asking for more and more.

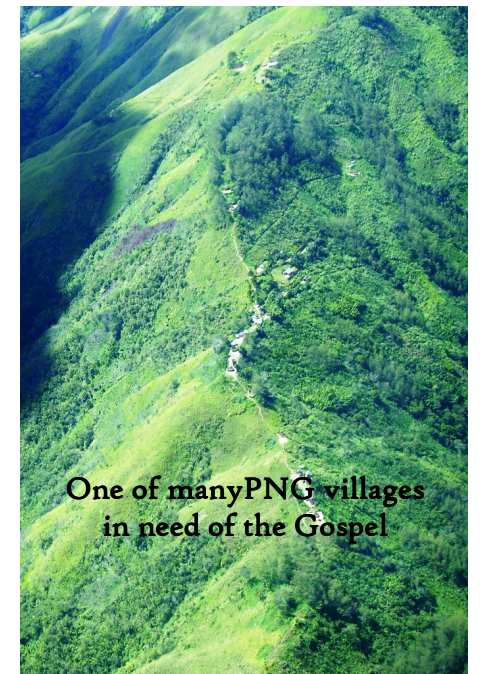
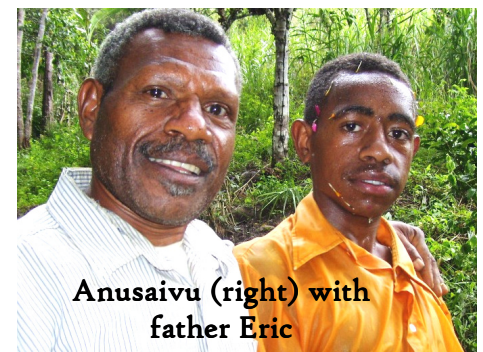
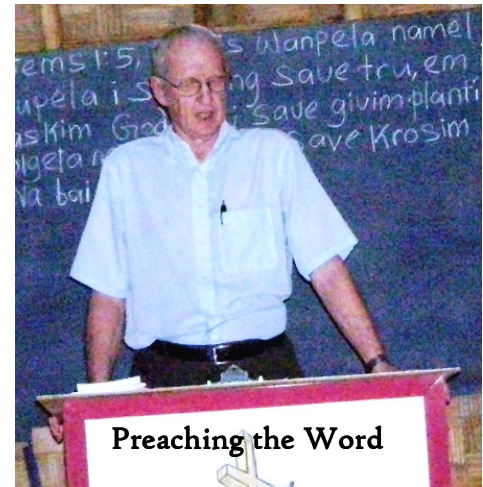
The book we had prepared on marriage and sent ahead by mail was used for teaching the youth. Both they and their parents expressed great appreciation for this book to give them Biblical guidance for choosing a marriage partner.

A teenage boy named Anusaivu was saved following one of the special New Year meetings in January and was baptized on the last day of the meetings.

Who Will Go?

On the last day of special meetings, Lewis challenged the people to get their eyes off themselves and to lift up their eyes and look on the fields that are white already to harvest. Dozens of people groups are within walking distance of Owena, some of whom have been missionized but have not been evangelized. There are hundreds of other people groups all over Papua New Guinea who are still waiting to hear that God loves them and has provided deliverance from their sins and from the power of Satan. Many of them strive to gain salvation by works, not knowing of or understanding salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

As the Owena believers were challenged to take the gospel to the lost around them, about a dozen believers responded to the invitation. A young man named Dallas Mark told Lewis later that, before the invitation was even given, he could hardly restrain himself from jumping up and saying "I'll go." Dallas is in his early twenties and is a newlywed, married to his sweetheart, Elise, a day before the special meetings. They both have been faithfully serving the Lord at Glory Independent Baptist Church in Owena.



A Godly Testimony

Mike Mark is a young Owena man about 30 years old who has been teaching Sunday school at GIBC for the past couple years; and, for several years, he has also had some preaching responsibilities during the Wednesday and Saturday morning meetings. When Mike was saved in 2011, he could hardly read or write. He learned some on his own and later gained more academic skills by attending Glory Christian School. During this visit to Owena, Lewis had the privilege of ordaining him for the ministry. As is their custom in Owena, the church families honored him and his wife with gifts after the ordination service. The youth group also gave him a gift, along with a letter in which they shared how they had been watching Mike's life and saw in him a godly example that they would like to follow. They stated that they would like to serve the Lord just as Mike does. Praise the Lord for Mike's testimony of consistency in obedience to God's Word!



Dallas & Elise



Mike Mark & family

The Hands of God

On January 13, I boarded a Philippine Airlines plane that flew 11 1/2 hours across the Pacific ocean, landing safely in San Francisco as scheduled. As soon as the plane turned off the main runway to head to the terminal, it all of a sudden stopped. Engines had failed. We waited about a half hour for a tow truck. After pulling the plane just a few feet, the tow truck broke down. After more waiting, another tow truck arrived and took us most of the way to the gate. Then that tow truck broke down. A third tow truck finally arrived and brought us to the gate. Truly God's hands were under that plane as it flew across the ocean!



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Then Said I. Here am I: send me.

In November 2015, seeing that Glory Independent Baptist Church was growing and functioning well, we returned to the US thinking that we could accomplish more here with fewer interruptions. Our health was also being affected by mold in our Owena home.

Although we often find ourselves overwhelmed by the fast pace of life here, the Lord has allowed us to accomplish much as we've prepared and printed materials for the Owena ministry. Still our hearts are in the land of Papua New Guinea, and the Lord continues to stir our hearts to return to Owena, not only to continue the work of translation and writing teaching materials, but to train the Owena people to take the Gospel to those around them who are thirsty for the Water of Life.

We are so thankful that our pastor has a heart for missions, is supportive of our returning to PNG, and is a great source of encouragement to us. We thank the Lord for our two precious

daughters, too, who are a great joy to us, who share our burden for the people of PNG, and who encourage us to do what God has called us to do. We love them dearly, but more than all our earthly ties, we love the Lord and delight to do His will. We know that we have all of eternity to enjoy being with our loved ones, but only a short time to get the Gospel out to those who are still waiting to hear.

Also our hearts have been burdened as we've seen how few are willing to leave the comforts of America or the world's cities and face the hardships of reaching lost souls in remote areas. Two thousand years ago, Christ told His disciples to be His witnesses to the uttermost parts of the world. The commission has not yet been fulfilled, and so we say with all our heart, "Here am I, Lord; send me."

As we begin to prepare once again for service in Papua New Guinea, with John Keith Falconer we cry out, "I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light."

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Needs for prayer

1. Continued growth of believers at Glory Independent Baptist Church; the church to be pure; Mike, Amos, and Matthew as they minister to God's people; unity among the leaders as well as all the saints; a missionary vision.
2. Packets of lessons mailed to PNG to be handled properly and arrive safely in PNG and Owena. One packet of Sunday school lessons has been lost, and a replacement packet that was sent over a month ago has not yet arrived.
3. Dallas and Elise to faithfully serve the Lord wherever He sends them.
4. Mike asks us to pray that he will have a good understanding of God's Word.
5. Souls in our neighbourhood to come to Christ. We praise the Lord for continued opportunities to share Christ.
6. Continued wisdom in our current ministry of translation and writing booklets and lessons for the Owena people; God's continued provision for these ministries.
7. God's provision of good housing in a good neighborhood for our daughters, Christy and Connie.
8. God's provisions for ourselves as we make preparations for returning to PNG - increased support, visas and other paper work, travel plans, funds for building a new home in Owena.
9. Labourers to go and reap in God's harvest fields.

Joyfully serving our Lord.

Lewis and Judy Young

<http://laborsofjoy.weebly.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/owenaopportunity>

Of more than 7,000 languages
spoken in the world today,
only 531 have the WHOLE Bible
translated and published.

What part will you have in giving the written
Word of God to those who have no Scripture?

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,
Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?
Then said I, Here am I; send me.
Isaiah 6:8

For information on **Baptist Bible
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