

Update from Ross and Marge at Bethel Centre, Port Moresby, PNG...August/Sept 2010

Hello to you all,

We bring you much love and greetings from Bethel Centre in PNG. Here we are back at the Centre and back in our little home. Once again we have found that we are sharing our home with some rats. This time they are living in the ceiling above our bedroom. At night we can hear them scurrying across the ceiling and that keeps us awake. Just the other day we heard some sparking in the ceiling and then we lost all except 2 power points in the house. It looks like the rats have chewed the cable that feeds to the power points. We didn't realize they had done this, and it may have blown our fridge as well. So it is in the repair shop, we are praying that it will not cost too much to repair.

One night we came home from night Church and Marge opened the back door and with a scream I saw her hanging off the back door. I thought that there must have been someone there. But no, it was two rats that had been caught between the screen door and the back door and when she opened the door the rats jumped at her. I managed to kick one in the head and it died but we did not manage to catch the other one, but it did get outside the house. Life certainly is never dull!

The container has arrived and we were excited to get our Tarago out of the container as well as our double base bed. So we no longer have to sleep on a foam mattress. The car is such a blessing to us, we can now do



our shopping when and where we want too, in air conditioned comfort. We thank you all for your prayers for the container and the vehicle and for those of you who helped to get the container here into PNG. It is rather odd to have our Toyota Tarago, here in another country, without yellow NSW number plates but with white PNG number plates (MAD 399)! Thank you to everyone who helped get the container here so quickly. The container arrived in Port Moresby and they didn't take it off the ship, it then went to Honiara and back before we got it off the ship and onto our property here.

Marge has been back to the prison. The first time she went, she arrived there early, but the warder on the gate would not let them in, because she felt sick and wanted to go home on sick leave and there was nobody to replace her. She felt that there would be a problem if the ladies went in and she left. The hours are between 9 and 11am and she was still there at 12. So Marge and the ladies sat patiently outside the prison from 8.45 to 12.30. It certainly was a time of testing their patience. All the ladies in the prison are doing well and we are just pushing now to get the Bible School up and running again. The Prison Chaplain has been sick and so nothing much as happened as a result. Some of the prisoners came to Church recently and it was really good to be able to worship with them outside of the prison, there were 12 men and 3 ladies, and it the first time the ladies have come to Bethel.



I went back to Laloki to share last Sunday, while Marge went again to the prison. On the Friday night a young 18 year old boy had been killed in a road accident, he had been run over by a truck. There was still evidence of this on the sealed road, with blood etc. In PNG there is a week or so of mourning until the funeral, so there was mourning in the area where the Church at Laloki is. It is also rather an unsafe area at times. So with a young man, Chris, from the Church I bought some vegetables and took them to the young boy's family. (In a way I guess it is good to be ignorant about things that happen.) Chris and I went in to the small village to see the family to offer our sympathy. The air was tense and sombre. The family were not sure what we were doing there. But would not let us go until we had prayed for them, God certainly did something in this family. I found out later that this young man and his friends had decided they were going to hold up the truck, he was drunk and he was the one who came out onto the road to stop the truck driver. The truck driver sensed something was wrong and did not stop, and drove straight over this young man. How awful. God used Chris and I to bring some hope to this young man's family.

We are continuing to work in the June Valley area. We have two house Churches in that area of around 80 plus each. God is continuing to work in the lives of these people. They are coming to Church. Last Sunday morning there were around 40 young people that came to Church (ages from 4 to 15), and sat with us. Some are a bit fidgety, but at the right time go off to Sunday school. As we were leaving a Church member came up to us and gave us K100, and said "this is to buy some food for these young children," what a blessing it was for these young people. This is the third time someone has done this for these young people from June Valley. Two weeks ago around about 6 of them were filled with the Spirit. We are able to see changes in many of them now and even in the lives of the mums and dads in the area as well.



ARK Ministry is growing and now we have 5 areas each Thursday. On the 23rd September we had a combined ARK program at the Church. We gathered all the children from the five areas where ARK operates and ferried these lovely children to the Church, there were several loads on the Church vehicles. All in all we had 700 children. It was amazing to see God's hand in it all. The staff,

students, congregation members all got behind this event, the first one of its kinds, where all the children are gathered together in one place. We sang songs, had a story about the "Lost Sheep" (told by Regina), well over half of the children committed their lives to Jesus, we then gave them all a meal of rice and stew and an iceblock. Then we had more singing and games. How exciting to see the staff get right into all the singing with actions, "Making Melody in my heart" (what a sight to see 800 people participating in this song), "He is the King of Kings", "I love you Jesus", "More, more, more" ... are just some of the action songs that we sang and the whole Church rang out with the joyous singing from the children. This certainly was a momentous occasion as many of these little ones had never stepped inside the local Church. God certainly



touched them and has made a difference in their lives, and definitely an answer to prayer for Aunty Jean, who was the back bone in prayer and labour for so many years of ARK ministry. A BIG thank you to everyone here but also to all our prayer and financial supporters in Australia and New Zealand, we could not have done this without you!!



Many hands up to receive Jesus!

Here are some quotes from some of our staff about the day... *"It was an excellent start to gather all the children in one place (the Church) from different places of where ARK ministry are held. I myself was amazed of the number of the children that came. WOW, we have a mob of future leaders to carry the name of Our Lord and give glory to His name! I am glad that I am part of this Ministry."* Ps Liza Ignacio, from Philippines.

"It's a great day. Very special blessing for me to see 700 children come and worship the Lord together. Big loud voice shouting, singing, jumping and clapping that was fun. I was so touched by the simplicity of their heart in worship and response to the story in the Bible. What a little precious soul that God loves. Yes, quite hard work to keep them quiet, but yes, that's who they are. God loves them just as they are. I believe that day God was with us and He has planted His seed in every heart. We finish late but sometimes we need too." Regina, from Indonesia.

"I felt blessed and encouraged to see lots of children coming to the feeding program and I believe that God has a plan and purpose upon each of the children that came. I did feel a bit tired because we were walking when the sun was so hot and calling out the children to come and be involved in that feeding program. Thank God for many children gave their lives to the Lord which is born again." Rodike, from Indonesia

Hope and pray this finds you all well and keeps you up to date.

Please keep us in your prayers and also keep in touch with us while we are away.

Our prayer points

- *Our health*
- *Elliott's schooling for this year back in Wodonga at his new school*
- *For Kate and Amy as they look after Elliott*
- *For wisdom*
- *For our Parents health and wellbeing*
- *For financial support to continue to flow so that we can continue to serve God here*
- *For us to be able to do what God has called us to do in this nation of PNG*
- *For our continued safety as we work and travel around PNG*
- *For continued Bible School in both the Men's and Ladies prisons(to start again)*
- *For the Laloki outreach and feeding programs*
- *For the June Valley young people and parents*



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God He blesim yu tru,

Ross and Marge

Please keep in touch with us by email... we have a new email address

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(please do not forward any emails larger than 800kb, we are on dial up and it is very slow)

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