



from Glenn and Beth Calderwood

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PNG Newsletter

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Dear Friends

Since late July I have been getting together with Jeff each Friday morning to help him prepare for preaching at the Tatagufa church while we are away on furlough. We have two 1½ hour sessions. In the first session we are working through what biblical preaching is, its motives, goals, pitfalls, etc., and in the second we are working through 1 Timothy which Jeff will then preach when we are away. Mano initially had been coming along too, but finding the work too daunting, has dropped out. Jeff on the other hand never misses a beat and seems to be soaking it all up. His responses indicate that he not only understands the major principles, attitudes and goals of preaching, but appreciates them and desires them, which is very encouraging indeed. I think that we probably couldn't overestimate how critical and how heartening this is. Coming away from Inivi (where Jeff lives) each week I'm constantly drawn to thanksgiving for the way the Lord seems to be working in Jeff.

On October 16 we will be travelling out to Ukarumpa where Alice will be doing her HSC examinations at the Ukarumpa International High School. We plan to return to Avili on November 8. During this time I hope to complete the translation of 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon. Since I was preparing the text of 1 Timothy for Jeff, I thought it would be good to do all three and have them bound in a single booklet ready for later use. I am also in the process of preparing a small "commentary" for him on 1 Timothy which is really just a breaking up of the text into sections for preaching, a brief statement of the main theme in each, and a summary of how the individual verses relate to the theme. It is going to be good having some uninterrupted time at Ukarumpa to be able to get it all completed in time. We would really like to see Jeff excel during our furlough, in his preaching and in how he conducts himself in leadership within the congregation. Jeff has such good possibilities that it would be wonderful if we were able to use this time to firmly cement his preaching/leadership potential within the church. We want to do all we can towards this end.

Several weeks ago Nare approached me, expressing his regret at leaving the church and asking permission to return. He had spent almost two months at

Kainantu and while there went along to a couple of different churches. He said this made him realise how good the church at Tatagufa is. We had not asked him to leave; this was his own choice when his sinful behaviour had been challenged. I think people are glad to see him back, a much quieter Nare than before, although we're not really convinced that the core issues have been dealt with. Nevertheless there may be room to be hopeful that there is at least a beginning of change.

Generally things have been going pretty well at Tatagufa. The preaching has been well received and numbers are back up to the level they had been before all the Nare troubles. There are still a number of people doing seasonal work at Kainantu, but we're hoping they will soon return. Last week Timas's elder brother was shot and killed by a gang of raskols in Kainantu. The body was returned to Tatagufa for burial at the weekend, so we were able to catch-up with many of our seasonal workers. Some admitted that they never even attempted to seek out a worthwhile church, and that they have been prone to many of the vices of town life. While we don't like to deny people opportunity, we do feel that it's at too great a cost spiritually. We are hoping that this murder will maybe prompt them to return home a little sooner. Taku said he hoped to come home in 6 weeks time.

Many of you have prayed for Asisi over the years. It is sad to report to you that she has now left the Tatagufa church to attend the Seventh Day Adventist sect with her husband, Wan. Since Wan's adultery several years ago, and subsequent taking of the woman as a second wife (read concubine, for he has constantly refused to do what the culture demands in order to establish a marriage), Asisi has been out to win back his affection. We feel that maybe this is what is driving her present actions. It is understandable, but nevertheless a very serious miscalculation, and we grieve for her wellbeing.

Things are going quite well at Avili. There are people from Haga, Sosofi, Vakomupale, Mayavipi, Kagufi, Kopawantega, Toyo'otoleka, as well as from Avili who attend or meetings here. Some Sundays we would have 25 people or more. Leften and Ellien, Meron, and maybe Joel from Haga, are the only ones converted, but



we are hopeful that in due course, as people sit under the Word, other conversions will follow. Working out something for this little group for while we are on furlough is going to be a challenge. It's not an option having Leften lead, for a number of reasons, although he will be an important factor in keeping the group together.

A number of people are still very keen to hear the Word each Tuesday at Yafanagomo. Jeve claims to be a believer now, but is reluctant to attend church at Tatagufa which is only a 10-15 minute walk from Yafanagomo. Josephine seems less interested than before. Jeve's parents still can't get past their works-gospel mindset. Onavita listens appreciatively, while his wife Aurame isn't giving away much. Mickey, Jeve's younger brother, now attends and does listen - people don't always attend in order to listen.

Thank you so much for praying earnestly regarding the developing situation at Yafangomo. Two of the young Yafanagomo men who claim to have been trained by Dave Crowe to be pastors are apparently causing quite a commotion. A Yafanagomo friend told me that many are upset at all the rules and regulations they have tried to impose on everyone. The "big-men" in particular are very angry, for they feel they are bringing Yafanagomo into disrepute.

Many of the things these young men are opposed to are cultural things which are "neutral" - i.e. there is nothing in Scripture which specifically condemns or commends the particular practice, be it a marriage norm or some other cultural norm. These are things which we have always encouraged the TT believers to do well for the sake of gospel. It would seem it's the age-old trap of replacing tribal culture with Western

culture, which has been thoughtlessly mistaken for being biblical. The legalism of their position is so obvious too. In fact another Yafanagomo friend said to me one day that these two pastors preach a works gospel, not the gospel of grace. It is possible he is mistaken, but I'm not surprised that he thinks this, as very often the gospel message of Christ crucified is smothered by all the other things that missions say and do. The gospel is not given its proper weight and thus it is seen as less important than all the other things which have been given greater prominence. This is a very common occurrence here in P.N.G. resulting in the gospel being lost to most.

Beth and Alice will be travelling by helicopter when we go to Ukarumpa, as the law and order situation on our roads has not gotten any better, but is in fact worse. New and stricter helicopter rules meant we've had to take out more trees near the house to allow wider access. In fact, to comply to the letter will mean that our out-buildings (my office) will have to be demolished - they now require two access corridors, although we are hoping to negotiate some sort of compromise on that. I plan to leave our vehicle at Ukarumpa and travel back with Beth and Alice when we return to Avili. Alice will have six weeks to pack up her things (she has lived in P.N.G. since she was 6 months old), then we head off to Australia for a 4 month furlough in which time we hope to see Alice settled with Ruth and Hayley in Newcastle. Alice hopes to study at the University there.

We received a CQB in the mail a couple of weeks ago. Thank you. We appreciate the love and support of which this gift speaks. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Glenn and Beth and Alice.

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