

DELTA DIARIES

Hope you all had a great Easter. Sorry, I think this is our first prayer letter for 2006—it's not that we haven't needed prayer, but we haven't had any "big" outings this year as such.

Our two main areas of outreach so far have been to our neighbouring village, Ara'ava, and Era Kiti, in Kikori District.

When I first came to PNG 25 years ago, we had a lot of combined church activities with Ara'ava, our closest village. Then Ara'ava had a leadership crisis and for years we haven't able to do much as they sank deeper and deeper into the darkness. This year we felt to try again, and have made a number of trips down to the village showing the video "The Passion of Christ", sharing testimonies etc...

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...seven teenage girls and one boy gave their lives to the Lord and were baptised. They have asked us to go back to the village to show more videos and perform Easter dances/dramas, so we are going back this weekend.

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It's a big village and there's much darkness—as an example, this Christmas a marijuana-addicted puffer murdered his brother who tried to stop him marrying someone else's wife—she was already a Grandmother!

We are delighted at what God is doing at Ara'ava—recently Epeso (one of our staff from there, a staunch conservative) had a dream. When he woke up, he was speaking in "tongues", which he then translated into Pidgin English. The message was a call to repentance. The villagers were totally amazed as Epeso is a seriously quiet guy and this was highly unusual behaviour for him!



Things that 'thump' on your roof at night

Steven, also from Ara'ava, is a great rugby player but not a great churchgoer. He also had a dream. In it he saw two canoes—one in a dark place, the other in an open sunny place. He had to choose which canoe to get into. He tried the dark canoe, but didn't feel good, so he tried the other canoe and felt it was the right.

When he woke up, he was sure God had given him the dream so the next Sunday he went to the church and shared it. Now he's challenging his rugby fans that chasing an oval ball won't give life. Tomorrow night Steven and Epeso and others will be coming up to the hospital to share their experiences with the hospital patients.

There's still much work to be done. It's like pulling a big log out of the bush by hand- it takes a whole team to make it budge. But with God on the job, it's possible. So we would appreciate your prayers for Ara'ava village.

Next weekend we will be going back to Era Kiti. It's not a big village, but the people are special to God. Most of the older generation have made commitments and have been baptised, but they have been brought up with a great dependence on sorcery and it's so hard for them to change their thinking/lifestyle. For example, if there is a thump on the roof in the night we immediately think of a possum or such, but these people straight away think it's a sorcerer!

We took a team to Era Kiti in March and many rededicated their lives and some of the younger generation gave their lives and were baptised. We left them with Bible studies to do and will be going back next weekend with a team for a teaching camp.

The team will combine our staff with village people who have already broken through in the area of sorcery, so they can share with others how to do it. We are also taking a team of Sunday school teachers and Shiana's schoolmates, as we will also run a program for the kids. We feel that the only way to have a strong church in PNG is to bring up a strong new generation of kids who are grounded in God's word. So we would also appreciate your prayers for Era Kiti.

We will be running another discipleship course at the end of May.

Akia, who came last year, has been doing a great job sharing his faith with all his old mates.

Samuel, who gave his life last year and also did the discipleship course, is a 15-year-old that dropped out of school because his Dad died and his family couldn't pay the fees...

...*this year we have* helped him go back to school and we just heard yesterday that he spends his “play times” preaching God’s word to the students—and even the teachers come out and listen to him!!!!

Discipleship training is really making a difference.

2006 has been the year of the visitors thus far—all great. Apart from our kids and their friends who came up at Christmas, we have had 2 NZ Medical students, 1 English Medical Student (who’d grown up in Kenya), 1 NZ Nurse and friend, and David and Lyn from Australia...

...David is a retired builder who now uses his expertise to help others...

...He is at present overseeing a big building project we have on here—a new library, classroom and tutors office. He has a large team of local carpenters and labourers to supervise, so he has his hands full.

John and Dot from Australia arrive next week. Dot will be working with a group of village women, training them how to sew and look after their families.

We also have a YWAM team from Perth arriving mid-May.

So, Kapuna might be a remote, isolated place in a swamp and jungle, but God brings the world to us!!!!...we hope to see you soon!



Yet more crocodiles



And now...high tide floods!



Finally, we’d love your prayers for three Indonesian Christians who have been sentenced to death by a firing squad soon for ‘inciting violence’.

They are innocent but have not been given a fair trial. Please pray for a miracle for them. Thanks.

We’ll give you an update on answers to prayers.

Love to you all,

Barb
Colin
Lin
Shiana

