

DELTA DIARIES

Dear Friends,

Happy Christmas!! Jesus is the reason for this wonderful season, which causes us to remember God's most precious gift to the world: His Only Son.

We are so happy at this time of the year that we live in the swamp with no commercialism, so we can concentrate on the real 'thing'. Thank you so much to all who have sent us your Christmas newsletters, cards and goodies.



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Build leaders was the direction for 2007, and so it was, with the Fire gatherings, three at Kapuna, one at Orokolo. The first focused on Barnabas building; the second added reconciliation, repentance, and renouncing of forefathers' sins; the third added breaking the agreements with tribal gods and signing and declaring a tribal covenant with God the Creator and asking for a healing of our land.

In addition was the "mi pela yet" workshop where leaders were trained in a holistic approach to bring communities into transformation. At this gathering we hoped to proceed to the breaking of agreements with darkness, but some leaders were not willing. This must be done in full agreement, so the leaders departed 3 days earlier than planned.

As one group of leaders was getting into the boat, it caught fire, sending the leaders leaping into the river! The burnt craft was a sad story, but many saw it as a warning from God. So when the final fire conference gathered, there was a strong commitment to go through with "changing of the spiritual government."



In April 2007 a gathering was held at Kerema with Michael Maliau from All Pacific Prayer and Rev. Sanasi from Boroko United Church. There was a powerful time of reconciliation between churches, breaking of tribal gods, and signing of a covenant. Four months later came the national elections, where a long time board member for GCS agency, Havila Kavov, won and is now the Governor of the province.

Speaking with some of the pastors, we agreed the outcome of the election was because the spiritual powers had been handcuffed in April. The former member lost his seat in spite of heavy use of witchcraft and massive bribery etc. The only sad part is that the former Governor, who led the collapse of our province, has been rewarded by the Prime Minister and appointed his personal advisor despite having numerous misappropriation charges laid against him! Hard to understand—the line of Balak (Numbers 25 -31) comes to mind!

We are thanking the Lord for what has happened and what will happen. Another happening at Fire 4 was a vision given to our nephew: he saw a large gathering of people and then rain fell from heaven. Some looked up and the glory of God shone from them; others looked down and all they got was wet. Then he saw the words: "Will you be my faithful servant?" written in bold letters across the scene. Then a great wave rose, the words were drawn into it, and then the wave broke over everything with great power." A powerful message to us all.

The new Gulf Governor has asked Barbara and me to help bring change to the province by accepting an appointment to the Provincial Assembly.

This has been accepted by the agency with trepidation; the details are not clear yet. We have prayed for years for better government in Kerema, but it never entered our minds we would be called upon to be part of it!

We are more than happy with the roles we have at Kapuna – she organizing this and that 24/7, and me watching the bananas and paw paws grow. So please pray for us, for more grace as we enter this arena and also for help on the ground for the ministry of GCS to be maintained.



Dr. Lin at Ahititi, her childhood home, NZ. Jan 2007

We are enjoying having my sister, Dr Valerie, and family and friends here. They are providing good entertainment for the locals and patients by:

Chopping down a tree, floating it down the river, adzing it into a canoe, paddling it to nearby villages, and falling out often!

Setting up a climber's tightrope for all and sundry to fall off.

Organizing a crab eating competition with some of the staff,

Making a harpoon and going off crocodile hunting – with one croc bagged and eaten.

We hope your Christmas is as interesting, and if not...there is still time to do a 'Shrek' and head for the swamp!

GCS projects had the fun of implementing a number of programs this year. They have all gone well, in spite of some 'storms'.

Women's sewing: over a hundred women trained in sewing skills, with Parenting with Confidence and health issues covered as well. AusAID funded 80 sewing machines, with each woman contributing 10% of the cost. A lot of happy women out there and proud husbands as well. During the final ceremony (presentation of machines and certificates) the husbands went forward with their wives – tradition was shattered when one husband kissed his wife in public – amazing, unheard of ~ *Tradition!*

HIV/AIDS: 14 more villages covered with in-depth decision-based workshops. The team encountered strong spiritual attacks on this program, particularly in a village where three are dying of AIDS.

Water tank repair program: repaired over forty village tanks and installed nine new ones.

EU Health Village plan: working in four villages and is incorporated into the CHW nurse training program, where the students work together with the communities to address health issues household-by-household.

Once all the health issues are addressed (18-month period), the EU provides a 1000L water tank and a hand washing facility for each house that has completed their list of health improvements: when they have done what they can do, the EU helps with what they cannot do.

A huge Thank You to you

who have kept track of our doings over this and many other years,
who have given prayer cover,
who have helped with ministry costs, (especially for the Discipleship Training program)
who have given so generously to keep us frolicking in our favorite swamp.

Thanks for being a part of this call with us and blessing the people of the West Gulf.



Janai and Stephanie are home for the holidays; we're keeping them extremely busy. Janai has taken over running the school and Steph is the right-hand lady in the office. It will be hard to let them go.

We pray that our Mai Ima (Good and gracious Father) will bless you plenty with not only pie in the sky but steak in the plate as you continue your adventure through life.

Have a truly wonderful Christmas and a new 2008
Love from your swamp friends.

Love to you all, Lin, Barb, Colin, and family

Note: OKS Kapuna account has changed this year

New Kiwibank Account: OKS Kapuna
Account number: 38-9006-0327945-00

Please use this new account for any future donations, or post cheques to: Calvert, 27 Valley Road, Waimauku RD1, Auckland 0881

And we have one supporter who will match any donations...dollar-for-dollar...for the rest of this year!!!

Gulf Christian Services: **Kapuna Hospital**, Private Bag, Baimuru, Gulf Province, Papua New Guinea.

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