

# DELTA DIARIES

Dear Friends,

Some Swamp Stories – well the nice ones any way...

## a Floating Bible

...Earlier this year Meka, one of our senior medical staff, shared about a young villager, Ivaigini, who paddled out to rescue coconuts floating out to sea. He spied something black floating in the swell. He paddled to it. To his amazement, it was a Bible, with only a few pages wet!!!

It was dual English-Pidgin.

For him, it was a miracle, a sign from God. His wife had been dramatically saved from a crocodile attack a couple of years earlier, but even with this grace he had not found faith. Since finding the Bible, he has made his commitment and has been following the Lord...

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## and a Vision

...On Independence Day, Meka was back in the village and Ivaigini had more to share, this time a vision: It was afternoon snooze time, his wife was black out and he was to mind the kid. He is adamant he was awake, doing his dad duty when he saw a vision of himself on a dark night holding a lamp. A group dressed in white appeared, performing a drama. Some villagers started shouting at him: 'Put the lamp out!'

He replied, 'Can't you see, I am giving light to those doing the drama?'

Three times they shouted to put out the lamp; three times he answered the same.

Then he was looking down on a church. From it came singing: 'Blessed are those who dwell in the house of the Lord ... hear our prayer, O Lord God Almighty.'

It seems the message is three-fold: we are partners in the dramas of the spirit; we are not to be deterred by opposition; and we are to stay in the House of our Father.



## 100 Water Tanks and 100 Mini-wells for Kapai and Kinipo

One of the fun things we tackled this year (fun most of the time) was the European Union funded Water and Sanitation Program. We called it: 'The Healthy Village program.'

The name change was because we wanted to achieve more in the villages than just installing clean water.

It was encouraging to hear many of the villagers giving thanks to the Lord for the help given through the EU program. One old man said 'the tanks were an answer to his prayer' and that the 'EU was the hand of God' (not sure what the EU would think of that!)

Here is a great story, as shared by John's wife, Kauere. John was a guy who was expected to die at any moment, but who amazingly recovered after he was baptized. He lived well for another 15 months and in that time was able to prepare for his family before heading home to heaven. The story was written for publication in EU foreign aid publications.

The story of Kauere Vai'i (F/38) of Kapai Village and how she got a 1000-litre water tank through the EU Project.

*We are not a rich family like others in Kapai, but we have trusted God in everything.*

*When the EU Project introduced its activities in my village, my husband and I took it seriously, believing this was one of God's hands to help the poor...*

*Nurses came and did the ground work, advising us to improving our health standards. Every household was told to have its own toilet, washing basin, and gardens etc. At that time my husband and I had just returned from Kapuna Hospital where my husband John had nearly died but had wonderfully recovered.*

*Nurses gave health talks and lived among us for 6 weeks, assisting us to build toilets etc to improve our living standards. After they left, Mr Kaipu came. He visited every house to make sure all the Lists of jobs given by the nurses were done and collected K90 cash for our tanks. We did not have all the money, but were blessed by the United Church women coming to have a meeting in our village. We accommodated 3 women and they paid us for looking after them. This money helped us to make our contribution for our water tank.*

*We were told to make garden also. We did not have gardens then. Our last garden was washed away by high sea tide. My husband, even though still not fully well enough, went ahead and built 4 gardens and completed all other given jobs to qualify us to get a tank. Unfortunately, he was not able to see the final results. Death was approaching. Just before the receiving of the Completion Certificate to qualify us for a tank, he died...*

...While he was dying his last words to us were: 'I have done everything for you and 6 children. The Lord has blessed us. I am not leaving you in poverty. You will be receiving a tank too. So keep trusting the Lord Jesus and continue to carry that cross we have carried together. Continue to have faith in God. I love you all.' Then he died.

When the day to receive Completion of Certificates finally arrived, I was one of the first to receive it and the first one to be called out. Tears came running down my eyes. They blinded me. I could not see where I was going out. I could not control when all the memories of my late husband's work came on like movies. I cried and went up and received the Certificate. Then sometime later the tanks arrived and I was one of the recipients.

Thanks to EU. Thanks also to Kapuna. Thanks to my God, I am now a proud owner of a 1000 litre water tank. Thank you.



### White skin invasion

...Valerie finally received her visa and has now taken over most of the running of the hospital, freeing Lin up to spend more time tackling weeds and lecturing the Internship students.

...A newly married Dr couple from NZ arrived for their practical experience, so we threw them in the deep end by taking them to Orokolo for a busy few days immunising children, sewing up deep knife wounds and diagnosing strange and wonderful tropical diseases.

...Uncle John and his wife Dot and 15-yr old grand daughter Amy are back again for two months of work. Their Pastor from Ayr (Queensland) will be coming for their last ten days to be the keynote speaker at a Pastors' and Leaders' conference being held here from Oct 29<sup>th</sup> -Nov 7<sup>th</sup>.

...However, Ps Les isn't actually a white skin as he's from Vanuatu by descent but has grown up in Aussie.

...Peter is also an Aussie and he is here with an organisation called Australian Business Volunteers. He is helping us set up a new computerised accounting system based on Mind Your Own Business (MYOB).

...We also have our very good Kiwi friends Debbie and Robbie Petterson, who have been at Baimuru running a translation workshop for the Jesus Video and have returned to base before heading off to Kikori to run another translation workshop.

### And the other way

...Our small family (not including Lin) will be heading back to NZ in December (God willing) for a Balclutha Christmas, Central Otago New Year, and a slow trip north in January for Shiana to start High School at the end of January. If by chance we don't touch base again in the near future then we wish you all a wonderful Jesus filled Christmas and fun-packed New Year.

With love  
Colin, Barb, Shiana & Lin

### Thank you to those who have donated to our work this year...bless you

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

Please use this account for any donations, or post cheques to: Calvert, 27 Valley Road, Waimauku RD1, Auckland 0881 (Please make cheques out to OKS Kapuna)  
...And we still 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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