

DELTA DIARIES

A Letter from Lin,

A big 'hello' to my friends and relations all over the world.

Thank you for your prayers, donations, and love and concern for Kapuna, and for me in particular. I would not be writing this from here if it were not for all of you...and please don't think it's time to stop!

This year I will continue at Kapuna as a lecturer, but will gradually hand over my other roles. A PNG doctor is coming to work here, and Valerie will be here a lot, so I will be taking it easy, enjoying my garden and other things...and of course, **there is no discharge in the war against the enemy of the world.**

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This last year has been interesting for all of us...

...**For Shiana**, getting ready for school in NZ has helped learn responsibilities and to think for herself...

...**For Barbara**, her remaining pupils are trying the A.C.E system, which will be a big adventure into a 'forest' of new educational ideas For her team with who she organizes the Discipleship program

...**For Valerie**, who is building a school recorder orchestra, and who now takes over the multitude of medical tasks...especially teaching the new doctor where everything is, how to order medicines (and what to do if they don't arrive), helping with hospital management, and other things too numerous to mention...

...**For Colin**, who is always pursuing the welfare of the district (which yields good long-term dividends)...



...And for me?

I look forward to (finally) reducing my jobs to manageable portions.

Also, having long wanted to write down the many things I have learned about medical work in the Gulf, I have written 3 sections, and have circulated the first section, on obstetrics, but suspect it is too revolutionary for some!

For example, the British recommend mothers 'push' for 3 hours before the doctor intervenes. Our rule? Help her after 3 Strong Pushes with no progress. I hope the other sections will be less controversial!

One of Valerie's tasks is to get treatment established for our HIV patients. It took several miracles to get her trained to treat them...and out of 50, she was the only one that got through. Unfortunately, the drugs have nasty side effects, so persuading people to take them may be difficult.



A special achievement this last year was the Leaders' Summit Conference, where all the denominations in the district came together. We had great speakers and great discussions. The United Church leader was particularly enthusiastic. It was wonderful to see others catching his vision for working together for God's glory.

We have seen God doing many miracles in the hospital this year. One was a woman in labour who began to bleed heavily. After lots of prayer we managed to deliver the baby with the help of our trusty vacuum extractor and its smallest cup, but the mother continued to bleed. To my horror we found a big loop of bowel...a tear? How? What to do? I called a specialist, who said her chances of surviving a transfer were nil. But Colin called the Oil Company and (a miracle) they agreed to helicopter her to Kerema, where (by another miracle) there was a good surgeon. We gave her all the O-blood we had, but she was so cold and in such shock that I doubted she would survive the first five minutes of the trip.

But the whole hospital prayed for her...and survive she did. Wontoks (relatives) in Kerema donated blood, and the operation was successful. What a happy moment when she was reunited with her baby here.

Some of the encouraging sights of the Year:

- Seeing the impact of the discipleship training. One of the insights into the impact and value of this program was during the UC Youth rally at Mapai village. Almost all the groups of youth who paddled in from the villages (900 in all) were lead by ones who had been through the discipleship course. 150 youth were baptised by Rev Mane, the local UC circuit minister...
- Seeing Rev Mane as a key speaker at the Leaders' Conference
- Seeing the Reconciliation Gatherings in villages, all lead by Rev Mane
- Seeing the Happiness of the hundred households who received the tanks and mini wells, a reward for more than a year of self-improvement in targeted health issues
- Seeing two Doctors at Kikori...and two at Kapuna!

OKS funds (your donations) in action this Year:

- Helping local youths who need money to further their education or to go on mission trips to other provinces (we pay them to work in the gardens)
- Helping a couple of young guys with school fees
- Helping a number of widows with clothes and school fees
- Helping some mothers who don't have clothes for new-born babies
- Helping some Christian leaders in villages with clothes and other items...especially gumboots (they live in death adder heartland)
- Helping a couple attend Bible School in Port Moresby
- Clothes for random people...like the TB patient who you could easily mistake for a scarecrow on a diet...in your gift of pre-loved clothes...he is now a well-dressed scarecrow
- Covering of 'extras' on kids outreaches etc
- Helping to feed church-related visitors and guests



A recent non-church related visitor!

And above all these is the joy of seeing individual lives changed as they come to the point of surrendering their will to the Lord.

One was on our medical staff. We had encouraged him to go through a time of breaking ancestral bondages, particularly because his family was from a line of chiefs and it was difficult for him to confront and renounce these ties.

He prepared by fasting and praying and when Pastor John from Oz visited, he made an appointment and went through! The change in the light of his face and the joy in his walk was immediate. He bounced into my office and shared some of God's work and grace.

One is that in the past when he closed his eyes to pray or worship, he was always troubled by a pair of eyes appearing in his mind...he was most excited and exceedingly grateful that these 'phantom eyes' have now completely gone. More of God's love and grace.

Thank you again for your prayers and love.

Please pray also for Robbie and Debbie Petersen as they produce a Jesus film in the Baimuru language and help the other language groups to hear in their own 'place talk' the good news of sins forgiven and life renewed.

Love to you all from Lin Calvert

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 yes, we still have a supporter who will match any donations...dollar-for-dollar...for all of 2009

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

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