

Missionaries
serving in Western
Province of
Papua New Guinea

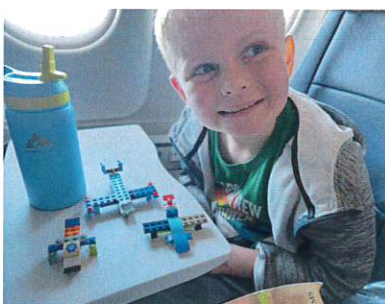
The Florence Family

January 2023
God's Mercy for
Unexpected Trials – Heb 4:16

We are thrilled to report that we have safely arrived back in the location of our calling. We have looked forward with a fresh zeal to returning to our field. We have many plans and we believe that we have a vision that is 'worthy of Jesus Christ.' All that we have planned, prayed for and look forward to attempting is for His honor and His glory.

Once again, we are reminded that the best laid plans must be submitted into the hands of our all-wise and all-knowing heavenly Father. One of our prayers was that the town power would be connected to our property by the time we returned. Unfortunately, this has not happened. The temperature in our new house is averaging high 80's and not dropping below 80's degrees inside until sometime in the early morning hours. Without electricity we can not run fans either. I am not mentioning this in order to garner sympathy. Most of the folks in this country, and in many other places for that matter, live in this type of environment. I mention it to request prayer for this to be remedied quickly.

Once the power is connected to our property we will be able to have power in both staff houses as well as the church we are using. Though we know God uses these circumstances to train us, this is causing great delays. Only God is able to move the hearts of the power company and therefore we request your help in praying He will do so.



Our travels back to PNG were filled with new experiences, new trials and new answers to prayer. We traveled a new route on this trip. Rather than flying west from Los Angeles to Australia and then up to PNG – we actually flew east. We flew from Pensacola to Dallas, to Qatar, to Singapore and then to PNG. As you well might imagine, it was quite a bit longer and had it's own challenges. We also had a planning error in which we almost missed our connecting flight due to an oversight on our part concerning our kids' visas. With only minutes to spare God used our great

friend and fellow missionary, Matt Allen, to answer our desperate plea for help in this area. In spite of the difficulties, I am thankful that we had several divine appointments along the way in which we were able to share the gospel with folks we would have never imagined meeting in any other place. On one flight, Titus was separated from the rest of us for

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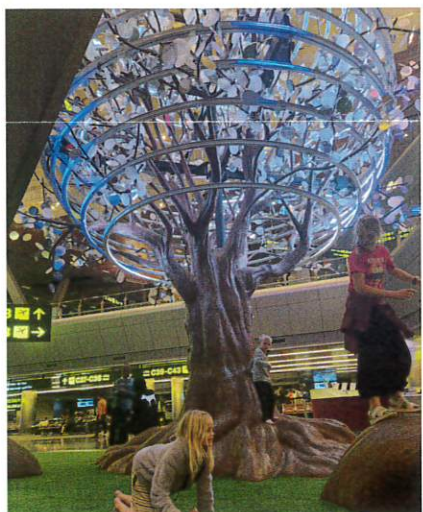
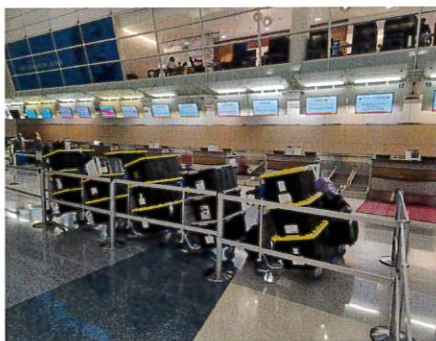


about 45 minutes until the plane got into the air and we could ask someone to exchange seats with him. When he got back into the seat next to me, I asked him how it went with the two guys sitting next to him who were clearly from the middle east. He replied, "They were asking me a lot of questions, so I told them about Jesus and that they needed to get saved." Needless to say, I am both proud and thankful to the Lord for his simple response. I am thankful that my family has an 'excuse' to witness. If anyone asks me what we are doing or where we are going, I can use that as an open door to share with them that we are missionaries and that I am sharing the truth about how to have everlasting life through a relationship with Christ.

Once we finally made it back to our home town of Kiunga, we were ready to get settled. The church had planned a "Welcome Back" service for us with some decorations and light refreshments for after the service. It was a sweet, refreshing time, and we had a good number attending. It is great to see the people that we have grown to love over these last several years. It was also wonderful to see people that had gotten saved while we were gone and were waiting for our return to get baptized. Hallelujah, God's plan of disciples making new disciples still works!

In closing, I will share one simple way that we have seen God's hand at work. At some point in 2021 a family in a supporting church, (Calvary Baptist in Sanford, Maine) decided to send us a care package. It had several things in it that we had shared that the children would like. Somehow, in God's timing, it was delayed from when they sent it in September of 2021 to not reach

Kiunga until some time after May 2022 (when we left for our furlough). When we returned in January 2023, the package was waiting for us in our house. While we don't always understand God's timing, we know that it is always right. We are thankful for the package and for the family who sent it. We are also thankful for our loving heavenly Father Who richly gives us all things to enjoy.



I will mention a few more prayer requests in closing. While on this last furlough God provided the funds to purchase a new "church bus." We were estimating about \$33,000 for this purchase. Upon our return we found that the current new models in the capital city were going for closer to \$55,000. After returning to our small town I asked a friend about any slightly used vehicles in that model. He told me of one with only roughly 7,000 miles on it for sale. It is at a greatly reduced price and within our budget. Please pray that we will have God's wisdom in considering that vehicle. It could be a huge answer to many prayers. The other request is in regards to our upcoming school year for our Bible institute. I am praying for 10 single, dedicated young men to enroll in this year's class. I have already been notified of 5 interested individuals. Please pray that God will send us the perfect number that He wants us to have and that we will be able to train them well for His honor and glory. Lord willing, in our next update I will have several answers to prayer to report to you all. HE is able!

**Your fellow servant in Christ,
Josh Florence,
Heb. 11:6**