

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 7

# the RIGGINS family

SERVING ON THE MELANESIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC FIELDS

Thank You for  
Praying for Visas!

*Last week, Rev. Bill and Kay Swesey, the last two missionaries 'stuck' in the US, arrived back in PNG with renewed visas in hand. Rev. Marvin and Patti Thrasher arrived July 31; Dr. Bill and Marsha McCoy arrived August 2; and Dr. Andy and Judy Bennett arrived August 14. Though each of the four couples had to change their return date at least once, we praise the Lord for His hand in this process, and we are thankful for the prayers of many that helped to expedite things as much as possible. Dr. Susan Myers is still waiting for her visa, the last one here in PNG not to have a passport in hand.*



## ✠ Spreading the Fragrance of Christ ✠

*But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.*  
- 2 Corinthians 2:14

### PNG ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN

We have been fortunate to see little of election aftermath in our area. Thank you for praying with us for a peaceful process, especially during and after the elections. God's hand of protection has been evident. It seems that since the elections were a bit quieter than last time (five years ago), they were deemed a success; however, several were killed over disappointment with the results; fights broke out; houses and gardens were burned. Though we did not witness these things

first-hand, our Nazarene Hospital treated victims of election-related violence; we heard of many fights in areas close to us; at times we had to change our plans to avoid dangerous areas. Continue to pray with us for the people of this nation who are driven by greed and easily succumb to negative pressure from their tribe. Pray that Christ would make a difference in lives, and that those who are Christians would continue to stand for the Truth.

### LEARN MORE

about what is going on in Melanesia and the South Pacific and how you can become involved.

Fiji Boat Ministry [www.fijiboat.org](http://www.fijiboat.org)

Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in PNG

[www.kudjipnazarenehospital.org](http://www.kudjipnazarenehospital.org)

Open Hands, Open Hearts  
Foundation

[www.nazarenehospitalfoundation.org](http://www.nazarenehospitalfoundation.org)

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# *Xenia, Ohio Work and Witness*

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## *A Change of Plans*

In July we donned new hats as work and witness co-coordinators, along with our colleagues Dr. Jim and Kathy Radcliffe. The team from Xenia, Ohio, along with three members from York, Pennsylvania, and one from Oroville, California, was planning to build an extension on the chapel at the Melanesia Nazarene Bible College, under the direction of Marvin and Patti Thrasher. But when the Thrashers were unable to get their visas renewed in time to return to PNG mid-July as scheduled, we had to make a quick change of plans and help out where needed. The team's project money went toward the chapel project as planned, so we had to find a project on our mission station at Kudjip that was already funded. With no construction knowledge, no project money, and little time to prepare, we found some areas where they were able to help the work here.

*Riggins Kitchen*



*VBS*



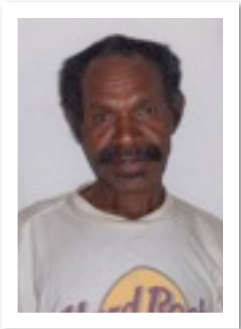
*Bible College Chapel*



## *Many Different Projects and Work Sites*

They volunteered to work on our new house, which was very helpful! Many hands made light work as they painted, added stair rails and a clothesline in back, installed an outdoor sink, added shelves to a storage area, helped install a gas line for our clothes dryer, and worked on the kitchen and bathroom renovations. They were also able to work on a mission house to update and prepare it for several work and witness teams coming next year. Some team members helped organize supplies in the hospital store room; others worked with the hospital chaplains; and some helped organize and run a Vacation Bible School for the children. Three days before the team left, the Thrashers returned from their home assignment, and the team spent their last two days accomplishing much on the Bible College chapel expansion. They were also able to hold a VBS there and connect with the staff and students at the college in a valuable way. What they did not have time to complete at the Bible College will be completed by national workers there, using the project money the team left behind.

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## *A Time of Loss*

On Thursday, August 9, Jekemba Dal, one of the men who worked in the Kudjip Maintenance department, passed away following an accident he had at the end of the work day. He was working in a tree when he fell 30 feet to the ground and died later that evening. Jekemba's death was a difficult loss for the entire Kudjip station family, and particularly those from his village and those who worked with him in maintenance each day.

On Friday, August 10, a 'haus krai' (house for crying) was set up on the station, where family and friends gathered under a makeshift tent to mourn together, and with each new visitor the wailing would begin anew. At times the wailing could be heard from one end of the half-mile station to the other. Family members and close friends pulled out their hair, threw themselves on the ground, shook fists in the air, visibly expressing their grief, as is so common in this culture. The church service on Sunday was held at the haus krai, and the funeral was on Tuesday, August 14. Most mourners arrived on foot, but some accompanied Jekemba's body in vehicles trimmed in red ribbons and smeared with mud to demonstrate that they were involved in a funeral. They also smeared mud on their faces to show their sense of loss. Later that week, the body was transported back to Jekemba's village for the burial.

Some of the cultural practices we witnessed stem from the animistic practices still very evident in PNG culture. The people believe they must please the spirit of the one who died so that the spirit will not come back to harm them. It can be a difficult task to discern between acceptable cultural practices, and those that are contrary to what Scripture teaches. While we do feel deep loss as Christians, we are not to grieve as those who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). It was good to hear reminders of heaven and hope in Christ during the funeral service; yet we also saw many displays of grief that seem 'extreme' to our Western eyes. Pray for us as we continue to minister to those around us who are very different from us in many ways, yet serve the same Lord and are our brothers and sisters in Christ.



## *Scot in Port Moresby*

Scot will be in Port Moresby Sunday, September 2 through Friday, September 7. He will be working to set up rental houses that the church manages there, trying to locate Dr. Susan's passport, lodging paperwork to start the visa process for one of our MK teachers, and also working to find a new agent to process our ongoing visa needs! Pray for an effective trip in each of these areas.

## *News From the Fields*

In **Vanuatu**, Work and witness teams from Texas and Washington have greatly helped the building project of a missionary house. Though the house is not yet complete, the teams were able to make much progress so that it is almost ready for missionaries David and Sylvia Potter to move in. Thank you for praying for the work on this project; continue to pray that it will be completed in a timely manner. . . .

Representatives from Micronesia, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Australia, and Vanuatu met for three days in mid-August to meet with representatives from the International Board of Education, preparing for a quality review of the **South Pacific Nazarene Theological College (SPNTC)**. Continue to pray for God's direction for this valuable training ministry in the islands of the South Pacific. . . .

In **Tonga**, Korean missionaries In-Kwon Kim and his family are finding new opportunities to reach out to families with handicapped children, introducing them to the Mango Tree Respite Centre. Continue to pray for the Kim family as they embrace the challenges of the work there and find creative ways to introduce people to Christ. . . .

George and Nancy Miller, missionaries to the **Solomon Islands**, are currently on Home Assignment. They have a very busy and full schedule. Pray for the Millers as they travel and communicate to churches the message God has given them and as they share what He is doing in the Solomon Islands. . . .

Pray for missionaries Harmon and Cindy Schmelzenbach, missionaries to **Fiji**, who are completing their home assignment and preparing to return to the field later this month. . . .

September 24-28 women from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu will gather in Port Moresby for a **Ladies Conference**. Pray for God's anointing on the main speaker, Carla Sunberg, for others who will be speaking and teaching, for organizational details still in process, and for the Spirit of the Lord to bless those who attend, that they may be revived and eager to share with others when they return home after the conference.



# Family News



Scot's Grandpa Aden Crager passed away on August 28 at the age of 90. We are thankful that we were able to spend some time with him on our home assignment last

year. It was always a joy to hear his stories from pastoring on Indian reservations in Oklahoma, and we will greatly miss him. While we cannot be with family during this time, we take comfort in knowing that Grandpa is at home with the Lord.

## ANNIVERSARY

On July 31 we celebrated three years of marriage. We thank the Lord for the many blessings He has given us in the last three years and for the ways He leads and guides us.

## IT'S A . . .

BOY!!! We were able to find out just a few weeks ago that Aden will soon have a little brother. Please pray for these last few weeks, as we keep busy with Aden and as we prepare to move to another house on the station.

## FAMILY VISIT

It was such a blessing to have Jill's mom and her husband with us for a month. They came with the work and witness team and were able to stay two extra weeks after the team left. We enjoyed time together as a family, a short vacation at another mission station, extra help on our house, and having grandparents here for Aden!



## MK SCHOOL

We have found one teacher for the MK high school, and one for the elementary school; however, now we must start the process of obtaining work permits and visas for these volunteers! Please pray that this process will go smoothly and quickly so that the teachers can come soon. In the meantime, Jill will be helping to get the school year started, setting up and organizing a system to use until the teachers (and our new baby) arrive.

## V-SAT

Ron Berk, our maintenance director, returned to the US last month and left many holes here on the station. Less than a week after he left, we began having trouble with our V-Sat internet system. Thankfully, after many hours of 'tweaking' by Scot and another missionary, it is running again (and so we've been able to send this newsletter). If you are interested in volunteering to help with IT issues on the station, contact Scot at [rgriggins@reachone.com](mailto:rgriggins@reachone.com).