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Eph. 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...

1 message

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Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...

With the beautiful hues of the falling leaves upon our friends and family at home, as we think of the Fall season, we are reminded that Halloween is coming up. Truth be told, we aren't big fans of Halloween. But that brings us to a very real ghost story or I should say run in with an evil spirit, that just happened two weeks ago. Yes, those things happen here. But before that, a quick update on what is going on around campus....

Solar Installation and 3-Phase Power Upgrade

Praise the Lord, after nearly 2-years of planning, working, and waiting, the 3-phase power upgrade across the campus and solar installation are online. Previously we were limited to a single-phase 80-amp service for the whole campus, for over 100 people. Most modern houses in America have a 200-amp service per house! The expensive and very limited 80-amp service, along with unreliable PNG power, caused many issues, from frequent, somtimes daily power outages, overloaded or blown circuits, tripped breakers, and days or even weeks running only on generator. Now, with over 50kW of power generated by 130 solar panels and over 200kWh of battery storage, we have had 3 weeks of uninterrupted, clean power from the sun. This will save the college, staff , and missionaries much money, time, and headaches. Thanks to all who participated through prayer, financial giving, and especially those who traveled from over seas to contribute their manual labor, to help make this happen.

Installing the 130 solar panels.

Phil finishing up the wiring before bringing the solar system online.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood....

Now to finsh our story about an evil spirit. We had a friend at church who is a believer who told us what had happened to her. She was asleep in bed when she was awakened and she realized that an evil spirit was in her bedroom. Its not the first time we have heard stories like this. She saw a female evil spirit standing in front of her. She immediately called out to Jesus. Then she got up and read a passage from the book of Mark and she prayed to our Lord for it to go away. At one point she said it laid on top of her and she could not move! How terrifying. The evil spirit eventually went away. We thought about this for days after it happened. What if she hadn't been

a believer? We have no doubt about the validity of this event that was told to us. We told our son and daughter about this and our daughter, Lauren, said she wasn't surprised as worshipping evil spirits happen here and we are very close to demonic activity all around us. If you're reading this and don't know Jesus, put your trust in Him today!

Pidgin Literacy Graduation

With great joy, the Pidgin Literacy classes have ended and graduation is complete! We tried something new this year. Instead of offering the classes at one central location, we got out more into the communities and offered the classes at Lower Bena Baptist Church and Praise Baptist Church and hired two new teachers. Of the four teachers, three were former students. All do an excellent job and love helping others learn to read so they can read the Pidgin

Bible! We had fewer graduates, but we're not surprised with change in venue. We had six graduates with two unable to be at graduation. Pastor Robert from Lower Bena Baptist Church gave a devotional that was excellent and he invited all who didn't have a place of worship, to come and join in at Lower Bena Baptist Church.

Linda receiving her certificate, Pidgin Bible and devotional book during Pidgin Literacy Graduation.

Hosting Work Team

We had three men on a work team come to work on the medical clinic. We hosted two of them from Australia for three weeks and provided meals for them. One on the work team came from the US. What a delight to see all of the work being done on the new medical clinic and electrical upgrades.

Early Christmas

Most of the children here have very little in terms of food, clothing, shoes, education, and yes, toys. Even at Christmas time, there is very little of exchanging of gifts, if any at all. Most of the toys the children have, they have made themselves; out of sticks, rocks, nuts, used pvc pipe, etc. We wanted to be a blessing to the children on campus. So, we invited them over to our house for story time, snacks, drinks, and a little gift. Phil 3D printed a small container

full of little toys for each child. The smiles on their faces tell the rest of the story. Ovef 500 toys have been given out to date.

3D printed toys for the children.

First Communion Service at Lower Bena Baptist Church

We had our first communion service at Lower Bena Baptist Church. What a privilege! We heard it was the first ever communion in our church building! We had 29 people partake! We had talked about it for weeks! People here hold a very high reverence of communion. It was very basic and nothing fancy. We used what we had.

Praises and Prayer requests

- We gained a new supporter. Praise God!

- We also had a large gift that will go towards buying training books and materials, Bibles, and provide for food and paying kitchen staff for our **Awana training**! Praise God as we didn't have any funds for this. We are trusting God each step of the way!
- After years of working to obtain Permanent Residency, it has been granted!
- At Religious Instruction class, we had one salvation decision last week!
- There was a riot very close to our campus. People were voting on Council Member seats. Rocks were thrown, arrows were shot, spears were hurtled, and people were injured and some killed. Currently there are two dead and two in critical condition. We were in town when this was happening. Police were on one side of the road and people on the other holding up roofing iron as shields from being hit by large rocks, spears, and arrows. Please pray as more voting will be going on in our area over the next few days.
- We have a week long AWANA training in December and Youth Camp in Januaury.
    - For Awana training, to date we have trained 37 churches from all over PNG. We will have churches traveling from as far as the Sepik River this time which is about 200 miles by plane.
    - For camp, we usually try to sponsor as many youth as we can. The cost for camp is $20 per person and covers a week of fun activities, food, supplies, and learning more about Jesus Christ. For the past several years we have sponsored 60 youth from three different local churches for their camp fees.
    - If you would like to give financially to help either the AWANA training or for more youth to come to camp, you can do so online: https://give.abwe.org/worker/phillip-and-janice-smith

Calendar:

- Nov. 2 Speaking at Kami Baptist Church for the close of their Awana program
- Nov. 8-30 Work team arrives to work on the clinic. We will be doing housing/meals.
- Nov. 9 Speaking at Lower Bena Baptist Church

- Nov. 10-14 Finals week on campus
- Nov. 16 Praise Baptist Church honoring Pastor Rex who went home to be with the Lord one year ago
- Nov. 23 Speaking at Galilee Baptist Church
- Dec. 1-5- Awana training on our campus
- December 19 Closing program for Awana at Lower Bena Baptist Church
- January 5-9 Youth Camp
- January 31-February 13 Friends from home arriving for missions' trip

Thank you so much for partnering with us and making it possible for us to serve our Lord and Saviour in Papua New Guinea! We greatly appreciate you!

Your missionaries to PNG,
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Acts 20:24
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