"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

- Psalm 133:1

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Partners in Bible Translation

The last couple months have been a blur with sharing many times to a wide variety of people. Many times, I have been able to see how God has used what I have shared to encourage others. One highlight that has stayed with me was when I shared with a K-2nd grade group. A couple days later a parent came up and shared that their girl spent 20 minutes on the way home talking about all the things I shared that night. Kids truly do listen, and I especially pray that God will be preparing children like this for great service in His Kingdom.



Sharing with Aviation Students



During this time, one family blessed me by taking me to a cheese factory. This cheese factory makes the special European cheeses.

I had never been to a cheese factory and learned a lot about the cheese making process. Curds and whey are poured into the cheese molds and then the whey is pressed out. This whey is eventually used for protein energy drinks. Later the cheese is taken to another section where it is flipped on a regular basis until it is ready to go into the salt brine solution. After leaving the salt brine solution it cures on special wooden boards. Each cheese has its own curing time and one type of cheese takes a year to cure.

You are the Salt of the Earth... Matt 5:13



Salt Brine Baths

Did you know that the salt brine solution is the most valuable asset to the cheese factory? It removes the water from the cheese and makes the cheese much more solid. However, it does more than just remove the water. The salt brine solution is unique to every company and gives the cheese a distinctive flavor that can be traced back to the cheese company. Our tour guide told us that if a good cheese company ends up going out of business or is sold, the salt brine baths are the first things that other companies bid on.

As the tour guide continued, my mind quickly went back to Matthew 5 where we as Christians are told we are the salt of the earth. I pray that we make as much of an impact to the world as the salt brine makes to the cheese.

One unexpected event that I got to participate in was the events for the 152nd anniversary of the Gettysburg Address in Gettysburg. My friend and I went early and we not only got to tour the main battlefield, but also East Cavalry Field and the cavalry battle at Hunterstown where General Custer was nearly killed. Being there was special, but I was moved just as much thinking about the sacrifices of the civilians in town. They cared for the 20,000 wounded soldiers left by the armies, volunteers who poured in to care for the wounded, and family members coming to seek loved ones. I got to hear a Abraham Lincoln re-enactor give the Gettysburg Address and marched in a parade with hundreds of other re-enactors. This trip will be memorable for the nice people I met during the week and the great sacrifice that happened on this spot 152 years ago.



At Hunterstown, PA



As this is the time of year that Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, I just want to take a little opportunity to say thanks. On behalf of those in PNG, thank you for praying for rain. In August, they only got .1" of rain, but in September they got 1.9" and 2.2" in October. These amounts closely matched the drought of 1997. If the trend continued, they should have gotten around 5.5" in November and hope to get 12" in December. While they are still in the drought, at least the grass is starting to grow again.

We are also thankful that the latest group of people to go through the Pacific Orientation Course have just finished their training. This week they arrived in Ukarumpa to start serving in their specialty roles. A couple of these families will be working in aviation and will relieve some of the pressure from being short-staffed.

I also need to say thanks for all who have prayed and given to help me return to PNG. God has expanded my partnership team, so I only needed to take a small voluntary reduction to get me to 100%. This has allowed me to purchase airline tickets, and I will be returning to PNG on January 12th.

I am also thankful to be able to spend the holidays with my family. This Thanksgiving all of my brothers and their families were able to come down for the day. Of all the blessings this year, seeing my nephews and nieces more this home assignment ranks high on the list.



Thanksgiving with Family

Prayer Requests:

- -that God will turn the hearts of those in America back to Him
- -that God will comfort those around the world who are grieving because of violent actions
- -that I will finish some projects around the house
- -for Lloyd as he fills my place in the avionics shop (Pray that he will not be overwhelmed with work)
- -for safety traveling back to PNG in January
- -for volunteers to fill needs in finance and other departments

Praise Items:

- for the privilege to share what God is doing in PNG
- -for the friendships that I have made this furlough/home assignment
- -for safe travel around the mid-west
- -for quality time with my family
- -that God has been bringing me spiritual refreshment
- -that God has provided for my financial needs
- -that He continues to build His Church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it