



CROTTS III TO PNG

Dear Pastor, Church Family, and Praying Friends,

I pray this letter finds you well and rejoicing in your service for the Lord. We are praising the Lord for another two months of rewarding labor for Him. With this letter we celebrate 1 year on the mission field.

Along with continuing to minister alongside my Grandparents in weekly church services as are currently splitting the preaching between us, the month of March found me teaching in Islands Baptist Bible College. We do modular courses often taught over 2-3 weeks. I had the opportunity to teach Life of Paul and Methods of Bible Study. We have a new student this year as mentioned in our last prayer letter. It has been encouraging to see how quickly he is growing and learning. He and the others still have a ways to go, but we praise the Lord for what He is already doing in their lives.

Towards the end of March we were all very busy trying to get ready for Easter Youth Camp and celebration of Resurrection Sunday, which took place the first weekend of April. We had a very good meeting with the theme "A Living Sacrifice." I was asked to be the main speaker for camp and to organize some games. Leading up to camp we had some rain everyday for at least three weeks. The first day of camp, Friday, we had beautiful weather and we were surprisingly able to play some outdoor sports, something the young people always look forward to being able to do. Then on Saturday it rained so we had to go to plan B and do indoor games, yet while the weather was a bit gloomy we were rejoicing over a young lady that got saved during the morning services. Saturday night however we had torrential rains from a tropical cyclone that took place around Milne Bay. We had several landslides and all our roads leading out of town were blocked, so most of our people were not able to make it to church on Sunday, and yet again we found ourselves praising the Lord for the news that two more young ladies called not the Lord to save them on Saturday night during the group devotions and again that though the expected attendance for Sunday's Service was way down there was a young man that came forward and accepted Christ as his Saviour. (4 SAVED!!!!)

Then the week after camp we had another meeting regarding teaching the Bible in the public schools, for which we ask that you continually pray. Papua New Guinea is working towards implementing a new program in their public schools called Christian Citizenship Values Education (CCVE). This would allow us to go into the schools once week and teach the Bible in every classroom. This will require many laborers, so PLEASE pray that the LORD of the harvest will send forth laborers into His harvest.

Sent from:
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In the last week of April I went to a neighboring island to preach for a Missions Conference and a Building Dedication of a Prophets Chamber type of house for another church on that island whose pastor has recently gone blind. They built it with the intention of having a place for other preachers to stay and come help fill their pulpit. During this trip I had the opportunity to preach in the market and we had an elderly lady come seek us out when I was done and she received Christ as her Saviour.

On another note, I mentioned that we have been looking for a vehicle for our family and ministry, For the last year now we borrowed my grandparents truck, but with their return we have been searching for our own. Thank you for your prayers on this front. A big part of the problem with this is I was lead to believe I could likely buy a decent used vehicle for around 10-15,000 USD. I raised and saved up that much, but by the time we got here things had changed drastically. No one is selling for even close to that. Most are not selling at all due to the cost of vehicles here. It was stating to look like I would have to triple what I had planned on in order buy a reliable vehicle that could handle the roads in PNG, which just seemed ridiculous and impossible to me. I was speaking with a brother in Christ here, Joshua Masiu, about my search for a vehicle and he told me that his father, Timothy Masiu Sr., was selling his Toyota Land Cruiser for the equivalent of 50,000 USD. It is only 5 years old with less than 70,000 km on it. From all my research it is worth that and more, but I told them thank you for the offer but it was not in my price range. I met him in town just last week and he told me that they wanted to be blessing to us and would like to sell me their vehicle for 35,000 USD with a 25,000 dollar downpayment. While it is still more than double what I anticipated paying, I can't thank the Lord enough for this opportunity. By pulling out of other savings we can make the initial downpayment on it, but we still need to raise at least 10,000 dollars to pay it off completely. If you believe the Lord is leading you towards giving to this need please label it "For Truck/Vehicle."

Please continue to pray for the health issues in our family. We thought we had some needed medicine coming a few days ago but when our package arrived it had a tear down one corner and half of our items were missing, including all the medicine. We are talking with the package carrier and trying to sort things out with them, and have already started on try to get the replacements on their way.

Again we thank you your faithful prayers and financial support. I pray God's blessings on you as you continue to serve Him.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,
Richard Crotts III
Missionary to Papua New Guinea

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