



Missionaries  
serving in Western  
Province of  
Papua New Guinea

April 2020 Update

**“Trials that Further the Gospel”**

*But I would ye should understand, brethren, that they things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;” Phil. 1:12*

“Thinking outside of the box” has become a necessity for all of us in ministry over the last few months. Here in Papua New Guinea, like most countries, there has been a ‘shut-down’ of all gathering places for people. That includes sports and other venues as well as churches. In order to minister to people during this time we have implemented a variety of strategies.

The first option we implemented was local house fellowships instead of a large gathering of the church body. I gave each of the families in the church Bible lessons that they could teach to their own families as well as to any neighbors who would like to come and join them. Through this, we saw the men in the church take initiative to teach not only their own families, but to take the lessons to the neighbors as well. During the shutdown our men have held Bible studies in more than 20 separate homes! These were folks that had never come to our church before! Hallelujah for the shut down because God used it to spur His body into action in new ways and for the **“furtherance of the Gospel.”**

The second option was to livestream some of our services. However, instead of steaming from an empty church meeting place, I was able to travel to the home of a member who does not have a smart phone or FB account and stream from his home. He was able to hear the message as were many others who have the opportunity to listen over the internet.

I have personally been revived and encouraged in my missionary journey through this time. This shutdown has given me the opportunity to minister through Bible studies in 6 different homes – 4 of them have been every week. This provided much more opportunity to get feedback from the folks as they were more comfortable talking to me under their house or on the veranda. One testimony of a man in his 20’s was: “I was not thinking about death or God before this Coronavirus came up. After the virus came into my thinking I was also thinking about death and what happens after that. Then you started coming to our house to teach us the Bible. Now we are saved.”! After going through some of the foundational Bible studies with a neighboring family one young couple in their 20’s said “This is my first time to hear an explanation of Adam and Eve and how sin came into the world.” Another said, “this is my first time to hear about Cain and Abel.” A few weeks later I was letting yet another group of young men listen to the story of David vs. Goliath from a KJV Bible app on my phone. Two of those young men said it was their first time to hear that story. This feedback from the neighbors living around us here in the suburbs of the Capitol city has both encouraged and saddened me. I am encouraged that they are hearing the word of God for the first time. However, it saddens me that there is still such a great need for laborers both here and all around the world.

I would like to conclude with a praise and a prayer request. I first of all request prayer for our health here on the field. We are currently battling a bought of running noses, coughs, sinus congestion, etc. Secondly, I would like to praise God for each of you in your faithful prayers and support of our ministry. We have actually had several unexpected monetary gifts during this difficult time. Special thanks to Clear Springs BC, in Cantonment, FL, Grace BC in Coatesville, IN, Park Gate BC in Ellwood City, PA and Mrs. Reed in Columbus, GA – your generosity during this difficult time has been used by God to enable us to do and be more than we ever thought possible.

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

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