

the Childs Family

GOD'S SERVANTS TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

JANUARY 2018



As we begin the new year of 2018, it is helpful for us to review over this past year. When we look back, we can be reminded of the lessons that God has taught us and of His faithfulness in all that He has done.

God helped Good News Baptist Church to finish their church building! Although the main structure of the church building was built in 2016, it took many months to finish the interior of the building. During the first part of last year, we worked on finishing the wall paneling and trim, building some office furniture, and building pews. The church men and I spent many hours planing and sanding all the timber, since everything was built using rough-sawn timber that we milled here in the village. In June, we were excited to finally be able to open the new church building. Many people from the community visited on the day of our church opening, and we praise God that they were able to hear the Gospel.

God has been maturing the believers. One of our primary goals for 2017 was to encourage Christians to grow in their walk with God. In the first part of the year, I met with the Christians in groups of three, and we went through some Bible studies. Since we were meeting in small groups, they felt free to discuss their own spiritual needs and concerns. I believe this was very helpful for them and also allowed me to know how to specifically be praying for them. Later in the year, I put together a series of Bible studies in the book of Ephesians. The purpose of this 10-week series was to help the believers develop a habit of spending time in the Word of God each day and of applying His Word to their lives. Although we would like to see much more growth, we are still encouraged when we see believers making godly decisions in their lives.

God opened up a ministry in the public school! The local school invited me to preach in their RI (Religious Instruction) class each week. The plan of the school was to have a representative from each denomination holding classes. The students could decide which class they wished to attend. About 20 students came to the classes that I taught. However, on many weeks, the teachers from the other denominations did not come, and I was allowed to preach the Gospel to the entire student body of several hundred young people!

God has given Lauren help with her health.

Although she still has a long ways to heal, we do want to thank God for the improvement that we have seen this past year. I know that we have been asking for prayer for Lauren for a long time now, but please don't stop praying, for we

serve a God Who is unlimited in His power!

Not only did God work in this past year, but He is also working now! One recent blessing is that the husband of one of the Christian ladies just started attending church. This is a really big step for him, as he has been involved in a life of fighting for many years! Since he started coming, he hasn't missed a single service (not even the Wednesday prayer meetings)! Please be praying for Blackie's salvation.

Would you please pray that God would give peace in our village? As you will remember, a few months ago, a man was publicly murdered and two other were permanently injured. Some people wanted to retaliate with war, but in the end, the village decided to demand a very sizeable monetary compensation. A couple of months ago, the guilty side offered a payment of about five percent of the demand. Understandably, this was not accepted, and our village again threatened war. However, they agreed to give them until January to come up with the money. Please pray that God would help both sides come to a peaceable resolution and that there would be no lives lost!

Our family will be heading back to the USA in the end of April for our regular furlough. We would ask you to be praying that God would work out the details for a family to replace us here while we are in the United States. The Crumrine family, from our home church in Michigan, would like to come here for that year if the Lord works out the details. However, we have been having some difficulties in getting the necessary government paperwork for them. Please pray that God will have the government approve the paperwork soon, if it is His desire to have this family here.

Thank you for your prayers for our family and for the work here in Papua New Guinea. Let us each be faithful servants for God this year, no matter where we are or what ministry He has given each of us!

In Christ,

Ben Childs

