

Ukarumpa, PNG
May 1989

Dear _____

Thanks for remembering us in prayer. We are all in good physical health and also spiritually encouraged.

In March Robert went out to Sopus for three weeks, while I stayed in Ukarumpa with Jason and Jeremy. The Sopus Christians had planned a retreat for the Easter weekend. They had arranged for a special speaker - a pastor from Port Moresby, the capitol of PNG - to come for the services. They built special houses for the guests which came from the surrounding area. They decorated the church building and village yard with flowers and leaves. They also planned for a baptismal service. They dammed up a small stream with logs to make a shallow pool. Over 150 people attended the six services held over the weekend, with close to 300 attending the baptismal service on Easter Sunday. Approximately 70 people were baptised. Praise the Lord!

During the time Robert was in Sopus, a friend of ours flew in from Moresby with his plane loaded with plumbing supplies. He and Robert built a water tank and a septic tank, put up a solar hot water system, and connected the sinks, toilet and shower stall. So after a year and a half, we finally have indoor plumbing. Praise the Lord! Of course, it isn't like a western plumbing system, but it will be a big improvement over carrying water, heating it on an open fire, and crouching over a hole in the ground that served as a toilet.

On the 8th of May, Robert and I are planning to go to Sopus for four weeks. This will be the first time for me to go back there since last November. Please pray that I will not be overcome by the stress of village life. Jason and Jeremy will both stay in Childrens' Homes ~~here in Ukarumpa and continue with school.~~ Jason will move into a different Home than he was in last year and he is looking forward to it. Jeremy is a little nervous about staying in a Childrens' Home and surviving without mom and dad for four weeks. Please pray that the boys will adjust well to this new situation and that their school work will not suffer.

While we're in Sopus, we hope to encourage the Christians and collect more data for our grammar analysis. Please pray that we will find willing language helpers and also that we will soon be able to speak the language fluently.

Once again we would like to ask you to pray about our finances. It seems like the start of the new year is always a difficult time for us. Somehow we have more expenses, like school fees and taxes, and somehow our income is less. Please pray that our income and expenses would be more equally matched.

Thanks again for all your prayers and for remembering us with your letters and financial gifts.

Lots of love,

Verna