

Tehillah News

Number 7 November 2005

Shane & Karen Home From Bougainville

Shane & Karen faced many challenges during their 8 week trip to Bougainville this year. Sickness, delays, communication difficulties – all tested their faith, however with God's grace upon their lives they endured and were blessed. Sharing wonderful fellowship with Christian brothers & sisters on Buka Island was the highlight of their visit.

On route to Buka the Cavies stopped over in Port Moresby where they met with the Secretary of the United Church Assembly. During this meeting they were informed that none of the literature that Tehillah had sent to Moresby in January had been received. They were also informed that a Memorandum of Understanding had to be developed and signed designating the responsibilities of each party involved in the building and running of the Pastors' In Service Training Centre and the rehabilitation of church plantations on Buka Island. The development of this document became Shane & Karen's major focus over the next 2 months. Days were spent trekking back and forth to an office on Sohano Island, always being promised that it would be ready tomorrow! Finally the day arrived when the document was handed to Shane and a copy was faxed through to Ernie in Australia. Tehillah's portion was written and the whole Memorandum re-typed and faxed back to Shane within 24 hours. Bishop Nopei perused this draft and after making two small alterations Dot was advised to print five copies, sign them and send them to Shane by Airmail courier. The packet arrived safely in Buka 2 days later – Praise the Lord. The copies of the

MOU were duly signed by Bishop Nopei and Paramount Chief Reuben and Shane & Karen were able to deliver them personally to the Moderator of the United Church in Port Moresby on their return journey. Unfortunately the Moderator was unable to sign the papers immediately, explaining that he first wished to meet Ernie & Marilyn. This meeting is being arranged to take place in Brisbane during November.

On their arrival at Ieta Village, near Buka Town on 11th August Shane & Karen found their good friend **Felix** very sick and close to death.



He had been unable to walk for days and could only crawl to the door to greet them. "If we'd been a week later," Shane said "I think Felix would have died." Shane prayed for him and there was a marked improvement in his condition. The next morning Felix was able to walk to the Buka Hospital where the Cavies purchased over K100's worth of medicine for him. Felix's health gradually improved and by the time Shane & Karen left Buka on 4th October Felix had gained weight and was well on the road to recovery. We praise God for His perfect timing.

Shane & Karen set up their little tent near Felix & Wendy's house and this became their base for their time on Buka Island. It was very noisy in the village.



Shane & Karen with Paramount Chief Raphael of Sohano Island

Barking dogs and loud music kept them awake most nights and constant flu symptoms sapped their energy and they had to rely on the Lord for the strength to make it through each day.

The Cavies had two visits to Tung Village on the West Coast of Buka Island. Here they renewed friendships and were able to explain to the people why 'Special Effects' had not returned in 2005. It is rather difficult for some village people to understand the mysteries of paperwork and Government requirements. *(It's hard even for some of us in Australia to understand these things! Editor)*

During their visit to West Buka Shane & Karen were able to do a survey of the Coconut & Cocoa Plantations at Skotolan and Tulean. To their great disappointment they discovered that the plantations were in much worse condition than was first imagined. Most of the cocoa trees are dead and almost all the coconut trees are too old to bear good nuts. However, there are some younger trees on Skotolan Station that could be rehabilitated and Shane is very keen to begin work in this small area.

Attending a Church Quarterly Meeting on Matsungan Island was a day long affair. Beginning early in the morning the meeting continued until well after dark! Shane addressed the meeting and gave a detailed report about the MOU and Tehillah's plans for the future.

Shane had the wonderful opportunity to preach every Sunday in a different church. One Sunday found the Cavies high in the mountains of central Buka where they attended a relatively new assembly. "The singing was incredible," Karen commented. "Someone had a Hillsong CD and the people were singing all the latest songs from Sydney."



Home Sweet Home - Ieta village

Prayer & Praise Points

- Praise God for Shane & Karen's safe return from Bougainville.
- Praise God for their perseverance concerning the MOU.
- Ernie & Marilyn are trying to arrange a meeting with the UCPNG Moderator in Brisbane this month.
- The AGM being held on the 10th December in Hervey Bay.

MORE THAN A BUSINESS MEETING

We're endeavouring to make this AGM, and subsequent ones, an opportunity to share with one another on a more personal level. We at Tehillah want to really know you, our supporters and partners, and hear what you have to say. Conversely, we're sure you'd like to know more about us, to talk with those who are on the "frontline", ask us questions, get a feel for our vision, plans and activities.

This year's format will differ from the past to facilitate this. So come expecting to be a part of the whole meeting, and

get to know us and those who share your passion for the lost in the remote islands so close to our shores.

May we also remind you that all **membership fees are due** at this meeting. Cost remains at \$5 annually per member. If you would like to become a member before the meeting you can contact our administrator Marlene, and ask for a membership form to be sent to you.

Reports will be printed and distributed prior to the meeting. Please RSVP to Marlene by Dec 2, to receive your copy in time, and to register your intention to attend. This will also help us with catering.

You'll be so glad you came!



A GENEROUS HEART

A young schoolboy, Nathan, recently handed Ernie an envelope containing \$100, "to do something for the people in Bougainville."

Nathan had decided, on his own initiative, to earn some extra money to help our missionary endeavour. That money has now purchased some new DVD's to screen in Bougainville next year. This proved a very effective communication tool last year, and promises were made to continue in the future.

Not satisfied with that contribution, however, Nathan has gone on to provide items for the schoolbags.

This young man is both an inspiration and a challenge to us all.

God can and does use generous hearts like Nathan's. What will God do in his life in the years ahead?

And how do I stack up in the light of this example of simple trust and obedience to the One Who has shown such undeserved generosity in my own life?

God bless you Nathan, you've touched many hearts.



YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION

to

TEHILLAH'S AGM

To be held at the

HERVEY BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

SATURDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 2005 1pm

Venue will be open from 12 noon.

If you would like to bring your own lunch, we will have tea, coffee and cold drinks.

Board Members will be available for a chat before the meeting.

A catered afternoon tea will be served.

RSVP Dec 2

Tehillah News

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Tehillah Ministries Inc.

(ABN 40 353 136 536)

PO Box 1614 Sunshine Plaza

MAROOCHYDORE 4558

Ph (07) 5479 3092

Email: info@tehillah.org.au

Christmas Gifts Suggestion

Lyndall Gunders is gaining a reputation for imaginative, quality jewellery at affordable prices.

All profits from her sales are directed to Ernie & Marilyn as "value adding" of her financial support.

You will have an opportunity to view and purchase items at the AGM.



MOVING HOUSE ?

Please let us know any changes to your **address, email or phone number.**

Help us to stay in contact