

**Hedeem Update
November 2018**



Malaumanda Church Opening

Greetings from Papua New Guinea and a Happy Thanksgiving to you all. We see the Lord working in some exciting ways here in PNG and in Malaumanda and are thankful for all of you who have chosen to join us in the work of seeing churches planted and established here in PNG.

As you can see from the pictures in the update, there was a large crowd of people who came to celebrate the opening of the new Malaumanda church building. It was a great chance to interact with people from the local church as well as several other churches in our area of the Sepik. One of the more enjoyable parts of the three day meeting was the opportunity that I had to share the Word with this large group of people.

There were a number of religious unbelievers that attended so I started off the first day with a review of the Gospel from Romans 1.16-17. We trust that in the months and years ahead these people will hear a more comprehensive version of this important message.

The last day of this conference the Malaumandan church killed 21 pigs and had a big mumu for everyone that came. This was very well organized and went off without too much drama. We are very thankful for the maturity that the believers are showing in these areas. I found out after the fact that the church had raised a huge sum of money to purchase extra food from town to feed everyone. Amazing!

While this conference could have ended on this high note God did have other plans. After the pig and other food was distributed to all the families they went back to their houses to eat. One of the older ladies, who was kind of like my adopted mother in the village, was eating some pig and all of a sudden said, 'I don't feel right'. She then said 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit come and get me', and in that same moment she had her prayer answered. The agenda for the next day obviously changed quite a bit as the whole community shifted from a time of celebration to...well a different kind of celebration. Funerals in Malaumanda are SO different from what they use to be. Several different leaders were able to get up right in the midst of the crying and clearly state that Yangidasa is with Jesus, and we don't mourn like those who have no hope. It put a smile on my face to hear these men share this Godly perspective even if the circumstances were sad.

Now that I am back from Malaumanda I have come to the realization that Christmas is right around the corner. And this is not just because Judith is wanting me to commit to a date for putting up decorations. :-) Life gets busy for us all and I am finding that I have to make a conscious choice to contemplate the enormity of the gift that God gave to us in the person of Jesus. We pray that each of you will join us as we seek to praise Him during this season.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support,
Eric and Judith, Stephen, Daniel and Timothy



John and I at the 'ribbon' cutting ceremony that kicked off the first day of the opening. And no, that wasn't a ribbon and I used my pocket knife to



As is always the case John and I received a very warm welcome from the local believers. We always get a flower necklace, a smear of mud on the face and a lot of smiles and handshakes.



Early in this visit the HF radio that we use to communicate to the outside world stopped working. I was so thankful to have a new Garmin Inreach device that I just received from my home church, Hillside. Judith and the boys were just a text message away.



There were hundreds of people who attended this opening. The first day was cloudy with a bit of light rain. The second day was a scorching hot sunny one. Rain or shine people sat and listened to 7 different teachers.



I don't think this method of cooking pizza will catch on anytime soon but I think that you have to admit that it looks pretty tasty. I can verify that fact after eating them both.

One other challenge that we dealt with during this past trip was that the lp gas bottle for our stove ran out the second day. We had all sorts of food but had to get pretty creative as to how we were going to cook it when your only cooking surface was the top of a 55 gal drum over a tribal fireplace.

Prayer Requests

- **Pray** for the continued growth of the Malaumanda church.
- We spent a fair bit of time talking through the logistics involved in starting our next outreach in the village of Kulalume. The Bisorio church will be helping as a support during this church plant. **Pray** that this can start in 2019.
- **Praise** that I was able to determine the format that we will use for the New Testament book introductions. I was also able to work with Jim and Daina for one day and got through 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Galatians.
- **Pray** for my next trip into Malaumanda in February. My hope is that I can comprehension check the book intros as well as work my way through the rest of the NT books. That might be a bit ambitious but we'll wait and see.
- **Pray** for me (Eric) as I am recovering from the skin treatment on my left forearm as well as an allergic reaction of some sort that left me with quite a rash. Fun!
- **Praise** that Judith and the boys did fairly well in my absence.
- **Pray** for the myriad of details that need to be sorted out between now and the end of May when we head back to the US for our next home assignment. For instance, all of the boys are in the midst of getting their Canadian and US passports renewed. We are still looking for a minivan for the year that we are home too.
- **Pray** for Judith as she has a lot on her plate with the inclusion of working as a receptionist in the medical clinic. That is going well but it does add to her load.