

Taim Bilong Turtle Tok

Norm and Chris Turtle

Serving with

Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship

PO Box 1307, Goroka EHP, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

E-mail: turtle@hermes.net.au Home Phone: +675- 732 2232

March 2007

Dear Friends

We send our greetings to you all and trust you have known the Lord's blessing for the start of 2007. We are about to leave PNG on 9 March for our home assignment time. We will be anywhere but at home, but home assignment is what they call it.

The past few months have been very busy and quite stretching in many ways.

I spent quite a lot of time in December doing the annual stocktake and this time that involved barcoding and cleaning up and re-organizing our stock. We were able to do this stocktake progressively so it was not a big job on the last day of the year. Hopefully it will not be such a huge task this year. Maggie received a new shipment in January and was able to do all of the barcoding and recording herself with very little input from me. Doris is also coping well with the bookkeeping and so I am confident that they will be able to keep the systems going while I am away.

Our Christmas Day was one with a difference. We had invited our neighbours Mike and Barb Howell to share dinner with us but a medical emergency in the morning altered our plans for the day. Barb who is a midwife of many years in PNG ended up going out to the village with the pilot and a visiting Doctor and Barb

was able to treat the lady and be happy to leave her at her place. Meanwhile Tim the pilot took an impromptu Lotu (church service) with the people who gathered to see why the plane had come. Quite a few of us had a late Christmas dinner. Sadly the baby concerned had died before help arrived.



Barb with the village people listening to Tim

Christmas Day was the day Norm began to feel very unwell and the next day we went out to the doctor for our first of 5 visits. He had pneumonia and he seemed to get a good dose of it. He had two rounds of antibiotics and on the second visit we brought a nebulizer and the oxygen home with us. The nebulizer was making a noise when he used it at the clinic. It was supposed to be taken home to fix him but instead he fixed it first. It has taken a while for his energy levels to get back to anything near normal and he still has the cough at times. He was off work for over two weeks. Meanwhile his back problems seemed to become less significant in light of the pneumonia.

In January I was busy getting ready for the annual audit and in February for visitors and meetings. Now the audit and the meetings are over and all the paperwork is done so I am feeling very much relieved and sleeping much better.

We have had quiet a few changes in housing and because I will be away for 6 months, I made sure that places got a good going over. With the haus meri, I have cleaned 6 of our 11 houses in the last 6 or so weeks. Hopefully now there will be few changes for the year, but I suppose that is unlikely.

If we didn't have enough to occupy us, our dog Sally had another litter of pups. Eleven this time, making a total of 30 in 14 months. She was a later starter, but she earns her keep now.

Andy our volunteer left in early February after spending 3 months with us. He was able to see quite a bit of the country visiting his wantoks from Switzerland and he also made a good contribution to the work of CRMF. He helped Norm on the bench with a number of projects and put smoke alarms wired to 12v power in all of our houses.

The day Andy left we had a quick turn around in one of our houses as Ruben arrived from Germany. Ruben is a student who is doing his internship with us. He will help David in the Computer department. Sebestine

is now back studying in Lae and David has had to learn quickly.

Within the same week, John and Sue Steendam arrived from Melbourne to learn all they can about how CRMF functions before we leave. It seems that Michael Wakefield will not be back now before we leave and it may in fact be another month before the family return with their new baby girl, Mikaela.

For a while now Norm has been trying to find a new training course for our national technicians and Koniel has now enrolled for a correspondence course with the Telikom College in Lae. His papers have arrived so now it is up to him to do the work.

Bryan has coped well in Michael's absence. He is still very frustrated with actually getting radios installed in some remote locations. It is difficult to arrange for our technicians to go to these places.

A big accomplishment in December was the installation and connection of our VSAT dish. The link is much better and our monthly bills are much less. Our CRMF technicians helped install a few dishes around Goroka and last month George did the VSAT installation at CLTC, Banz (Christian Leaders' Training College) himself.



We ask you to pray for John and Sue especially for the time they are here by themselves with our National staff.

Over the next few months things will be escalating for the National elections. Would you please pray for a calm and

trouble free time during this period.

Pray for our senior national staff who have had extra responsibilities over the last few months and for those who will take on more responsibilities when we leave in a few days.

Please also remember us in our travels. This next six months will be quite busy. Pray for issues we still need to resolve when we get to Australia like ambulance cover, travel insurance, Norm's passport renewal, and of course for the visiting we need to do and the huge amount of travel involved.

We have set out our basic itinerary in this letter so that you can pray for us. Our best contact during this time will be via email.

God bless you and we hope to catch up with many of you in the next few months.

Love in Christ

Chris and Norm.

Turtle's Itinerary 9 March to 9 September 2007

9 March	Arrive Brisbane around 6pm
18 March	Hervey Bay/Bundaberg
1 April	South Burnett
5 April	Brisbane
Early April	Begin trip to Sydney
Mid April	Melbourne
Early May	Adelaide
20 May	Leave for Austria and Switzerland
5 June	St Vincent
12 June	Vancouver
8 July	Leave Vancouver for New Zealand
30 August	Return to Brisbane
9 Sept	Return to Goroka.

If you need to contact us urgently then please contact James and Ruth Mollenhauer who now live close to Chris' parents. James and Ruth will have a full listing of our planned movements. Their phone number is 07 329 32992.