



1Thessalonians 5:13-15

Rise and Shine

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Plymouth Lutheran Church

Pastor Ryan Kandoll

January 2025

11015 County Road 15, Plymouth, MN 55441 Telephones: 763-544-7248 & 763-544-9170

Dear Congregations of The Apostolic Lutheran Church,

Praise the Lord for the wonderful church God has called each of us to: The Apostolic Lutheran Church of America! There is a lot of division going around in the world, but God calls us to remain united. We, the Apostolic Lutheran Church, should be known for our unity.

“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.” Mark 3:24

Let us be far from division within our own hearts, families and congregational church bodies. The ALC is a gift! Yes, there are many people who have left the church and those who have been hurt by the church, but I want to point out that, despite the misjudgments, God is in control and has used the ALC to be a wonderful blessing to many people.

“Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.” 2 Cor 13:11

This world is changing fast. With the growth of technology, the (former) President almost being assassinated twice, and with numerous wars going on, perhaps now more than ever we need to come together as individual congregations that make up one church body. The ALC is an individual church body among many Visible Churches and together all Christians make up the **Body of Christ, the Invisible Church**. Praise the Lord for the wide net He casts to call his people.

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Eph 4:4-6

The Apostolic Lutheran Church was founded by Finnish Migrants in the 1800s who were justified to form a new church body in a new land to them. They wrote:

‘This form of joint congregational system among this migrant group has been our intent, to not depart from that common congregation and the spirit of adopted children, which the Finnish speaking Zion promotes, but as the church in Finland has not arranged for anything here, we are obligated to legalize our church functions according to the time in which we live. We trust the church in Finland and the Lord’s Zion would be in agreement with us in this matter of the Lord. “May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.” Amen.’

They formed our church and named it after the confession of faith, not of their own, but that of the Ancient Christian Church, The Disciples of the Apostles, The Apostles and the Lord Jesus Himself.

The ALC has a vibrant history and a beautiful foundation. We all have been called to this particular point in history, to learn and to build off this foundation laid before us.

(Continued on Pg 3)

Church website: www.plymouthapostolic.org Church email: secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

Prayer Chain: plcprayerchain2021@gmail.com If you would like to receive this by email, please send a message to secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

January at PLC

January

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 <small>Martin Luther King Day</small>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Celebrate Our Congregation

January Birthdays:

Kevin	Wempen	1/4
Avery	O'Neill	1/11
Amy	Caviness	1/11
Audrey	Krutzig	1/12
Bette	Hietala	1/20
Reuben	Aho	1/21
Lloyd	Walters	1/23

Sundays:

- 5, 12, 19, 26 **9:15am** Sunday School for Everyone
10:30am Worship service with Communion
11:30am Coffee Fellowship
 5 **11:30am** Nominations Meeting
11:45am Undecorate the church

Tuesdays:

- 14 **6:00pm** Mission Committee meeting
6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesdays:

- 8, 15, 22, 29 **9:30am** Men's Bible Study @ the Church
6:00pm Evening Bible Study @ the Church

Saturdays:

- 18 **9:00am** Church Clean-up

Wednesday Evening Bible Study to Resume on Jan 8th, 2025 @ 6pm

Topic: Small Catechism - Baptism

Save The Date

The Annual Meeting of the Plymouth Lutheran Church is set for **Saturday, January 25th at 1:00pm**. All members are urged to attend.



The Adult Sunday School class will be starting a new study on the Apostle Peter beginning January 5th, 2025.



Mark Your Calendar – Saturday, January 18th Church Clean-up from 9am-12pm

This is an opportunity to help maintain the beauty and value of our church building and grounds. Please bring your work gloves and a can-do attitude. See Noel Walters with questions.

Aikuosa.

(a) Me, Amerikan Suomalais-Apostolis-Luterilainen Kirkkokunta, tunnustamme oikeaksi sen kristillisen opin, jonka Pyhän Raamatun Vanha ja Uusi Testamentti sisältää, ynnä "Lutherilaisen opin ja Uskon Tunnustuskirjat" sekä siinä oleva "Apostollinen Uskontunnustus" ja kolme vanhinta Uskontunnustusta, nimittäin: Apostollis-Nikea-Konstantinopolilais-Augeburgilainen usontunnustus, jotka yhtäpitävät Pyhän Raamatun kanssa ja kiinni pitää elävän uskon tunnustamisen ja rakkauden korkeimpana lakina.

b) Tämän kirkkokunnan pyhät toimitukset ovat pidettävät tämän tunnustuksen mukaisesti ja sen seikasti lausutun järkkäytämättömän totuuden, että Jumalan Pyhä Sana (Vanha- ja Uusi Testamentti) on ainoa ojennusnuora, jonka jälkeen kaikki oppi tässä seurakunnassa on tutkittava ja tuomittava.

(c) Tämän kirkkokunnan tärkein tehtävä on puhtaan kristillisen opin levittäminen, joka tapahtuu parannuksen ja syntien anteeksiantamisen saarnalla ja pyhillä sakramenteilla kuten kirkkoyhdistyksen perussäännön 4:ssä säädettyä säädetään tavolla jotka on käytännössä apostollis-luterilaisen seurakunnissa.

Confession of Faith in Finnish

We are called to be learners (2 Tim 2:15). This is what 'theologian' means - one who learns or studies God. We are all theologians, and no one graduates from this or is greater than the other (Gal 3:28). God has placed a love for Him and for each other within all our hearts as His children (1 John 4:19-20). Therefore, it is our desire to be patient and loving with one another and to learn as much about God as possible as little children (Matthew 18:1-6). We are called to discover the ALC doctrine that has been handed down to us. None of us planted this church but we are all here now and are called to work together to water and care for that which God has planted before us and handed down to us.

**Do not move the ancient landmark your fathers have set.
Proverbs 22:28 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and
for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19**

I want to encourage each of you to consider the fact that God has called you to The Apostolic Lutheran Church, that you would be an active participant and member of your congregation, encourage others to participate in the life of the church, as well as to **speak positively** about the ALC, its teachings and its wonderful impact on the world. Each of us ought also to pray, knowing that although we water, it is God who makes all things new and who makes them flourish. (1 Cor 3:6-8)

A military analogy: I never served in the military, but I can imagine the bond that veterans have, especially a special one between those who have served in the same branch and a bond even stronger for those who served together. I picture that like the Church. Perhaps when we are in Heaven, among all God's children throughout time, there will be a special bond between us all who served together in this particular time in history. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, called to serve together.

I am confident that, with God's help, we can restore current fractured relationships, past broken relationships, past church splits and can always be a collection of churches where anyone is welcome to come and learn our Christ-centered teaching. May we all strive to be good stewards of and to uphold the marvelous church God has called each of us to: The Apostolic Lutheran Church which is a tremendous blessing to us.

Your brother always in the Lord,

Garrett Kandoll

PALAZUELOS FAMILY

NEWS LETTER

BEGINNING

During the last few months the Uplift ministry has been growing with a new space designed to train and have greater access to the community that wants to join and be part of this, Saul was helping to collect some photos and creating videos to raise funds for the ministry.



KITCHEN

This is the work that Saul is currently doing within the ministry, he goes out daily to buy supplies for the base so that everyone can eat, during his time shopping Saul has created relationships with people from the different food stores and there he has been able to share with some people the love of God towards them



BEING A COACH

Nicole has been teaching classes in the UPLIFT ministry for a long time and it is incredible to see how she does it since it is something she loves to do. A few months ago she made the decision to take a step in faith and take a course to be able to do it in a correct and above all professional way, by spending time teaching some classes she shares time with people in the community creating relationships to share the love of God.



KITCHEN

As some of you already know, Saul sometimes volunteers to be a chef, and we cook for the base staff and for the teams that come to serve with the ministry of Homes of Hope. We cook many times for around 200 people, and Nicole if you don't know is the kitchen manager, thanks to her we have structure to be able to work in the best way in the kitchen, she makes menu schedules and directs the workers within the area.



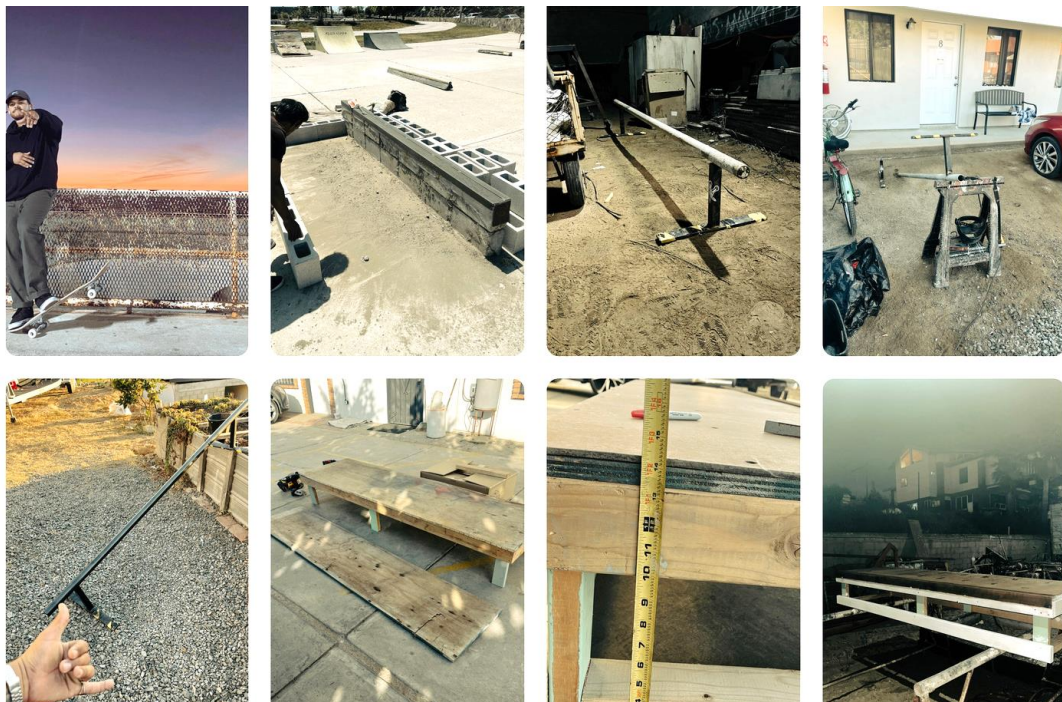
HOMES OF HOPE

For the last few months we have both been working with the Homes of Hope ministry in the area of translation, that is where we help the team translate for the family since it is very rare for the families we build a home for to speak English, and then the team can feel free to share with them and they can be understood. Also being a build host is when we serve the team by preparing food for them at the construction site and not only that but also being in charge of painting the house leaving it most beautiful possible for the family. Saul is also working in media where he helps take videos and photographs at the time of construction so that the team can take that memory and share it with their friends and family. He even has the goal of being able to train to be a B builder who is in charge of making the roof for the home. Here you can see some photographs of the constructions where we have worked, currently the Homes of Hope ministry gave around 150 homes to families in need of a home this year.



BUILDING THINGS FOR THE LOCAL SKATER COMMUNITY.

Saul began creating useable material for the skater community. All created with things left over from home builds. It's incredible to see how that kind of thing can make the skater community happy.



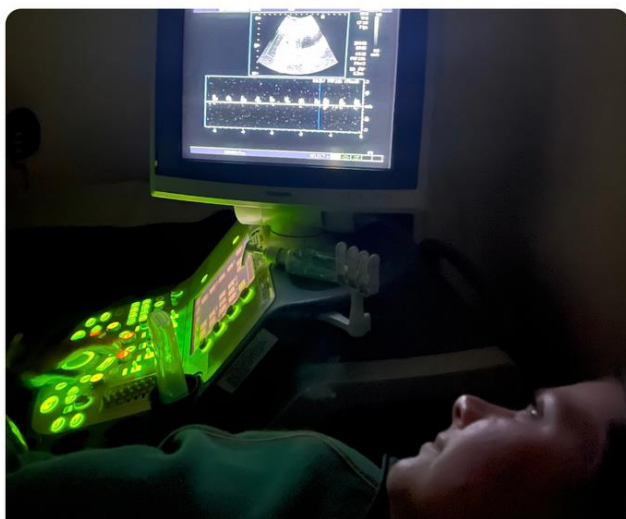
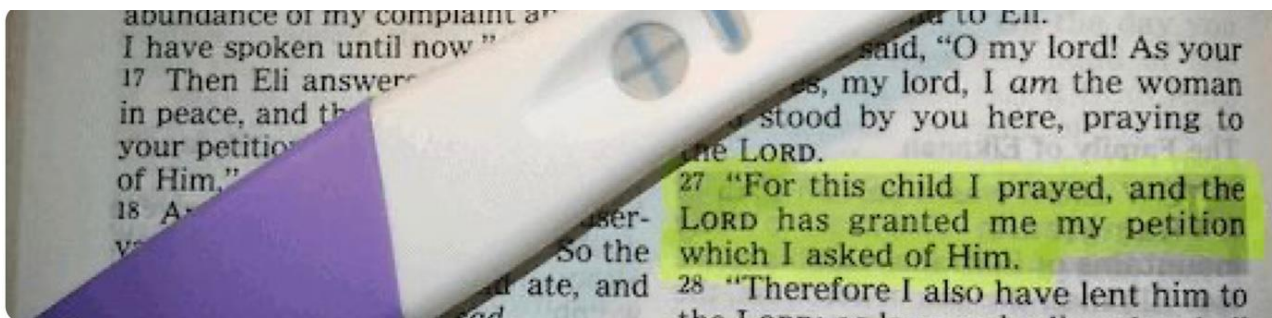
THE PROMISE OF GOD

God's promises are always fulfilled as 1 Samuel 1:27

says "For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him."



After the loss of our beautiful Sky, we prayed to God for one more blessing, our trust in him was not going to be lost after a moment of pain, because we know that his promises are always fulfilled, now Nicole is currently 11 weeks pregnant, we do not know if it is a girl or a boy, but what we do know is that he or she will be the promise that we asked so much from God and we will love them so much. We ask for your prayers so that this baby comes strong and healthy and that Nicole carries this pregnancy in the best way. And above all, enjoy it at every moment, and if you can join us in prayer for the finances for the delivery which the doctor told us will be in July. Thank you all for your prayers and for being part of our family. We appreciate everything you do for us. We love you





Update from David & Carmen Gunderson
extending Christ's love among those who are displaced

With Great Thanksgiving!

We just ate the last of our Thanksgiving leftovers - turkey, stuffing, and fruit soup. We enjoyed celebrating with some others from our church. We are so thankful for the body of Christ! ***Join us in praising God for each of these things on our list of thanksgivings.***

- A long-term Greek visa and application for Greek residency submitted
- A local church to attend – it's a brand-new church plant (the photo is of some us who gathered for the American Thanksgiving celebration)
- God's full provision for us – financially yes, but more importantly God prepares good works for us to walk in every day
- Connections with other organizations interested in ministry to both refugees and prisoners
- A good Athens program to study the Greek language during January and February - we know we are not spring chickens, but Greek is kind of helpful here
- Our online students that both live in Greece, North Africa and the Middle East – they are becoming dear friends that we laugh and cry with

When the set time had fully come

As the Advent season begins, we read in Galatians 4:4-7:

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

This praise song - *Who You Say I Am* - reminds us that we are no longer slaves but free at last. God has ransomed us, and his grace runs deep! While we were slaves to sin, Jesus died for us. Who the Son sets free, is free indeed.

We're children of God, yes, we are! It is difficult to sing this song without tears of thanksgiving to the Lord.

Looking ahead to 2025

We have been in Greece almost two months now. The Lord has helped us greatly with this transition. We thank him for all the ways he has cared for and carried us in this time.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are learning more about an opportunity to begin education programs at a ministry center near to one of the camps that is outside of Athens. ***Pray for the different organizations as we come together to minister to those who live at the camp.*** We are praying for open doors to begin education at this location.

Also, this week David will begin the application process for prison ministry in Greece. ***Pray for these next steps and his preparation for ministry at one of the prisons.***

Thank you for your prayer support! If you would like to give a year-end financial gift of support to our work, click on the button below.

In Christ's Love,

David and Carmen Gunderson

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Brockport, NY 14420

New York / WhatsApp +1 585 512 7571

The Makings of a Mumu

8 December, 2024

The word "Mumu" to our family prior to 2016, was a word that meant "Grandma". Mumu is the Finnish word for Grandma and that is what Grant, Nate and Trent called Derek's mom. Then when we moved to Papua New Guinea we learned a new definition of the word mumu. In Papua New Guinea a mumu is a feast of food that is cooked on top of hot rocks in the ground. Recently the clinic staff decided that they wanted to have a mumu for our annual Christmas party.

In this blog post I'll share with you how to go about preparing a mumu!

First, we filled the back end of our clinic ambulance with banana leaves and a couple of trunks of banana trees, which are all essential to making a mumu.

Then the men set about to chopping up the wood to be used for a fire while the women went to work peeling about 50-60 pounds of kaukau! (Kaukau is a variety of sweet potatoes and is the staple food in much of Papua New Guinea)

Notice that the wood is split lengthwise and a small hatchet is put in the end of the log to act as a wedge while they continue chopping and splitting the log into smaller pieces.



It took 3 ladies 3 hours of constant peeling, snapping beans, washing and cutting to get all the food ready!

The food that was on the menu for the mumu was: kaukau, carrots, pumpkin, string beans, cabbage, kumu (a variety of leaves....think spinach and celery leaves), pitpit (a small type of bamboo), cooking bananas, chicken, beef, sausages and onions and ginger.

While the women are preparing the food, the men keep working with the firewood and preparing the pit that the mumu will be cooked in.

First a big hole is dug in the ground. Next, it is lined with rocks. Then, a fire is built on top of the rocks.

The small sticks are put directly on top of the rocks and then the larger and longer firewood is put spanning the width of the pit. More rocks are put on top of the longer pieces of firewood. The fire then heats up all the rocks, which will later be used to cook the food.



Once all of the firewood has burned up, the rocks are declared hot enough to cook the food. The smaller still smoldering pieces of firewood are removed and then the rim of the mumu pit is quickly built.



Stakes are put into the ground surrounding the pit to provide some structure to the rim. The fibrous layers of the banana tree trunk are pounded flat and then circled around the perimeter to create a bowl.

Once the rim of the bowl is built, then the leaf part of the banana leaves are stripped off the stem and placed on top of the hot rocks to create the bottom of the mumu bowl.

Now the bowl is ready for the huge pile of food to be added into it! The bottom layer is the kaukau and then everything else is mixed together with the onions and ginger and heaped on top, filling up the mumu bowl to almost overflowing!

Everyone is working together to fill up the mumu pit with the food very quickly, while the rocks are still hot and are perfect for cooking the food.

Once all the food has been added, then full green banana leaves are put on top, followed by more dry banana leaves.

Then water is poured down thru a hole in the top of the banana leaves to create more steam for cooking the food.

Then plastic is put on top and dirt is shoveled around the bottom edges to prevent any steam from escaping.

And now we wait for about 1.5 hours for the hot rocks to do the cooking!

During that time we played a lot of Corn Hole, which was a new game to many! There was also a lot of visiting and using the zip line.

It was then time to peel back the layers and get the mumu food into pots and on to trays.

And it was

delicious!!

Here is a picture of our clinic staff in front of our ambulance. They are an amazing staff of people dedicated to helping the people of Papua New Guinea and seeing Bible translation move forward to bring people the Word of God!





THE BUZZ

FROM THEFIVEHIVE

December 2024: The Gift of...



...A BIKE!

In September, our family was blessed to give a bike to a national friend and pastor in our valley. Kennadie (and wife Margaret) have a passion for Jesus and their congregation. He wanted a bike so he could more easily travel & serve people.



...A TABLE!

Back in March, Derek recruited Trent and two of his buddies (Lucas and Nehemiah) to help build a gift for our mission center's Auto Shop. On December 6th, it was finally ready to install; the Auto Shop crew was VERY surprised and super thankful! To see more pictures (taken by my UIS colleague Anita McCarthy), click [HERE](#).



...VBS!

Each January, the Ukarumpa community hosts a valley-wide Vacation Bible School for the kids of Aiyura Valley. One aspect of this huge undertaking is providing treats for the estimated 400 in attendance. Kristy volunteered to provide ten loaves of banana bread for this year's event.



...FAITH!

In October, we praised the Lord for guiding Trent to step out of his comfort zone.

He volunteered to give a testimony to the community about how God met him during the annual youth retreat (called Encounter). Later in the term, he served the girls basketball B-team by refereeing a few of their games. In both, the community was blessed.

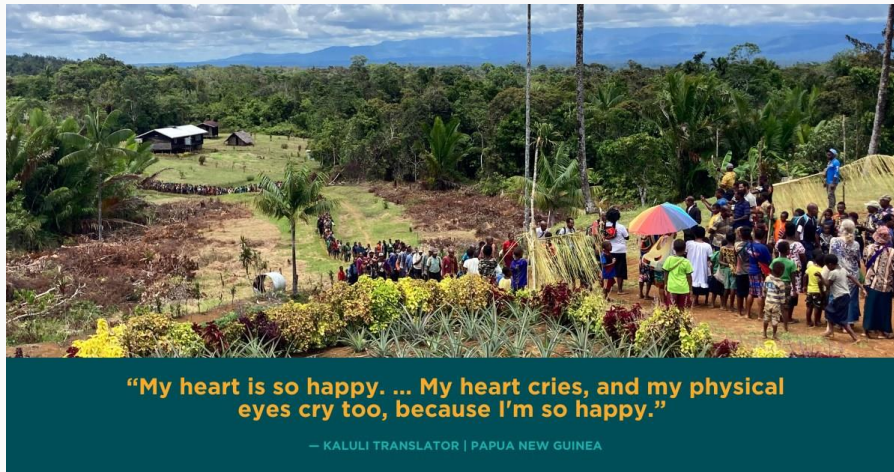
...A CALLING!

Kristy and I have been reading through a book entitled, [*Grit To Stay, Grace To Go: Staying Well in Cross-Cultural Ministry*](#) by Sue Eenigenburg and Eva Burkholder. This book has really helped us process through many aspects of ministering in Papua New Guinea, including cultural clashes and seeing so many of our friends leaving the field.

In the book, one of the aspects the authors are challenging us with is to see our role in the body of Christ in three areas: a calling, a mission, and an appointment. In the coming newsletters, we will share more about *mission* and *appointment*. In this newsletter, we want to share what we've learned about the first area: calling.

[καλέω Kaleō](#) It's the Greek word for being called or invited. Jesus uses this word in his parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22. That wedding feast is being prepared for those that the Father has "invited" and "called out of darkness and into His glorious light." (1 Peter 2:9) (same word).

During this Advent season, join our family as we praise God for the gift of sending His son Jesus to invite us - [kaleō](#) - into His kingdom, saving us from the power of sin and death.



This past September, the Kululi people celebrated a **GIFT** that was decades in the making: the dedication of the complete Kululi New Testament! With it, there will be more Kululi people who will be **CALLED** into Christ's eternal kingdom! PRAISE GOD! Our friends, Andy and Sylvia, are the translation advisors; click [HERE](#) to watch a short video of the dedication ceremony, along with Andy and Sylvia's perspective.



Prayer requests

Praises

1. Praise God for a solid finish to the 1st semester for both Derek and Trent. Thank you for praying for Derek's courses; he really felt God's provision throughout the semester! The same is true for Trent: he is having success in his Advanced Placement (AP) courses and received A's in all three of them.
2. The Lord has provided richly for Grant and Nate this last semester as well: (a) They got over the bumps in their transitions back to school; (b) Nate was able to find a part-time construction job with a company owned by the son of one of our partners; (c) Grant had harder classes this semester but still ended up with great grades, that's due to God's grace

and a solid work ethic; and (d) the vehicle issues/accidents that they had were minor. :-)

3. In the last newsletter, Kristy asked for prayer regarding a new health education program she was implementing. She is pleased to report that it has gone well thus far. The program revolves around translating health pamphlets from English to Tok Pisin (the trade language) and several are really close to being published!

Prayers

1. There continues to be a shortage of teachers at Ukarumpa International School ([UIS](#)). Please pray that God would send more teachers SOON to Ukarumpa! We've recently been told by UIS administration that, as of right now, Trent will need to take his final Religious Studies (RS) course (which is required for graduation) online due to the lack of an RS teacher for next school year.

2. Pray for extra patience and focus for Kristy at the clinic for the above average times of stress. Pray also for a renewed passion for serving, as 2024 has been very taxing, almost a dozen medevacs, complex government relations, and personnel issues just to name a few.

3. There have been an uptick in security issues in the valley we live in. Pray for peace and protection for us and for our colleagues.

4. This Christmas break we are blessed to be able to travel to New Zealand...and Grant and Nate will be joining us! This is our first family vacation since August of 2023. Pray for safe travel, smooth & on-time flight connections, and, most of all, that our time together as a family will be rich.

If you're already a prayer, encouraging, and/or financial partner, **THANK YOU!**

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR WYCLIFFE TEAM?

If you answered yes, below are some options.

GIVE ONLINE: Click [HERE](#) and follow the directions.

GIVE BY PHONE: Call 1-800-WYCLIFFE and they'll guide you through the process.

GIVE BY MAIL: Mail a check, made out to "Wycliffe Bible Translators", to the address below. PLEASE INCLUDE A SEPARATE NOTE STATING "for preference for account 249455 Derek & Kristy Johnson".

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando FL 32862-8200

AN ENCOURAGER: We love to receive mail from home. See our up-to-date contact information below.

PRAYER PARTNER: Either contact us directly using our information (below) or click [HERE](#) to sign up to become a member of our prayer team.



Unswervingly,
Hebrews 10:23

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