

Greetings from North Wahgi!

It is time for an update as we have so many things to praise the Lord about and so many things to update those of you who have been faithfully praying for us and so many things to add to the prayer list!

Boil, boil, trouble, and toil

As many of you may know, last month Levi had a very painful boil that came up on the palm of his hand just under the thumb joint. It got to such a state that Levi decided to take matters into his own hand and did a self-surgical procedure on it (after consulting a medical professional). This merely began the 4 days of draining to get the infection out. We are so grateful that he is now completely healed. Thank you for all of the kind Facebook posts and e-mails to let us know that you all have been praying for him and for the helpful hints and remedies also. One thing that we truly can be thankful for as a direct result of this infection that gripped Levi is that he was able to use it as an incredible teachable moment with our church family here in Wahgi!

A season of drought, skeletons, and reconciliation...

Throughout the last 6 months our little church became a 'skeleton' of sorts. During the political campaigning and election upheavals we lost 80% of our attendees. The Sunday School program shrunk from 20 regulars down to 5-8 as our two Sunday School teachers had poor lapses in godly judgement and have temporarily disqualified themselves. During this season of 'spiritual drought' we have seen the few faithful that have clung to the "meat" of God's Word and continued to walk faithfully through this trying time. However, our little "family" has a gaping wound so to speak that has left it open for infection to be able to cause continued rot and division.

The beginning of this month we have seen several of those who walked away during these months begin to return. As Levi and I both listened to the murmurings amongst the congregation we decided that we needed to pause on the current lessons being taught and take time to address this deep need among the Body. We decided to do a little dramatization of the parable of the two men who owed a debt (Matthew 18). One was forgiven much yet chose to not return that forgiveness to the one who owed him little and in the end, paid the penalty for his harshness and condemning attitude. We recruited our 3 boys to help us with this drama as it would not have been received well had we used any of the church members for this particular drama. The boys all did a wonderful job as we shared with them the reasoning behind the drama and our hope of how it might impact the church as a whole.

After the dramatization was finished, I broke away to teach Sunday School and Levi continued on. He now believes that the Lord allowed him to have this boil on his hand so that he could use it specifically to illustrate the biblical truths that he taught. He taught about how the congregation had knowingly allowed a 'boil' to develop among them. They have all probably had a boil at one time or another, so they understood the analogy well. They know that they cannot ignore a boil and pretend that it doesn't exist because the nagging pain declares its presence. For some, a type of boil on their fingers have gotten so bad that once it is gone, it has rendered the finger useless once it healed. Levi taught that the best thing for them to do is to lance the boil and get the infection out before it gets worse; to the point of rendering parts of the Church Body useless.



Start of reconciliation...

Yesterday was a beautiful time of seeing the reconciliation process start. Time was given and several individuals took the opportunity to stand before the congregation and confess sinful attitudes and actions that they have done over the last several months and ask for forgiveness. Some shook hands and some embraced in acceptance of apology and to extend forgiveness. There were some individuals who were not present during this time and we're seeking ways to help facilitate their reconciliation as well. *Please pray that the church would be able to leave the past behind them and press forward in the unity of Christ.*

Ten years ago Jon gave our team land on which to build our homes. Unfortunately, though God's Word has come literally to his doorstep, Jon has been unreceptive to the Gospel and he is now within his last hours of life. Please continue to pray for his family to be receptive to the Gospel. Pray also that there will not be any disputes over the land on which we live once he has passed away.



Other Prayer Points:

- Please pray for our Bible Teachers that they would be faithfully growing in their own personal walks with the Lord and that they would be obedient to the Lord in using the gifting that He has given to them to strengthen the Body of Christ here in Wahgi.*
- Pray with us in asking God to raise up godly men and women here among the Wahgi, and that He would instill in the lives of some faithful men to become Elders and Deacons in the coming months/years.*
- Pray for our Sunday School teacher's to have truly repentant hearts and to be faithfully restored so that they can continue on with serving the Lord in this ministry.*

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support.

Levi & Robyn Lenz