



# *Gary and Verda Keck*

## Serving in **Papua New Guinea**

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January – February 2012

### **Year Began with Revival Meeting**

We began January with a Revival meeting at #6. God moved in a special way. Many of our people made commitments to the Lord for this year. Four adults received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and six were baptized. We praise the Lord for what He is doing at Bible Baptist #6. The building is slowly being completed. Our biggest hindrance is finding transportation to haul our materials from Lae to Wau; it is now the middle of March and still no truck to haul the materials. No matter what project I am involved with, either at the Bible School or the church, the holdup seems to be transport.

### **The Celebration of a dear friend - My Father:**

In our last letter, I mentioned that I received a phone call from my mom telling me my dad had been hospitalized and not expected to live. I had talked with dad once again over the phone and prayed. I told him that I would check into coming home. By the weekend my dad was better and was released from the hospital.

January 23rd, mom called and explained dad's health was failing, and he was not expected to live. My heart sank; we talked a few moments and ended our conversation with a word of prayer. Dad's pastor, Pastor Woodcock, suggested that I should prepare to come stateside and Bible Baptist would do what they could to assist us. I called my pastor and he affirmed that decision. We had been experiencing much rain since the onset of January. There was much flooding and landslides with road closures here in Wau and on the way to Lae. My thoughts were on dad and I started checking into the possibility of coming back to the States. Ticket prices were quoted \$10,000 per person. I checked online...\$5000 per ticket. I had resolved I would not be going home.

We received another phone call on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> this time his home going was eminent. I spoke with and prayed with both my mom and dad. It was the last time I spoke with him; he passed into Heaven early Sunday morning. Verda and I prayed, and with heavy hearts we began to prepare. The road had been closed for four days, it was a week end, and how would we even get out of Wau? God intervened and set things in motion. We found round trip tickets for both of us for \$5,800. The works department sent a machine to clear the landslides on the weekend (this just doesn't happen!) and the road was open for us to travel. With tickets in hand we made our way to Lae and the following day we flew out of Lae making our way stateside. Verda and I arrived in CA and drove to Lancaster to spend the night with our daughter and family. We headed out the following day driving to Idaho. We arrived in Jerome, Idaho, Friday afternoon. Saturday was the funeral. At the funeral, I spoke about dad's Commitment to God, country, family, and church (Dad was a member of Bible Baptist Church of Jerome, ID for 55 years and married for 58 years). I talked about dad's Character and his Compassion for souls. One thing I admire about dad and mom, even so more now being a grandparent myself, that dad and mom not one time complained to Verda or I about taking our children, their grandchildren, overseas and them not seeing them for several years at a time. They never questioned our decision, but have always been a support to our decision. They are the ones who have truly sacrificed.

The following Sunday, I was given the privilege to preach for Pastor Woodcock at Bible Baptist Church, Jerome, Idaho. Verda and I drove to OR and spent a weekend with Pastor Bob and Harvest Baptist Temple in Medford. We then drove to CA and spent the remaining days with our children. We video chatted with Sharon and her children. What a blessing!

### **Family Conference at Bible Baptist #6**

Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Verda and I flew back to PNG arriving Thursday, March 1, 6:30 PM in Lae after 24 hours of travel. Friday we did shopping and met up with our guest speaker, Missionary Brad Wells and his family. We drove back to Wau on Saturday in preparation for our Family Conference starting Sunday March 4, and we finished March 7. It was a tremendous time of hearing God's Word on the family. One man was saved and many decisions to follow God's instruction for a Christian family were made. It is good to be back in PNG. Verda and I are looking forward to what God is going to do next in our lives and ministry.

### **Special thanks**

My heart is overwhelmed, by the gracious outpouring of condolences. The flowers, cards, letters and the love offerings have been such an encouragement in this time. We love you and appreciate each one of you. Thank you so much.

Gary and Verda