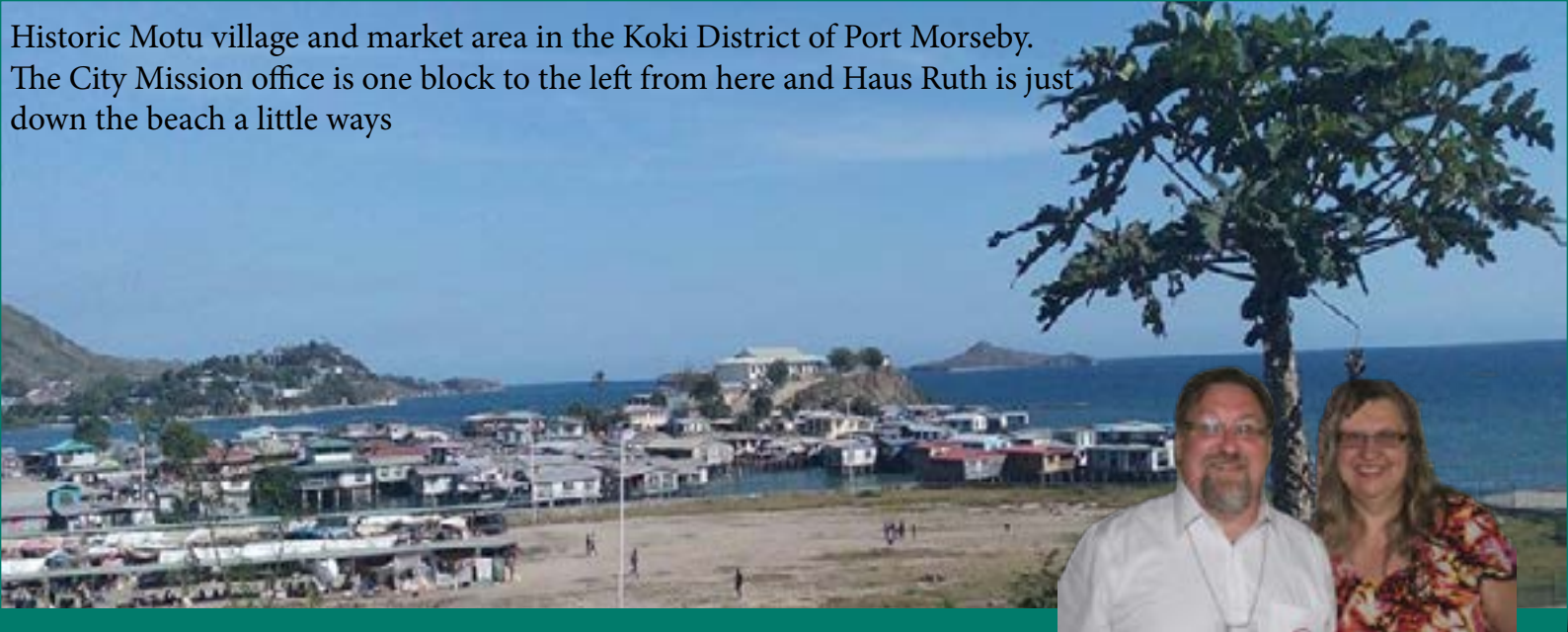


Historic Motu village and market area in the Koki District of Port Moresby. The City Mission office is one block to the left from here and Haus Ruth is just down the beach a little ways



# SOUTH PACIFIC TIMES

*With Steve and Brooke Highlander*

March 2015

## Stuff to Pray About



There are many exciting things happening right now. This year will be a significant year for City Mission and Brooke and me. Your prayers for and with us are so much appreciated.

- Brooke and I celebrated our 18th wedding anniversary with a short trip to Cairns Australia. This is significant because one of the things that brought us together 19 years ago was a call to missions. Pray for us as a couple.
- I have been asked to teach at several regional pastor's meetings around the country for the Foursquare Church. Pray for travel expenses and for God's anointing and wisdom to help these pastors.
- Health: We're both over a long-standing bout with bronchitis, but we are headed into malaria season. Colds and flu are common here and seem to hang on forever.
- We have an opportunity to do outreach in the notorious 6-Mile settlement, as well as an open door in a second settlement. Pray for our safety and effectiveness. We're trusting God for healing and miracles to get these people's attention.
- City Mission has started a ministry to street children (estimates say up to 3000 or more live on the streets in Port Moresby). We will be the 1st program of its kind in PNG.
- Spiritual warfare over City Mission as a whole. Satan tries to stop the advancement of God's Kingdom on earth.

## Ministry Update

What we have been doing and what is on the horizon

From Steve: We've been in PNG for nine months now. In that time we have settled into our ministry responsibilities comfortably. In my role as Administration Manager I have worked to bring better organization to our headquarters office.

Late last year I established a scholarship program for some of the young men who are graduating from our 14-month residential program. We currently have two key donors and several educational institutions, including a Bible college, that are working with us.



I also facilitate local and international volunteers. In the past few months we have had a woman from Australia working with doing photography and marketing. We have had two teams from the USA visit the Farm and minister here,

including village outreaches. Other volunteers include college students, embassy workers, business people and ex-pat wives.

In January a couple from London visited with the goal of setting up a coconut oil production facility for us.

One of my jobs is to be the administra-

Continued on page 3

## Become a Virtual Missionary

Would you like to become more involved in World Missions? Access to the Internet has opened many doors to both those who want and need ministry and those who want to minister around the world. There are many ways you can get involved as a virtual missionary.

- Adopt a country and develop a burden to help. (We suggest PNG of course). Do your research online: Read articles, watch videos, check out country data, and talk to your missionaries. Find out how to pray and what areas you can get in-



**Website**

Visit our website at [stevehighlander.com](http://stevehighlander.com) to sign up for our E-mail newsletters, get links to our blogs, Facebook pages, email addresses, phone numbers, links to previous newsletters or, if you would like to help support our mission work in Papua New Guinea.

**FACEBOOK**

FACEBOOK is the best way to stay tuned into our lives and ministry..

We update FACEBOOK almost daily with photos and more

[www.facebook.com/brooke.highlander](http://www.facebook.com/brooke.highlander)

[www.facebook.com/steve.highlander](http://www.facebook.com/steve.highlander)

**Email & Phones**

Voice or Video Chat with us on **SKYPE** at [steve.highlander](https://www.skype.com/people/steve.highlander) or [Brookehigh](https://www.skype.com/people/Brookehigh) (We also use Viber, which is a good free service.)

We have a USA based phone number: call 417-283-4664

[steve@stevehighlander.com](mailto:steve@stevehighlander.com) and

[brooke.highlander@gmail.com](mailto:brooke.highlander@gmail.com)

**Time and Date**

We are 16 hours ahead of USA Central time.

8 AM on Sunday here is 4 PM on Saturday in Missouri.



Every Tuesday young men show up at the City Mission headquarters in Koki to apply to enter the program. In January we had two weeks when an average of 50 per week show up. We could only take 20 out of the dozens of applicants in January. The rest were told to try again later. Some of our boys have walked for days from their remote villages to come to City Mission. Our current capacity is 170 boys in the residential program, we are full all the time.

# Become a 'Virtual Missionary'

- Involved with.
- Develop some relationships with people in your chosen country -missionaries, expats and local people. Be creative. Missionaries all over the world have to develop relationships of trust before they can start ministering. Talk to your missionaries, check out chat rooms for specific countries, etc. (Resist the urge to evangelize the world in a week. True missionary efforts are long term propositions.)
- Connect with a local missionary to see how you can assist them (prayer, finances, resources, expertise, etc.)



Baptizing new believers in the ocean. We baptized 18 new Christians last October and are preparing for another baptismal service in the next few weeks. 17-year old Kilela has a heart to reach her friends in the village and has started a group for teen girls.

Right: Michael Melechon is my friend and Vocational Training Leader at the farm.

Inset: My friend, pastor Magi Goro, the regional Four Square Director over our area

Bottom: Huli Wigman from the Highlands. Each man spends years weaving their unique wig from their own hair, feathers, cloth, bone, teeth, tusks, etc. This is authentic tribal ceremonial dress for that people group.



# Ministry Update

*continued from page 1*

tor over Haus (House) Ruth, our shelter for victims of gender based violence. We just received a 3-year grant of 390,000 Kina (\$156,000 USD) to expand our program to include more services to children. PNG is just now acknowledging the problem of child abuse and street children.

There are NO Children's Crisis Centers (CCC) in the country. City Mission will once again be on the cutting edge of social services by developing the first CCC. (We were the first long-term women's shelter and are still the largest of the few that exist nation-wide.)

The renovation of the current facility to include space for ministry to children and the development of the programs will be my direct responsibility. Additionally, we plan to build an entirely new facility on the farm starting at the end of this year. This will allow us to expand the program even more.

On the ministry side of things I continue to teach a Bible doctrines class twice weekly to about 70 young men. I also help lead New Life Four Square Church and preach and teach there a couple of times a month. New Life has about 250 members. I have also started to do a couple of Wednesday night services per month at our Koki Dorm in Port Moresby.

I am currently working on a plan to help the boys transition from mission life to integration in the workplace or continuing education.

We are praying for God





# Life on an Island

## Brooke's thoughts on life and ministry

I've wanted to be a missionary since I was 12 years old. I took the roundabout way of getting here, but learned a lot along the way. Pastoring, itinerate preacher's wife, student, counselor, workshop supervisor: All of this helped to pre-

pare me. And God provided the perfect partner in this endeavor! My husband is one of the wisest, most dedicated, hard-working person I know, and he loves people at his own expense. Perfect fodder for missions!

When we arrived in Papua New Guinea, driving through Port Moresby, I was overwhelmed with the poverty everywhere. As dirty and trashy as it was, there were people everywhere sweeping gutters and carrying trash. It just goes to show you that even the poorest of people can have self-respect. I was told about the dangers of this country, and read about them, and watched videos about it on YouTube, so I was primed to be afraid when we drove through notorious parts of town (one of which we have to drive through to get to and from work). I was paranoid about keeping our doors locked (I still am), as most car-jackings happen when you are stopped on the

street. Lots of traffic here, so you are stopped a lot. After being here for more than 4 months, I can say that my heart no longer jumps up in my throat when we are driving through these parts of town. I have found that most people here are courteous and respectful, especially when they see the "City Mission" sticker on our car. This doesn't mean that we don't have to be careful, but it does mean that I am getting to know the people and love them.

People here are very responsive to openness and friendliness. It takes awhile to win them over, but once won, they are loyal and generous. They WANT to improve themselves and their situations, enough to throw themselves whole-heartedly into many of the remedies we might have for them, be it learning something new, changing their way of thinking, or trying new things. They are delightful.

Our personal living situation is cozy. We have a small 2 bedroom apartment, completely furnished, satellite t.v., and a lovely deck to sit out on and watch the sun set. Money is tight, because we get just about enough to cover food and incidentals, but not enough to save for trips home or the all-important (so we've been told) breaks away from missionary-ing, but we have it so much better than most of the people we drive past everyday that I can't complain. I live in the South Pacific, on a tropical island, and can jump in the ocean to swim whenever I want (well, whenever we can carve out the time and get there...) God is Good. Life is Good.

## A Note on Giving

We would like to express our thanks to those who have helped us get to PNG and to those who have been faithful to support us since we have been here. Some have asked how we are doing support-wise. While we do receive housing and a small salary from City Mission, with the cost of living here, it basically covers our monthly expenses with some extra for the occasional meal out or other discretionary spending. Internet costs us \$120/month or more. We also give here - to the

church and to individuals and families when needed.

Currently we have two churches and one individual that is supporting us monthly. We have also had a couple of casual donations come in since we have been here.

The issue with missionaries is not just having enough to eat or a place to stay. We also have to plan for emergencies and of course future travel home and on mission trips. We are also highly encouraged to have medical evac. insurance -- which we don't have. All of this means we need

to have funds set aside above and beyond the daily needs. Your monthly or casual support -- \$10 or \$100 -- helps with this. We appreciate your prayerful consideration of the work here in PNG.

I can honestly say that the spiritual harvest is ripe here and that we see lives changing every day through the name of Jesus Christ. You can be a part of this harvest too. Paul told his supporters that the spiritual fruit he produced was credited to their account. One sure way to make God smile is to reach the unreached around the world.



**New Life Four Square Church on the City Mission Farm where I share preaching and teaching duties. About 250 gather on Sunday mornings for worship, prayer and teaching - the place rocks. Note: There are no uncomfortable pews, either.**