

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Changes in the Wind

December 2015

We have resigned from City Mission as of Dec. 2015. We will come back to the USA from Jan. – May, and then return to PNG to work with the Foursquare Church here.

Starting a Bible College

Brooke and I had the privilege of spending a week in the Trobriand Islands planting the School of Bible and Life Skills. [More on Page 2](#)

Personal Insights [More on Page 3](#)

Living Light Foursquare

Youth Conference

Brooke and I were invited to minister at the annual Living Light Youth Conference. A couple of hundred young people gathered for 3 days of preaching, teaching, prayer and ministry, we had an awesome time of ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit changing the lives of the young men and women.

Short clip of the last night's altar call –awesome!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdK3a5v8Zew>

New Doors of Ministry

The Christian life is a journey, not a destination. That means that things change as we move along the road. Last month, Brooke and I came to a crossroads in PNG. After several months of prayer we felt led to resign from City Mission and follow a path that leads us closer to our heart and vision for Papua New Guinea. We will be returning to the USA from January through May to take a break, help in our local church and raise some support for the next part of our journey.

We will return to PNG in May and have been invited to work closely with the National Foursquare Church here. We are tasked with setting up and organizing the National office in Port Moresby, creating multimedia projects and communication. We will be teaching in five Bible Colleges around the country and speaking in leadership seminars and pastor's conferences. Brooke has been asked to teach and do women's conferences.

We will still be based in Port Moresby, working with the two largest Foursquare Churches here, Living Light and Unity Foursquare. Living Light has a Bible College where we will serve as regular teachers. We will continue to speak in various churches and do outreach in the settlements and villages.



Brooke and I ministering at Living Light Foursquare Church in Port Moresby.

Starting a Bible College on Kiriwina in the Trobriands Islands



Kiriwina Island is a small atoll in a group of islands called the **Trobriand Islands**, which in turn are a part of the **Milne Bay** region of South East **Papua New Guinea**. In December, Brooke and I spent a week there helping to launch the **College of Bible and Life Skills** with Pastor **Thomas Utubasi**. Pastor Thomas and his wife Natasha had a vision to start the unique school on their home island. **Kiriwina** is about 21 miles long and 9 miles wide at its widest point. Between 32-35,000 people call this island home. They have several primary schools and one high school that goes to

grade 10. If a student wants to continue their education to grade 12 they have to move to the mainland to finish school in one of the five secondary schools in the country. There has never been anything past 10th grade on the Island – until now. With the launch of **The College of Bible and Life Skills**, Thomas plans to offer adult literacy, English, vocational training and Bible Courses in the context of Christian discipleship.

The majority of the people on Kiriwina live without running water or electricity. What little electricity there is comes from small gas or diesel powered generators. One road connects the island from one end to the other. They have one doctor for 32,000+ people. Here, in the middle of the island, Thomas built the beginnings of the College compound, including a new hut for us to stay in while we were there – complete with a private wash room and pit toilet (outhouse).

In seven days we ministered 13 times: Three times a day for 3 days in college sessions, two public crusades for the villagers on Friday and Sunday Evening, a leadership seminar with the four Foursquare church pastors and their leaders, a Sunday morning service at the large United Church in the village and the dedication of the college on Sunday afternoon.

Each evening villagers would come to ask for prayer and medicine for various ailments from headaches and backaches to chest pain and open wounds. We did what we could for them with some antibiotic ointment, Advil, antihistamines and Brooke's Essential Oils she always carries. Next time we will be more prepared for these requests.

Several people accepted Jesus as Savior, some were filled with the Holy Spirit and some healed. A number of adults and youth rededicated their lives to God and several committed to Christian service to reach their Island for Jesus. Everyone was greatly encouraged. One man came to me a day or two after the crusade and said God had healed his chest pain.

Our time on Kiriwina was absolutely life changing and one of the key experiences of our life. We plan on going back once or twice a year as God provides.

Left: Pastor Thomas and Natasha Utubasi receive the certificate of Affiliation from Faith Bible College in the USA at the Dedication Service for the College of Bible and Life Skills.

Our Home for a Week



Time Flies When you are having fun! *From Steve*

And even when you aren't – Time just seems to fly by these days. I have a hard time wrapping my head around the fact that we have been in Papua New Guinea for 18 months. These months have been life-changing for us. Working in a third world, developing nation has a way of altering your perspective of what is really important (certainly from God's perspective too). Seeing firsthand a nation's struggle to emerge from a primitive, diverse culture is like watching a butterfly struggle to get out of his cocoon. The clash of those cultures--some centuries old--with modernization can be difficult for many people—especially the older ones. Brooke and I have had the privilege of working with hundreds of the neediest, most at-risk people in Papua New Guinea. We've also had the privilege of meeting with Ambassadors from several countries, government leaders and sitting in strategy meetings with world-wide NGOs discussing issues like education, gender-based violence, children in crisis, youth empowerment and more; all issues we have been knee-deep involved with since coming to PNG. This is such a strategic time to be in PNG. The Spirit of God is moving powerfully in here, and everything is changing: society, culture and lives, and the gospel of Jesus Christ is right at the forefront of those changes. We can't imagine being anywhere else at this point in our lives and ministry. When we dreamed about going to the mission field we never once imagined something like this. God has truly blessed us with an incredible opportunity to make a difference in a nation. We are so grateful for all the doors God is opening for us.

Lessons from Papua New Guinea *From Brooke*

Hello, friends and family! This past year-and-a-half has included some of the best experiences in my life. I learned some valuable lessons that I hope will guide me throughout the rest of my days: forgiving others, forgiving myself, walking in grace, being grateful for what I have and am *at this very moment* are just a few of these lessons:

At first, listening to some of the stories of the ladies at the Safe House where I volunteer overwhelmed me. They were torture stories, and these ladies talked about their experiences as if they could expect nothing else in life-- except that they had made the decision to be safe, for the moment, at least. At first I was so angry at these men that I dreamt of ways to hurt them back, but I soon realized that these men weren't the enemy-- they were being driven by forces they didn't even understand, so I learned to forgive these men. I began to teach the ladies about spiritual warfare, and that's when I started to come under greater spiritual attack. I didn't always prevail, and I learned then about forgiving myself, but I also learned a lot more about the kingdom of God and its eternal battle against darkness. Guess what, folks! Light always wins!

In the midst of relative plenty, (and even low income Americans have plenty next to most of the people in Papua New Guinea) it's easy to overlook how self-centered we can be. At least, I didn't notice! I thought that I was generous and frugal, but now I can see that it's all a matter of perspective. I don't miss many of the things I've given up, and have learned to be delighted with the small things in life. I'm much happier.

Even as a missionary, there are conflicts among those you work with... it's a part of life, and one of the ways God works off those rough edges we all have. Choosing to walk in grace, love and forgiveness is always the higher way that leads to more anointing and greater fruit. I didn't always succeed, but I can see the progress in my life.

Taking the step out on that limb and determining to live-- at least the greater portion of your life-- for others has rewards that are as great as they are intangible. It doesn't have to be on a foreign mission field. Living and working for others is a way of life that happens in every town, province and country in the world. It's not natural, it goes against our instincts, but persevering and leaving room for God to lead us in the small things makes it more worthwhile than you could imagine.

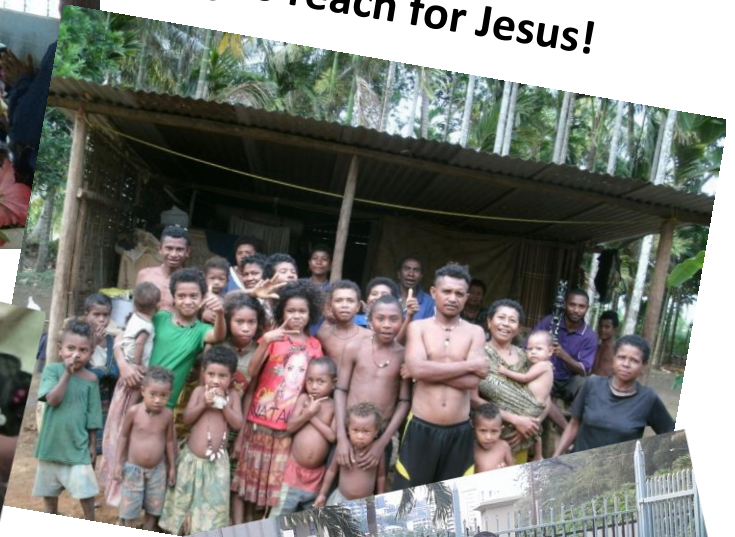
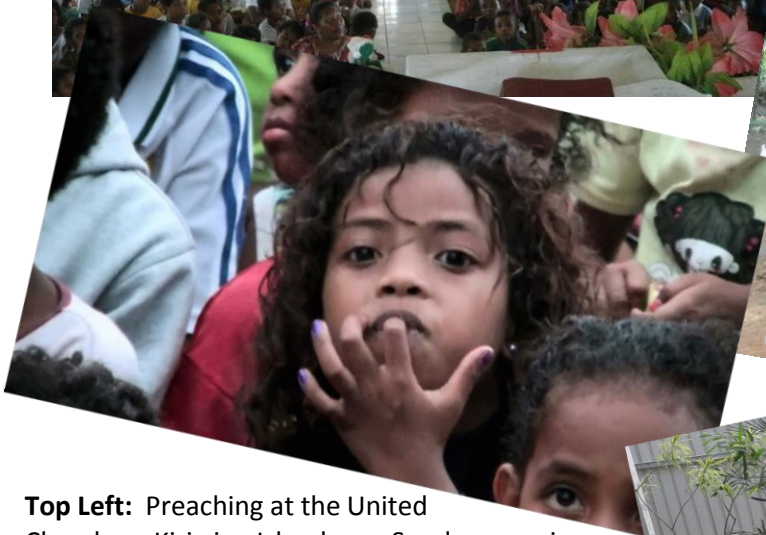
We Need Your Help to Continue Making a Difference in Papua New Guinea

To put it simply, plainly and honestly: **We need financial support to continue working in PNG.** For the last 18 months, my work with City Mission provided housing, transportation and a small salary that took care of most of our immediate needs. The transition to Foursquare means we will be working as any other missionary and will need to be fully funded. They are providing a small apartment for us, but all other living expenses are now up to us. Right now we have about \$400 per month in mission support from the USA. We will need around \$2000 per month. We want to ask you to prayerfully consider supporting our mission work with regular monthly support. You can donate easily and securely online through PAYPAL, using any debit or credit card. No PAYPAL account is needed. Visit www.stevehighlander.com/donate.php to find the link. You can also support us by sending a check to C3M Ministries or Christ's Church in Nevada, MO. Again, check our website for address details. All donations, by any method, are tax-deductible. To discuss our work or specific needs just email or call. steve@stevehighlander.com SKYPE 1-417-283-4664.

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We will also need a vehicle and have started a GOFUND ME online campaign to raise money for a vehicle. If you feel like donating to that project please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/stevehighlanderor> visit stevehighlander.com and scroll to the bottom of the front page. You can also donate by check to one of the options above, but please make a notation that it is for the vehicle.

The bottom line of genuine mission work is always and only the people you are trying to reach for Jesus!



Top Left: Preaching at the United Church on Kiriwina Island on a Sunday morning.

Top Right: Some villagers from Kiriwina in front of a typical tribal home.

Bottom Left: Children are the same all over they world. They want to be loved, have fun, be safe and have enough to eat.

Bottom right: Some of the street boys we ran day programs for.