

17 November 2017



Dear Family & Friends,

Greetings. We are doing well and trust you are too. Our last trip to Simbai proved to be quite interesting.

First, our flight to Simbai was in the mid-afternoon, not a good time in rainy season. We could not get into Simbai, so had to go overnight in Mt. Hagen. The weather was good the next morning, so we made it safely into Simbai.

Then, our flight out of Simbai was delayed as well. The pilot got in okay, but the weather changed and we were not able to leave. The weather cleared enough in the late afternoon so we made it to Goroka safely.

#### Farewell Meetings.

The Farewell meeting at Bible Baptist went well. Four churches met together for the meetings, so there was a big group of people waiting for Steve and me (Bill). They gave us a grand welcome; and we had great services on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. (Check out the pictures we just posted on our website.)

The Farewell Meeting at Mt. Olive also went well. Three churches combined for this meeting, so we had good crowds as well. The services on Friday and Saturday went well. Their church building was bursting at the seams, so they decided to meet outside on Sunday Morning. That only lasted about 45 minutes, as the rains came and forced us back inside. There were a lot of folks standing outside around the doors and windows just to see and hear the service. (Check out the pictures we just posted on our website.)

#### An Awesome God – A Huge Answer to Prayer.

On Saturday morning at the Mt. Olive meeting, we were handed letters from Ray regarding the Tree Compensation. It was the same old thing; so we chose to ignore the letter. Ray & his wife came to the service on Sunday morning. I went and spoke to him after the service and thanked him for coming.

On Tuesday morning, an hour before we were to get on the plane and leave Simbai, Ray showed up at our house with Pastor Walis (Mt. Olive) and his cousin, Rusta. Steve and I went out to meet with them and see what Ray wanted. Ray said that he had been awake since 3 am; that he had apologized to God for his actions toward us; and was now apologizing to us. He had decided to drop the compensation claim against us; and let us know that he and all his family are “wanbel” (unity of heart) with us and ABWE. He wanted us to be able to leave Simbai with “bel isi” (peace) and not have this burden hanging over us. He also said that he wants ABWE missionaries to stay and work in Simbai; and that he and family are willing to work with ABWE!! Praise the Lord!!!

Ray also wanted pictures of us at the airstrip before we left, so we all agreed. Ray presented me (Bill) with two spears; we presented him with a Bible & Song Book; and we all had a group handshake. This is a typical cultural method of settling disputes in a public manner. To go back on that at a later time would be strictly forbidden. We documented this transaction with photos. PTL – this was something only GOD could have done!!! (Check out the pictures we just posted on our website.)

#### ***Bill & Debbie***

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P.S. We posted some new info and more pictures on our website. Check it out at [www.tobias.abwe.org](http://www.tobias.abwe.org)