

Dear family and friends,

January 2021

A big event for our community this month was the wedding of a lovely bride from Ukarumpa and her groom from the U.S. I helped make the bride's dress and did numerous alterations for the bridesmaids and flower girls. We had sunny skies for this outdoor celebration, and rejoiced to witness this couple's promises and commitment in Christ to one another.

While they were signing their marriage license and having their attendants also sign it, I was struck by the fact that we 300+ witnesses also agreed in prayer to surround them as a community. We are pledged to uphold them in prayer, to reach out in fellowship, to exhort them to grow as a couple, and to be iron sharpening iron.

We are indeed members of one another, and we must take this seriously to live as one Body of Christ (Rom. 12:5). The apostle Paul peppers such teaching and exhortation in all his epistles, admonishing believers in Christ to teach, exhort, and edify one another, especially in the difficult times of persecution and challenge from the world.

Titus 2:3 addresses older women (like me) to be reverent, avoid gossip, teach what is good, and encourage younger women. I want to do this better in my community here and in contacts with all of you. Please pray for me to be diligent and obedient to the Lord in this pursuit.



The Kamono-Kafe translation work resumed after the holidays, and we completed the book of Daniel. We often paused in the middle of our work to marvel at these men of faith and integrity. Prayers for the nations were greatly enhanced by working through this book together, as we learned the need for repentance, humility, and crying out to God to heal our world in its brokenness.

One translator told a story of a local funeral recently attended by a woman who had lived far away in another province for decades. She heard the Kamono-Kafe New Testament for the first time, and she dropped to her knees in amazement, repentance, and faith. Hearing the gospel in only Tok Pisin or English was like eating an unpeeled banana, compared with hearing it in Kamono-Kafe, with the banana peel removed! Thank you for your prayers for PNG people to be transformed by God's Word.

After checking options for cataract surgery I have decided to wait for now. I am learning to rest my eyes more often and to avoid situations that trigger fatigue and headache. Thanks for your prayers on this point. I remain so humbled and thankful for the privilege to be here, in tandem with all of you, my faithful partners in ministry. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

On the Rock, Marina

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