

## October 21, 2009 Wednesday

Good Morning Everyone!

We are excited to have gotten some sleep last night; most of us could barely keep our eyes open after dinner last night which we had around 8. We had left around 3pm in the afternoon and headed to Kotoku; it's 15-20 minutes away. We met Paster Ben there and two of his helpers. He walked us through that village and then we loaded on the bus and drove to a village farther back. Here we split up into 3 groups to go talk to people and pass out tracks.

In the first village there was quite a following of children! They followed my group everywhere we went. I got out my camera when we came upon some guys roasting either some super huge rats, or some muskrats. They were happy to let me take their picture. We then thought about staying for supper with them, but figured we didn't want to let the dinner Audrey and Lilly were working so hard to prepare for us be wasted...

Once the camera was out the children of course began jumping in front of it to get in the picture. They thought it was pretty neat to see themselves on it too! Jared and Wendall had fun playing soccer with some of the boys; there were boys playing soccer everywhere we went even if they had to make their own ball.

We hopped on the bus again to head back even farther to another village. I opened my window so I could take pictures on the way. We were driving with tall trees and bush on either side and TJ told me I better close my window so a snake doesn't fall in!! After he got some big eyes from a few people he said he was just joking; thank goodness!!

This village was fairly empty; most of the people were out working in their gardens and gathering water or other things. The sun was starting to go down and it actually looked like it was about to rain, but it never did. We then left for another village, but came up against a road-block, so we had to turn around and retrace our path there. We finally made it to the last village. It was getting pretty dark by this time so everyone was back home for the evening and we were able to talk to more people.

We were thankful to have either Paster Ben or one of his helpers with us in our groups as they were able to talk with the natives there. A lot of the people did not understand much English and our leaders were able to communicate with them in their language. There were some children that could read though; we liked to ask if they could read the front of one of our tracks. We were surprised at how many of them could do this!

We were thankful that at the end of the night more than 10 people had prayed to accept Christ. We also told everyone that there would be a health clinic today in the afternoon and a crusade tonight. We are praying that God will move in the hearts of those we meet today and continue to grow those who accepted Christ that they would be able to understand more fully God's love and mercy and understand what it means to live a Christ-centered life.

Please join us in praying for those we treat and minister today, as well as those who are beginning a new life with Christ. Also pray for safety for us today. Pray for wisdom for the nurses today as we treat those with medical needs. Pray for Wendall and myself as we give short testimonies tonight as well as for Floyd who will be bringing the message.

We love you all and are thankful you are joining us on our journey here through your prayers and support!

**October 21, 2009 Wednesday Cont.....**

Good Evening! What a long day we've had so far! We are just sitting down for dinner here and it's just a little after 10pm.

We had breakfast this morning around 10am. After breakfast Ken lead in devotions and we went over our plan for the day. Robert, Ken, and Ron headed to the school for a meeting while the rest of us began sorting through all the medical tubs, organizing everything and eventually counting out pills and putting them in baggies. Not long after that we headed back to Kotoku for our first medical clinic of the trip.

For the clinic they started out by checking in at my table. Each person had to have a coupon; these were handed out earlier by the Pastor. My interpreter's name was John and he was able to understand what I could not. We wrote down their names and age and then asked if they had a medical concern or needed eye glasses; they had to choose just one. Floyd was in charge of organizing the people waiting to check in. It became quite chaotic a few times as some people tried to jump in out of turn. When this happened there was much yelling and confusion! Everyone wanted to be seen and it was hard to wait so long! There were also many who waited and did not have a coupon so we had to tell them we could not see them unless there was time at the end.

If they needed eye glasses we sent them directly to the Eye Glass Center where they were taken care of by Ken, Mildred, and Esther. They gave away 15-20 pairs of eye glasses!

Those that had medical needs we sent to the table next to us where Robert, Lilly, and their interpreter Pastor Felix found out what their ailments were. They then went inside to see one of our 2 nurses Fannie and Elizabeth. These ladies, with the help of their interpreters, I only know one name which is Theresa, and the wisdom from God were able to discern what each person needed. Charlene, and Lilly at times, helped keep all the medical supplies stocked for the nurses.

After receiving their medical treatment or glasses each person had the opportunity to speak with one of our four counselors, Jared, Eugene, Wendell, or Ira about God's grace and forgiveness.

We were able to see those who did not have coupons after we saw those who had them. It did become very overwhelming as they all flooded the table at once! Floyd said he talked to one man a few times who did not have a coupon, but kept asking to be seen. Finally the Floyd was able to figure out that he just wanted glasses. He checked quick and saw that the room was empty so he sent him back. He returned with his glasses on and sat down and the table to Robert and ended up interpreting for him the rest of the afternoon! It started to rain as we were finishing up which made it very dark; thank goodness many of us brought flashlights so we were able to see to clean up and load up!

I wish I could tell you how many people we saw all together, but we haven't quite unloaded everything so I cannot find the box of coupons. If I had to estimate I would say around 100; I'll check tomorrow and let you all know for sure how well I am at estimates!

We then headed to a village called Aboman where we would be holding the evening service. While many of the Pastors and helpers set up, those of us in the group sat on the bus to enjoy the yummy PB&J sandwiches and popcorn Audrey sent along for us. We then had a time of prayer for the weather and the people that would be there.

We jumped out and went up to the stage that was set up and sang for awhile. Then Pastor Ben and his crew went up to sing and welcome everyone. Wendell and myself gave some short testimonies and the Floyd brought the message. He spoke about the creation of the earth, sin entering the world, the birth of Christ and the salvation we have through his death and resurrection. Pastor Ben then gave the invitation and about 8 people accepted Christ; Praise the Lord!

The men quickly began to break everything down and the people there gathered around some of the rest of us. A girl in the group around me wanted me to teach her to sing, so I asked her to sing for me instead and soon they all joined in singing and then dancing until it was time to go!

Well, Robert's telling me I need to wrap this up so perhaps I can write more in the morning! I hope you are well! Thank you for your support and prayers! God has answered all our prayers so far we are tired, but blessed by all we were able to accomplish!

Good Night!!