

JOHN & LENA ALLEN

serving in

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Great Finish to the Bible College Term

Despite restrictions and sickness and power blackouts, God was faithful to us during this term. Our course on the Home was well-attended, and we trust that the many visitors gleaned much from the teaching. Our students have continued to do well, and we thank God for each of them.



Completion of Years of Schooling

For years, Magret Manateo worked with Lena at Kunai Health Centre. Magret had a great desire to further her education in nursing, but to do it she had to return to primary school—and she did! She finished grades 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10—as a mother of 5!—and went on to be accepted at Kapuna Community Health Worker school. Just days ago, Magret graduated from Kapuna as a licensed Community Health Worker (think LPN in a Western context). Awesome job, Magret!

A Fruitful Ministry Comes to an End

In early 2008 Lena began what would become Kunai Health Centre. It started as a means to minister to our remote village community and to break down barriers to hearing the Gospel. In a few short years it became a very busy health centre with several national staff plus expatriate nurses.

Before the pandemic we were treating almost 17,000 patients per year. Many people had come to Christ, and the Gospel had been shared in word and in deed on a daily basis. Some people had come to the clinic *just to hear the Gospel* and put their faith in Christ alone!

Just a couple weeks ago, Kunai Health Centre closed its doors for the last time.

There were multiple factors for the closing that came together in 2021. Lack of funding from the government, a change in ruling on how we obtained visas for our nurse interns, and the lack of a permanent on-site director for Kunai Health Centre all contributed to making it impossible to continue.

Since Lena and I moved from Kunai to the capital three years ago due to health issues, the team at Kunai have continued doing a splendid job with the clinic, in addition to their own responsibilities. Going forward, though, without the ability to bring in nurse interns like before, and without any government funding to pay for national nurse staffing, it had to close its doors.

There is still a clinic building in our remote village. There are good connections that we have made throughout the government and private sector here in PNG. But as the old missionary adage goes, “We have lots of things—what we lack is people.” Perhaps someday the Lord will raise up medical professionals to serve full-time in a ministry like Kunai Health Centre, just as Lena and others did for nearly 14 years. Our team has done all we can for now. It is a sad day, but God has a plan, and we trust Him for it.

Great Days Ahead

We are still busy here in the capital with our Bible translation projects and preparing for our next Bible College term in January. As I write this, I am preparing to leave for a conference in Baimuru, Gulf Province. This is an especially busy time with ministry opportunities for us, and I look forward to sharing those with you in our next update. Thank you all for standing with us in prayer and support as we serve the Lord here in PNG!

Because He Is,
John & Lena Allen
Romans 15:13

Updates & photos: johnallen.ttmk.org
Kunai Health Centre: KunaiHealthCentre.com
Baptist Bible Institute of Port Moresby: bbipom.com