



March/April 2022

*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
—Romans 8:37*

What an amazing couple of months it has been! The rainy season is coming to an end and the ground has dried out. We will all soon be turning our glances upward, for the “free water from the sky”; but historically, it could be six months before that happens.

One of the highlights of last month was the opportunity to visit Kotidanga with my dad. Becky, the girls, and I spent eleven years there at the beginning of our ministry in PNG. We had the privilege to overlap with my parents there from 2008 until 2013; and my dad and mom ended up staying in Kotidanga for eleven years before joining us here in Port Moresby.

It had become increasingly obvious to us that there was a need for Dad and me to make the trip. The church was struggling and I was worried that the church which I had started many years ago was about to fall apart. They needed some guidance.

To be transparent, I did not think that things would go very well; and I felt a little bit like the Apostle Paul after he wrote 1 Corinthians (he tells about those discouragements in 2 Corinthians). Before arriving in Kotidanga, I thought, “This is going to be a mess. Perhaps we wasted our time ever being there.” But from the moment we arrived in Kotidanga, I was assured by the promise that Christ made: “I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” We watched as God moved in the hearts of sinful men and they began to repent of their sinful actions and cold hearts towards one another. Several times, I wept for joy as God worked.



When we left the village, we had renewed hope for their future; and renewed encouragement that God is at work in many ways that we cannot presently see—even when we think He might not be at work at all. Please pray with us for that church; this is a crucial time for them to continue to grow in their own leadership.

Next week, Becky and I will be making a quick trip to the States. This time it will be only for a few days, to celebrate with Ariel as she graduates from Pensacola Christian College. We are proud of her—she is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing, and she is very gifted. Last year, she wrote the History Textbook for Papua New Guinea. I’m a proud dad. Thank you for making it possible for us to raise her here.

Sincerely,
Matt and Becky Allen