

*Bear ye one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2*

May/June 2011

Dear Friends and Family,

We send our warmest greetings to you along with this letter and trust that you are doing well.

Thank you so very much for your support of our ministry. You are such a help and blessing and we are very thankful to you and to the Lord for your partnership with us.

We recently had an important quarterly NTM Medical Plan Committee meeting to discuss the financial "health" of the Medical Plan as well as to begin making definite plans for 2012. Medical expenses have gone up dramatically the past couple of years for our self-funded NTM Medical Plan. We have had many seriously ill missionaries besides the recently passed Healthcare Bill which have increased our members' monthly premiums. We anticipate another sizable premium increase next year as well. Thank you so very much for praying for us as we continue to administer the Medical Plan. There are a lot of unanswered questions as to how the health insurance landscape will be in the foreseeable future, especially for 2014.

We recently heard a touching story from the field of Papua New Guinea about Kotme, a woman from the Akolet tribe. Kotme experienced first hand the Body of Christ coming together to help her in her time of need (Galatians 6:2*). She was recently made to leave her garden group. Her crime: being a believer in Jesus. According to their culture, Akolet women arrange themselves into small groups of gardening "co-ops" – friends, neighbors or relatives who get together to share their garden work. The women in Kotme's group have been antagonistic toward the Gospel and Kotme was the only believer. It was hurtful for Kotme, not only from a friendship perspective, but it has also made things difficult since she can't do all of the gardening work on her own and taro planting is in full swing.



Kotme gardening in Papua New Guinea

Seeing her difficulty, other believers in her tribal area got together and told her, "Don't worry, Kotme. We'll all get together and plant your taro with you." All praise be to God – these new believers are growing in the Word and are learning to take care of each other.

We received permission to travel to Wisconsin at the end of April and got back in May. It's hard to believe that just last month when we were in Wisconsin that there was still some snow on the ground, as well as snow coming down a few times. Mom and Dad celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary and spent their special day with all of their children and many members of their family. They were limited as to how many could attend because of the size of their house. Three of our four children were able to be there which was an added blessing. During our time in Wisconsin we were able to help them go to several doctors' appointments and to shop and purchase lift-recliner chairs. The new chairs are a great help to the ladies who come to their home each day; Dad is now able to get up out of his chair without much assistance which is a blessing. We were also able to help them in a variety of other ways. Mom is now in a wheelchair and Dad is dependent on a walker to get around; they both turn 93 this year. John caught a bad flu bug while at Mom and Dad's which laid him low for a few days and Linda caught the same flu on our return trip back to Florida. On our way home, we were able to visit our daughter, Sarah, and her family for one night at their new home in Dothan, Alabama. It was wonderful seeing them once again. They have just moved from western Texas, so we are anticipating being able to see them more often, for which we are very thankful.

In closing, thank you once again for your extremely kind support of our ministry. Thank you for praying for us these days; be assured of our prayers for you as well.

Joyfully serving Him,

John & Linda