



Darkness came quickly and soon the only light in the house was coming from a faint, smoky fire and a small solar lamp. We ate together, sharing a meal of rice, tinned meat, 2-minute noodles, sweet potatoes and fresh greens. We brought our own plates and spoons since they only had enough for their own family. Three generations living together in a rapidly deteriorating bush-house. A father and mother with 4 children of their own, two nieces and two grandparents. Each night they end their evening meal with family devotions. It always begins the same, reciting the books of the New Testament, *Matyu, Mak, Luk, Jon, Aposel, Rom...* the children chanting along with their father. And then on this night he taught about the Word. We listened as he spoke vibrantly of the power and wonder of God's word, he spoke of the finite heavens and earth- *helefealuda anakiwida*. And he spoke of the eternity of God's word- *Gode sulu asigileyobafale*. He said, do not focus and set your mind on the things of this world because everything you see, everything tangible will not remain. Only the Bible, The Word, His Word, God's Word is everlasting.

Greetings Family and Friends-

My life has always been filled with written words, during my childhood I was read to and encouraged to look at books myself. It was expected that I would go to school and learn to read and write. The world I grew up in assumed literacy with street signs, menus, and written instructions on everything.

In the traditional Onobasulu world, street signs would be a joke, instructions are given verbally and even if people can read, daily life does not require it. However, things are changing and the literate world is starting to make inroads and literacy is becoming a useful and beneficial skill.

Unfortunately, for many years, basic education has not been readily available to the Onobasulu people. But recently an elementary school has been established in Walagu. With a supportive community behind them, the teachers have begun to teach and the children are excited about going to school and learning.

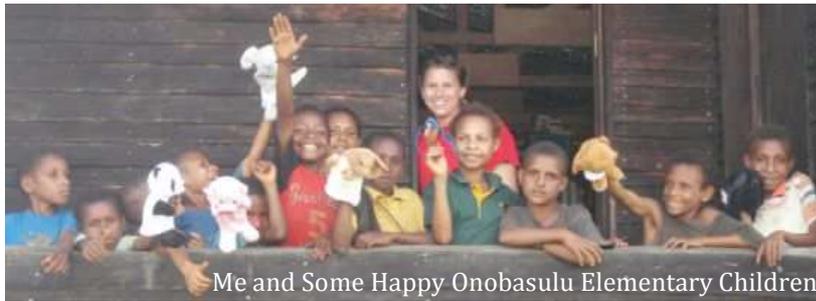
When I am out in the village, the sounds of school are a delight to hear. The school bells ringing, the children playing 'What's the time Mr. Wolf?' and the chanting of little voices going through... continued back page

Hope was evident when Pastor Karl from Ukarumpa village shared the amazing testimony of how his house was burned but his Bible remained untouched inside a bilum that was merely singed. He referenced Jesus' words in



Pastor Karl and His Bible

Matthew 24:35
"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." And he said, "This is what we're doing in translating the Bible in our language, giving the people something that will not be destroyed."



Me and Some Happy Onobasulu Elementary Children

their daily language exercises.

The children may be happily going to school but their teachers are struggling. There is no ready-made vernacular curriculum in PNG so the elementary teachers are expected to produce their own curriculum and their own vernacular materials as well. They are given some training and instruction, but it is an intimidating task.



Anderson Teaching Elementary 1

During my last village stay one of my co-workers approached me and asked if I would be able to help them with the production of a standard Onobasulu elementary curriculum. I immediately agreed to help for the remainder of my term in PNG. I saw this as a great way to help ease the burden on the teachers as well as provide the children with a more standardized education throughout the lower Elementary grades.

However, the more we worked and discussed, the more I realized that this project would not be easily completed by December. Therefore through much prayer and seeking of wise council, I have decided to stay another year in PNG. This year will be used to work alongside the Onobasulu elementary teachers. I hope to encourage them and help them finish a well-thought-out, complete and easy-to-use curriculum based on the Onobasulu culture. This includes easily reproducible lesson plans, books and other materials. It's very exciting for me to be able to serve in this way. I view this as a great opportunity for me to use the skills I have acquired in STEP in order to help the Onobasulu people whom I have grown to love.

I hope that you will continue to support me through prayer and finances as I continue to serve and work with the Onobasulu people in PNG.

For a Greater Purpose-
Joy Candee; -)



Health and Safety game-time at STEP.



English Class with the STEP Students.

**Contact
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