

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:9

Hawiyo! Godedai malale.

Hawiyo means 'goodbye' and Godedai malale. means 'Go with God' in the Onobasulu language.

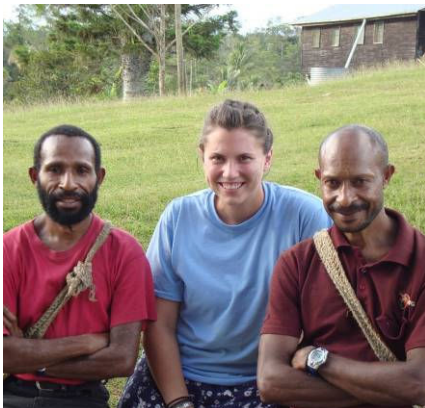
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Hauwo's Story

Before when there were no aid posts or clinics, my mother went to the bush to give birth. My two grandmothers built her a small hut. Then my mother gave birth. They didn't like that I was not healthy and very thin, so they threw me into the hole of a tree log. I was crying and my grandmother felt sadness in her heart and began to cry too. They picked me up again out of the log, wrapped me in cloth and put me in a string bag. They said, "His name is Hauwo." After some more time in the bush, my two grandmothers carried me and they all walked back to the village. When they arrived carrying a baby boy into the village, my father and others were very happy and had smiles on their faces.



Dear Family and Friends-

Goodbyes are never easy but I leave Papua New Guinea and the Onobasulu with peace in my heart. I know that God has an amazing plan for the nation as well as the Onobasulu people. I have been privileged to live in Papua New Guinea and to be a part of the Onobasulu program for the past three years. There is something very special about these people who live nestled in between Mt. Bosavi and Mt. Sisa in the Southern Highlands of PNG.

Hauwo and Jeffery (pictured below) are the main Onobasulu literacy trainers and program coordinators. The program would not be the same without them. Their love for their own people and dedication to the work of literacy still impresses me. Psalm 139:16 says that God saw each of us before we were born. Every day of our lives has been recorded and each moment laid out before even a single day had passed. In light of this scripture, Hauwo and Jeffery's traumatic introductions into this world become even more meaningful. God had a special plan for Hauwo and Jeffery from the very beginning. Their stories are unique because in the past, it was typical for babies, who did not seem healthy enough to survive, to be abandoned at birth. But God is not bound by culture and traditions so he allowed both of them to survive. Hauwo and Jeffery are now crucial leaders and advocates for Onobasulu literacy and Bible Translation. God is not finished with them yet.

Jeffery's Story

In 1974 my mother went into the bush to give birth to me. She went by herself and built a small hut for shelter. Then she gave birth to me. There was no aid-post to help my mother. After she had given birth to me, she looked at me and saw that I was not a healthy baby boy. I was thin and sickly. She wanted to just kill me and bury me in the mud. However, my aunt came and told my mother not to kill me. She told my mother that her baby was good. They washed me and my mother fed me. It is our custom that mothers have to remain away from the village for some time after giving birth. So my mother stayed in the bush with me for a few weeks and my aunt went back and told the village about me.

Although my season of work in PNG is now ending, I know that God is not finished with me either. I have been praying fervently and looking into other opportunities for future work and ministry. At this point no final decisions have been made. I am excited to see what the future holds and I want to invite you to continue this journey with me. Please remember to check out my blog (joyellen.wordpress.com) for updates as I travel back to California through India, Europe and Atlanta. Once I'm back in California, I look forward to meeting with everyone and sharing about my time in Papua New Guinea and whatever next steps unveil themselves between now and then.

I feel much like David when he wrote of God's omniscience in Psalm 16:11, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures evermore." I am sad to leave the Onobasulu and Papua New Guinea but I can rest in the knowledge that the future is not unknown to God.

Trusting in His Plan-

Joy Candee: -)

Saying Goodbye to Papua New Guinea and the Onobasulu



Goodbye Tears



The hearts mean...



The Elementary Teachers



Goodbye Gifts



Goodbye Party



My Namesake and her Family



... I love you.

A big thank you to everyone you has been a faithful prayer and financial supporter. Please continue to support me during this time of transition.

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