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Hello Friends,

Some of us have a bit of a "Jonah" mindset. We want God to do things our way and to fit into our plans. After all, we know what's best for our lives - comforts and convenience.

For the last few months our local market hasn't been functioning as normal. However, alongside the stairs of my house in a small raised bed grew a planting of greens (aibika) and a papaya tree. Simply grab a few leaves, throw them into the dinner pot, add a bit of butter (if on hand) and enjoy - they're better than spinach. Butter makes any vegetable taste great.

Jonah had his special comforting shade plant on that eastern Nineveh vista, but an appointed nocturnal worm came and had a chew. The next day the sun withered the plant and beat down on Jonah. He wasn't a happy man and wanted to die.

My plants' disaster also came in the night. A termite horde made covered tubes or pathways up the plants and began devouring the soft woody interior of the stems. The next day, the sun soon scorched the leaves and the stressed plants could not recover. The local markets are working again, so alas it was but a minor disappointment, but it was convenience lost.



Cynthia Ogm at Ambunti after having some green powdered "kool-aid" (The edible greens growing in the background were my alternative to going to the market.)



Our teacher, Joseph Ogm and his wife Coleen have a daughter who needs periodic treatments. Cynthia receives blood transfusions which help to bring her hemoglobin levels up to normal. The condition, thalassemia can be long term and a treatment with stem cells is not available in PNG.

Jama village, where Joseph teaches, is four hours by road from Wewak. The family comes into the hospital when they notice Cecelia becoming fatigued. In the past it has been about every other month. This trip required two transfusions. The Ogmus are concerned that their second child may also have the condition.

Joseph's recently shared with me some of his favorite verses. Isaiah 40:31 *Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.* Ephesians 1:11 *God choose us in advance and he makes everything work out according to his plan.*

As for the rest of PNG, the country freely moves about questioning if there was ever a Covid19 crisis. PIM schools are operating. Health workers are relieved they didn't have a health crisis to deal with.

Grateful for Grace,  
Douglas Heidema  
Pacific Island Ministries

PS Hopefully with flights permitting will back in Dallas by June 12