



Newsletter
01.11.2016

Me go walkabout longwe long hailans



IN BRIEF, my plans

On the 1st of December, between my 8th and 9th Semester of medical studies, I will fly to the interior of Papua New Guinea for two months, to work along-side other Christians in a mission hospital and gain an insight into the life of a doctor in mission.

Papua Neu Guinea is an exciting country. A beautiful countryside, in many places so untouched and with such few roads that the usual manner of transportation is on foot, by canoe or possibly by plane. There are 8000 languages that are spoken there, and to the greatest extent the lifestyle and the traditions of the past are still lived by the people.

In spite of its beauty it is one of the poorest and least developed countries on earth. Due to the rivalry between the tribes (and yes, cannibalism is still practiced here) the lack of unity and safety in the country are among the greatest challenges faced there.

Even though the majority of the population has been reached with the Christian faith, ancient rituals are still practiced in many areas and get mixed up with Christianity.



Kudjip, the village that I will go to, is situated in the mountainous interior, at about 2000 m above sea level. Due to the high elevation the climate is more moderate in comparison to the rest of the country (temperatures of 15-25°).



The Hospital



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15)

Kudjip Nazarene Hospital

The primary focus of the hospital is:

„The spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is first and foremost a Christian ministry. We treat the sick out of compassion, because of Christ’s example of healing, and to provide an opportunity to bring men, women and children to a saving knowledge of Jesus”

Apart from the hospital the base consists of a nurses training school, the administration building, a small church and the living quarters for the missionary families, students, short-term missionaries and local staff.

NUMBERS AND FACTS

- Founded in 1967 by the „Church of the Nazarene“
- 130 beds
- 5 doctors (3 general practitioners, 1 pediatrician, 1 surgeon)
- 5 wards (children, adult, obstetrics, surgery, tuberculosis)
- 500.000 outpatients and 5.000 inpatients per year, who primarily arrive on foot or by canoe
- Over 1.000 surgeries and more than 2.000 births per year. In addition to that many vaccinations, nutritional treatments etc.



Why Papua Neu Guinea?

Those of you who are a bit familiar with my family history will know that my grandparents served as missionaries in Papua New Guinea and that my dad lived there for the first 17 years of his life. Even so, I never knew the exact details of their life there.

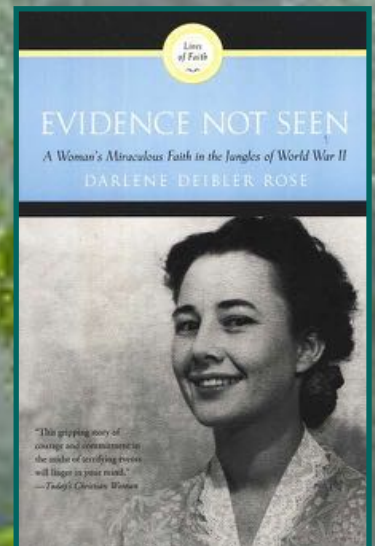
This history was however not the primary reason for my choosing this place—I chose it because the hospital and work there appealed to me. I rather considered my family history as a bonus fact and thought it would be really special to even be in the same country where my grandparents and my dad had been.

A few weeks after having made my choice I found myself in hospital for 12 days, with an erysipiel (a bacterial skin infection) and had quite a bit of time while lying in bed, keeping my leg elevated, to ponder on this. I finally got around to starting some research into the actual place where they had had their mission station and coffee plantation. I knew the name of the place, „Nondugl“ and entered that in „Google Maps“. I then sat for several minutes quite irritated, looking at my laptop, as it slowly dawned on me that this was not a trick of imagination or fault of the program but that Nondugl was in fact only 20 min drive away from the Nazarene Hospital!

I don't know what God has planned, but I do find this amazing (even as a sceptic by nature) and feel truly blessed to be able to be right there and live in the culture and with the people that meant so much to my grandparents and among whom my dad was raised.



Darlene and Jerry Rose

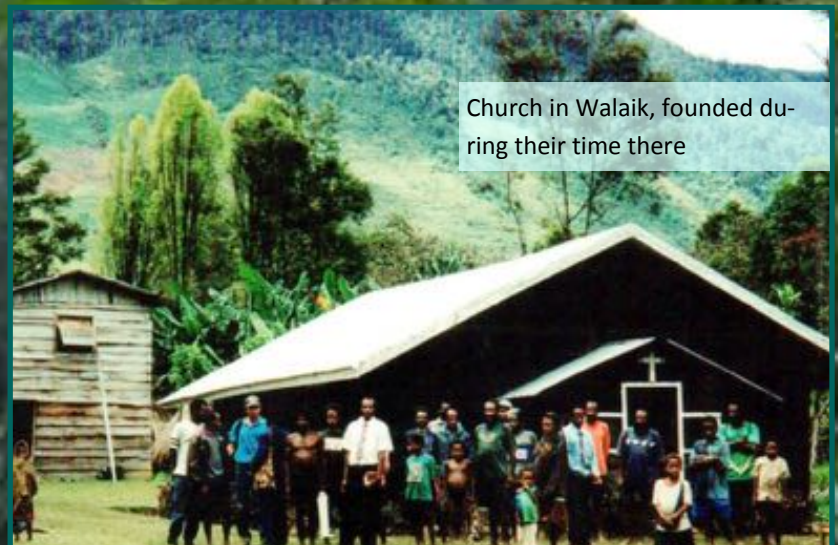


My grandmother's book about her experiences as a prisoner of war in Indonesia, between her first and second stretch as a missionary in PNG.



Bruce Rose

Darlene Rose



Church in Walaik, founded during their time there



INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
MEDICINE

Preparation

During my time of planning the trip I received a recommendation from someone at a hospital in Jordan of a program called INMED.

This is a medical training for medicine and public health in developing countries. The program consists of a 10 week online course, three days practical workshops and final exams in the USA, and following that practical work for 1-3 months in one of the hospitals they are partnering with.

I was really intrigued, the program seemed like the perfect training for what I had always wanted to do, but I had already made a commitment to the country and hospital I would go to. And then I found out that in fact this very hospital in Papua New Guinea was on the list of partner hospitals! And then I realised that the next possible course would start in two days time!

The practical part of the training would in fact start right when I would complete the doctoral research study which I am doing currently at the hospital in Mannheim (Germany)! Talk about perfect timing! Even so, it still seemed slightly crazy to me to fly to the USA for the three days practical workshops and exams. I had to admit that even though all of this sounded really good, God would have to make it clear that this is what He wanted, given the fact that I did not even have the money for the flight to Papua New Guinea, let alone further money for another flight to the USA! ... Well, on the next day, just when I had accepted the fact that this was not going to happen my brothers approached me to let me know that they want me to be able to do this and that they would lend me the money for the flight! And yes, since September I have been diligently studying my correspondence material! =) =)

- **27th Nov flight Frankfurt—New York**
- **1st to 3rd of Dec course in Pittsburgh**
- **5th Dec flight New York—Frankfurt—Mount Hagen, Papua Neu Guinea**
- **1st Feb return flight**

What will I do at the hospital in Kudjip?

I want to use my capabilities and what I have learned in my studies so far in order to support, encourage and serve the team at the mission hospital, and learn as much as I can from them.

Those of you who know me well are aware of my lifelong vision to serve one day as a doctor in mission. Even if I don't know yet how, when and for how long that might be, I consider these two months as an important milestone on my way, to get a first impression into what it might mean to be a doctor in missions.

What I know for sure though is that I want to follow God to wherever He wants to lead me!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- **Ability** (to be able to be a real help, in spite of any lack of knowledge or experience that I have)
- **Safety** (Papua Neu Guinea is not the safest country to be travelling..)
- **Wisdom** (in dealing with the culture and my tasks)
- **Strength and Endurance** (I am sure it will be challenging!)
- **Encouragement** for the team there

If you want to support me, you are more than welcome to do that! =) (for my training, trips and room and board which I have to pay myself in Papua New Guinea). If however you want to support the mission hospital with your gift, then please note "for the mission hospital" in your transfer and I will reliably forward the money to the mission hospital!

Bank: Sparkasse Neuhofen Bank (AG)

Rebekah Rose

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