

YEAR  
2021

# The Luses

A MINISTRY AND  
FAMILY UPDATE

## Patpatar

We made several trips back into Patpatar and split our time between the village on the coast where we resided and the mountain village where the “Patpatar missionaries” were sent. The church in the mountain had good growth this year and the antagonism against the Christians began to slow down. More classes for literacy are taking place (pic 9) and the Bible teachers continue to develop Bible curriculum for the churches.

## USA Blessings

- \* God provided both Avalon and Sierra with a 2017 blue Jetta Volkswagen.
- \* Briella had a dream come true by doing gymnastics.
- \* Kylee is excited to have finished Driver’s Ed and is starting Tae Kwon Do.
- \* Lori has been able to spend time with her mom during her cancer treatment.
- \* Aaron built a fire pit and patio on the house.
- \* Good times with family and friends.



**NTM** PNG  
a thriving church for every people...

The people who walk in darkness  
will see a great light. For those  
who live in a land of deep  
darkness, a light will shine.

Isaiah 9:2 (NLT)

## Leading in PNG to Learning in Iowa

This year has flown by for us and looking back we are amazed at all that God has done. We started the year visiting a church in the mountains of Papua New Guinea where the Hulley family from Wales work and whose son, Ben, happens to be Sierra’s boyfriend (they are in pink and green in picture 1 on the bottom of page 2). COVID restrictions changed continually, but the girls were able to return to classes at the school on the Mission Center in Goroka where we had moved in 2020.

Strict restrictions at times required us to attempt doing culture and language evaluations for other missionaries virtually (pic 2) and the new group of missionaries had to quarantine before doing a modified orientation. Lighter restrictions allowed for travel again and as Church Development Director, I (Aaron) was able to visit and help several of our church planting teams from volcano islands to remote mountain villages (pic 3).

Lori held a number of responsibilities including working in the print shop

producing materials for literacy and Bible teaching in many different languages (pic 4). We filled the rest of our time with planning workshops for missionaries and the national church leaders, helping struggling teams, and getting to know and conducting Bible studies with our new neighbors (pic 5).

In May we were able to virtually watch Avalon graduate from Ethnos360 Bible Institute in Wisconsin with her two-year associates (pic 6). Shortly after that we attended Sierra’s high school graduation from PNG (pic 7). In July we returned to the States and began a month-long road trip visiting churches, supporters, and family across the Southeast. In August we moved into our home in Sioux City and were a family of six again after over two years. Avalon started work (as a gap year) and the rest of us continued with school: Briella is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Kylee a freshman at Siouxland Christian (pic 8); Sierra is a full-time nursing student and Lori a part-time nursing student at WITCC; and Aaron is in seminary for his masters.



## Prayer Points

- \* The Patpatar churches to continue to grow both spiritually and numerically.
- \* Avalon and Sierra as they continue to transition to adulthood.
- \* Our remaining time in the States to be both productive and refreshing.
- \* The upcoming changes for ministry and family.

## Upcoming Events

- **Equip Asia:**  
As part of an online training program for pastors and church leaders throughout Asia with a desire to reach into other people groups with the Gospel, Aaron is preparing to teach two courses which will be recorded for their access in January.
- **Half an Empty Nest:**  
At the end of the school year we will return to Papua New Guinea with only two of our four girls. Avalon will be looking for ongoing schooling in missions and counseling. Sierra will be continuing her nursing studies.
- **Change of Role:**  
When we return, Aaron will take on the role of Managing Director for the field and work with the other directors to oversee both the church planting and support side of missions in PNG.

Merry Christmas to you from our family! - Aaron, Lori, Avalon, Sierra, Kylee, and Briella

