

LET THERE BE LIGHT

...especially in the dark...

Tribal Highlights

God allowed Josh to be part of 7 trips to 5 tribes in 2017.



A new work was started with the Maliyali people, and he was able to help build 2 homes for the first 2 families in there in April. Light came to a dark place.

Good friends of ours had to pack up & leave the church plant in Tanguat. Josh went in to support them as they said bye & packed up. Light remains there, but it was a dark time.



Manam gained new team members & Josh got to go on 3 build trips to get their house built...there was opposition at first, and they had to start over in a new location, but light is creeping in & Lord willing, the Manam people will be hearing the Gospel in 2018.



The light in the dark...

...2 Corinthians 4

I have had many thoughts filling my mind to overflowing and have had a hard time sticking to one before another pops in and grabs my attention. BUSY. Many of you reading this can probably say that life over this last year for you has been busy. There is so much to be done and so many things pulling us in so many directions. Most of them good things. Josh and I and our girls have all felt this. Sarah jumped to Jr. High, and is already taller than one of her grandmas, smarter than her mama in many of her subjects & following the footsteps of her aunts & uncles in music as she's playing so much by ear now. Morgan is in the hardest of elementary grades here, but we are so blessed to have extra help as she learns to focus and use the gifts God's given her in 4th grade. She is a treasure when it comes to caring deeply for others. Hannah has come out of the shy stage and will dance or do gymnastics moves for anyone willing to watch. She has made huge jumps in school as she's caught up in reading with help from her Discovery teacher. She can make us all laugh at any time. We're so thankful for our gals. They are lights in our lives that we dearly treasure. We are both very happy in our marriage as well, and this is a true treasure for us both! God's been so faithful to keep these family relationships strong. With all of these amazing blessings, we have also been tried this year. *At times it felt like the light was*

Praise & Prayer

- **We thank the Lord** almost daily for each of our **financial and prayer supporters**...just as much as we pray for the Lord's help for each of the bush missionaries we support here in PNG! This is definitely a team/family thing! We want you each to know how often we think of you and stay awed by your **faithful support!**
- **We thank the Lord** so much for **overall great health this year** for our family, though we felt quite overwhelmed & rundown at times. We also **thank Him** for his **care** & work in our family here & our extended family this year as there have been **many big changes!**
- **Pray** for Josh's trips starting next week. You can follow them on our Facebook Pages.

We decided that it would be worth the investment to save up and try to make a summer trip home this year (June/July 2018). This comes after much thought & talking with our girls, as well as feeling the strain here, & wanting to wisely take a break at the end of this school year. We also are dying to meet our new family member, Bear, born in November. Truthfully, this will primarily be a time for us to be with our families, & be away from ministry for 2 months, so that we can come back, ready to continue serving well again. We had a donation for part of this trip expense, but if it's something you'd like to make a donation to, we'd put it directly to the cost of our plane tickets. Just let us know.

flickering. In June, 3 of our families on center went on furlough, leaving huge gaps to be filled, but it was a couple months until we had more families come to fill the gaps. In our flesh, we were nervous and started feeling quite the strain of the load. Trying to care for our tribal missionaries in the bush as well as those on center, coming for a break or team meetings. We wanted to keep relationships strong outside our fence in the surrounding village, but we didn't feel very able. I (Mel) had stepped into a small part-time role in the business office on center which became a much bigger role **in August** unexpectedly, and had to all of a sudden change all of my normal routines. We faced our yearly conference feeling very inadequate, and we wanted to skip it for the year. We felt like we were running on empty. Josh had spent much of his time planning for a bush house-build and was the only person left to head up the build and he had never been the lead builder. He felt inadequate. We did end up having the yearly conference and saw God bring together a good team that really put tons of effort and time into pulling things off to help refresh our group of over 130 bush missionaries. God used it to truly encourage many, and for that, we are humbly grateful. **Immediately following conference in October,** Josh began a series of bush build trips to Manam, a volcano island off the coast of Madang. These trips and the planning weeks between each were exhausting yet rewarding. It was so great that he could be a part, again, of another missionary family beginning their journey in another tribe here in PNG! **These trips brought us into December,** and we were ready for a break! Then, totally as a shock to us all here on the field, one of our friends who is from PNG, but spent much time in America as well during university and some of his early married life, was playing soccer in the traditional last soccer game for the senior guys. Dads versus the varsity team. **Our friend Bizo,** who is just a few months younger than us, collapsed and **died** almost immediately during the game. This affected so many students & parents as they watched and stood right there. Josh & I had a chance to help debrief several of the students who needed to process things. Our friend Melissa & her 4 boys are daily on our hearts & in our prayers, and we thank those of you who have prayed for them with us. Three weeks later, our last living "Papa Graun" (landowner) died. He became a believer late in life, and we rejoice that he is with Jesus now to, as is Bizo. Today, he was buried outside our fence. Pray for our village to want to know Jesus just like Papa Palus. We know that many of you have been through similar times this year. Some **Dark times. But we rejoice in the LIGHT** that came. The comfort that has and will continue to be found because of the Lord. So, in 2018, no matter the times, LET THERE BE LIGHT!

With gratefulness & love, Josh, Mel, Sarah, Morgan & Hannah

Our new nephew, Bear



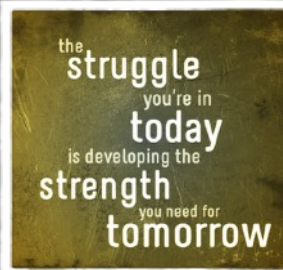
Christmas party shenanigans



Family ride in the village



Saying goodbye to our friend, Bizo



Funeral procession for Papa Palus



Building an office for the Pal team...gorgeous place to build!

Our U.S.A. mission name has changed to **Ethnos 360**, but in PNG we are still **New Tribes Mission**. We'd LOVE an e-mail, OR go all out with a letter or little package we can hold and smell (yes! we smell them!) 😊 They're precious!



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