



Glen

In this *toktok!* we reflect a little more personally on what life is like for each of us over here. Many of the issues are the same as those faced in Australia. I find it hard to be a loving husband and father, to balance work and family life, to spend good time in prayer etc. I am the same person, and most of my old struggles and sins did not go away just because I came to a different country! Although, it has been much easier having personal and family devotion times here because these are structured into the day.

I also find that there are new pressures from living here. I always feel very tired, partly from the climate. I also still find it hard to build close relationships with people, although it is improving as my Bislama is improving. In Australia I found it easy to lead Bible Studies, train people in ministry etc, but here I feel like I need to learn how to do these things all over again in a new language and culture. This can be hard and frustrating.

Despite these hardships, I have found very great joy in serving God here, and have become more aware that he is strengthening and protecting me, and giving me zeal to serve him!

Please Pray:

- *with thanks that my trust in God has deepened this year;*
- *that I would love and serve my family;*
- *that my Bislama would continue to improve and friendships deepen;*
- *that I would complete all of my work in term 2 (it will be the busiest term yet by far).*

Rachael

Unsure. What should I do? What should I say? What *did* I say? How should I help? What's a good mother? Another gift... what does this mean? Lonely. Why doesn't anyone come and talk to me? Where are my friends? Any post for me? Excited. Really looking forward to teaching in the Women's Program next term.

God has taught me patience and humility, to trust him and to be willing to make mistakes. He is teaching me to be content in all circumstances and is still changing my selfish heart, sometimes painfully. He has given me many friends here to love and to love me. I rejoice and am glad. I love the rain and the sea. This is our home.

Please Pray:

- *that God would keep changing me to be more like Jesus;*
- *that my friendships would grow;*
- *that I would prepare lessons well.*

Sophie and Bethany

Sophie and Bethany, we imagine, are like most other children of their ages. They might grizzle in one breath, yet sing in the next; be dancing one moment yet need to be carried the next. They enjoy being outside, playing with other children, messing around in the rain, reading stories, singing nonsense, dressing up and drinking banana milkshakes. They are learning to be kind to other children, to share, to forgive, that there are times to sit still and be quiet, to be obedient... all of which can be trying, especially when their parents expect different standards of behaviour from them than others do. They have to cope with frequent minor ailments (diarrhoea, worms, infected sores) yet they love Talua and all who live here!!

Please Pray:

- *thanking God for the chance they have to be part of this culture;*
- *that God would teach them to be kind and loving children;*
- *.that God would keep them from serious illness.*