

Praise God for Aaron and Jenny Walsh – A couple that are living in Port Moresby and have an opportunity to make good connections with the PNG government. We're thankful that the Lord has placed them in this position, because it could be crucial in getting this project completed with the PNG government.

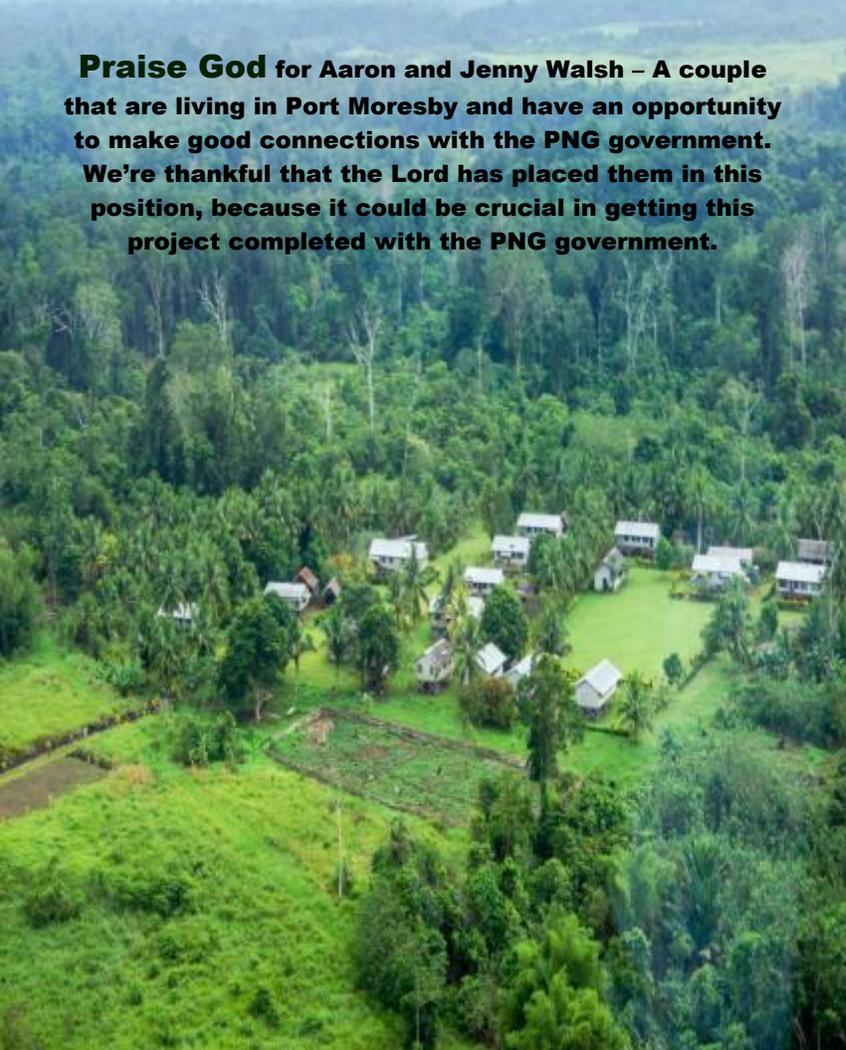
The GANDEP Project

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Are you excited to hear more about the work God is doing within the Gandep project? Join us as we continue to share the story that has taken place over the past 9 years. The next section of this story focuses on how HumeRidge came to be involved with the work God was already doing in Gandep.

PRAYER POINTS

- The government elections in PNG – starting June, 2017. Pray that the right people will get into office.
- Prayers for wisdom and God's guidance in the developing plans for the road/airstrip into GANDEP.
- Please pray for Jim as he plans his next trip to Gandep. The timing of this trip will depend a lot upon the up-coming election.



The story continued...

It was in the year 2008 that Global Mission Partners (the mission group who were overseeing the work Frank had done, at this particular time) were invited to HumeRidge to share with those that were involved in the World Changers initiative. They spoke about wanting to partner with a local church so that they could become intermediary with the Gandep project. A month later they returned and shared with the people of HumeRidge the work Frank had done in the Gandep region (specifically the training College). GMP then invited someone from HumeRidge to go to PNG to look at the training college, this man was Jim West as he had

recently retired and the church seemed to think he was the right man for the job. Jim went to Gandep with a group of four men (two of those men were from the Gandep region). Now the purpose of the visit was to investigate things that needed to be done, in order to grow the Gandep region, allowing it to move forward. It was agreed that the main priority was the access. During his time there Jim thought to himself, "this is just a farm track and all we'll need to open up a road is a couple of tractors". His words on the report back to the church were, "yes this is possible and will not be a big effort at all. At the time Jim wasn't calculating on bridges

and airstrips and wasn't very aware of the logistics of this project. In hindsight Jim says this was definitely a God thing, because if he had realized just how massive this project would be he may have been overwhelmed by the task and thought it merely impossible to achieve. The other men that were invited on the trip decided not to continue with the project and so every year since 2009, Jim has been back to the Gandep region to visit as promised.



JIM'S JOURNEY to GANDEP...

After arriving in Port Moresby (the capital of PNG) Jim and the rest of team boarded another plane to Madang (it was in this city that they would stock up on materials and food for the journey). Jim was put in charge of gathering the food supplies (even though he didn't have much of an idea of what was needed). He bought large cans of baked beans and other goods, not quite realizing that everything they needed for the journey had to be carried into Gandep on foot. So he was sent back to the shops to get noodles (light items that wouldn't weigh much). From here the team drove 15 hours north-west along the north coast road to a village called Bunapas. At each stop Jim thought to himself "we must be nearly there." But little did he realize that the journey had only really just begun. They then boarded long canoes with all their gear and headed up the Ramu river. Jim was thankful that these canoes had small motors on the back, but unfortunately halfway through the journey these stopped working and so they had to paddle the rest of the way to Tsumba (where they stayed the night). The next morning they were met by the chief of Tsumba and had the privilege of sharing a breakfast meal together. At around 9am, Jim and the team set off on foot to Gandep (which was about a 6 hour trek, with quite a few swamps to cross along the way). From Jim's experience you can see why a road and an airstrip would change so much for the people of this region.

Missed the last newsletter? You can find it on www.gandepproject.org.au