



January 6, 2022

Pack the suitcase and dust off the sandals – I'm Papua bound!

Lord willing, at the end of January, I'm embarking on a three-week solo trip to a remote mountain village. I'll be helping tribal-church-planting friends relocate a contaminated water source for their jungle house. Tickets are purchased and reservations have been made!

Look what the Lord has done! Three-and-a-half years ago we limped back to Canada. My mental, physical, and emotional health were shot from the tropical disease, chikungunya, and the stress that resulted. God has been graciously, gradually restoring my strength from 5% to 75%. God has been answering your prayers through the support of caring people, especially Dawn, my loving wife. Much time reading and listening to the Bible has been a key component to my recovery: *"Unless Your Law had been my delight I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them you have given me life."* (Psalm 119:92,93) I don't know what tomorrow holds, and every Papua plan must be flexible, but the fact that I am ready to climb back on the horse that bucked me off is itself a testimony to what God has done – His grace – His goodness.

This will be a short trip because Dawn is staying home. It is a sudden trip because there is another tumor growing in her tibia. Her MRI in November was inconclusive, so she has another booked at the end of March, but her recent kneeling discomfort confirms what the x-rays seemed to show in the fall – that there is another surgery ahead. The successful operation to remove the benign tumor below her knee in September 2021 was on a six month wait list, but we got only two days notice to get to Vancouver for the surgery. We could be on a similar wait list after her March MRI or be scheduling a third MRI in the summer. So, since God has given us: a window of no surgery, minimal COVID protocols, strength, money in the bank, and a service opportunity – it's time.

Of course this is a time when we need God's people praying for us and for all these things:

- Dawn's knee and her spirits. This recurrence is much sooner that she expected or hoped.
- A good MRI, and timely and effective surgery when the need is properly determined.
- My 6hr drive and 5 flights (x2) and all that that implies.
- My strength and stamina in the mountains, the tropical heat, and the 'craziness' of Papua.
- Effective ministry to our friends and co-workers – to be a blessing and encouragement to them.
- God's guidance for 2023 and future ministry through the outcome of this trip and MRI.

If you pray for us – THANK YOU – God keeps answering your prayers!

In His grip,

Duane

