

Hi from the Jungle,

Fear & Hope-

Fear among the Turu people (the people we serve here) can be crippling for them. Every sickness or bad thing is attributed to some unappeased spirit or curse. In order to starve a tormenting spirit, a child with malaria, the child is starved. Recently, a friend with a common cold, spent weeks trying to uncover who or what spirit caused it. He was then perpetually fearful of what the evil spirit might do next. Most difficult was recently, a father committed suicide to demonstrate his grief. He had felt undervalued by his daughter being taken in marriage without his approval. His family and other religious leaders, out of fear, spent weeks trying to gloss over the truth of the suicide. They worked to convince themselves, each other & God that his death was not suicide but rather the result of being murdered by an evil spirit. To them, they view God's response to suicide as one of anger and resulting in God condemning the man's spirit to forever wander the jungles alone and suffering. As we have begun challenging these faulty foundational beliefs, it has become ever apparent that simply tearing down foundations without laying new foundations of hope in Jesus, has no power to change them. Please keep praying as we navigate loving on, caring for, and speaking truth to our friends.



Family & Medical Procedures-

April's parents are here visiting with us right now. Years of planning and dreaming finally have become reality. However, the day before they arrived last week, Jordan began to suffer with what appeared to be appendicitis. On the same plane that brought April's parents to us, Jordan & Ryan flew out to the hospital. It was confirmed that Jordan did not have appendicitis but rather another problem that requires a reasonably significant procedure to correct. We are in the process of preparing to fly to Singapore (12hrs away), to get treatment. Jordan is incredibly fearful. Due to Jordan's rapid response to antibiotics and Dr's approval, we have been able to push the procedure off for another week so as to come back and spend some time with grandparents here.



Goodbyes-

Our coworkers left our village this week for four months to Australia. Their daughter, Ainsley, has graduated high school and needs to be resettled in Australia. Until the remaining four of them return here, this leaves us alone in the village to carry on the work load ourselves. But more significant than that, we all are grieving that Ainsley will remain permanently in Australia upon their return. Saying goodbye is a very frequent reality for us but never an easy one.



In all this we cling to Hope. God is our calm amidst the chaos.

Please stay praying-

- *That our Turu friends can have hope
- *Jordan's medical procedure (traveling & treatment)
- *Being alone, serving out here in the jungle

Ryan & April Beck

Church Development & Bible Translation



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