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Dear Ministry Partners:

I'm sitting at my computer in my study in Uria. It's Thursday and we've been home a full week as of about 6 o'clock last night. We're thankful for many things this month, not the least of which is a bit of dry weather we had for about two weeks before our return to Uria. The "highway" went from being a four-wheel driver's paradise (complete with slimy mud that covers the sides and top of the vehicle) to **bone, dusty dry**. Although I prefer not breathing the fine dust, it is better for our purposes to have our 4 x 4 trek dry—it's a lot easier to avoid deep ruts, gullies, etc., which means that I don't spend as much time and money having all sorts of things on the underside of my car welded and repaired.

Outside my window, besides the drone of our little generator (Angela and kids are doing today's wash), I hear people gathering for a meeting in the training center, about 30 feet from our front door. The literacy committee is meeting all this week for a teacher's in-service course. The idea is to give encouragement and fresh ideas to school teachers. The literacy committee is **finally beginning to work together again**—thank you for those of you who have been praying with us that there would be reconciliation between disgruntled clans.

Another praiseworthy note is a conversation I had yesterday with Ezekiel Panawa and Amos Ligai. We all got our calendars out put a date on them—**September 2**—for **beginning translation** of the gospel of Mark. Our thinking is to hold a week long orientation course for those interested in being active in translation, giving a bit of introductory training, etc. then to break into teams to do the rough drafting. Each team will go home and work on rough drafting. After a week or two, we will meet again and begin revision and checking. **Be praying** that our plans are in line with God's desires and that he will bring his purposes to pass.

For your prayers, please **remember Angela**. While we were in Madang, she had some blood work done and it was discovered that she has a **hypoactive thyroid**. Many of you will remember the trials we went through during our first term of service when I (Todd) lost my thyroid function. Angela is on the same medication that I take, but is not regulated yet. Pray that her thyroid levels will be regulated soon. She is normally energetic and likes to work, but the decreased thyroid function has lowered her energy levels which frustrates her—immensely.

The last item I will mention here is a praise—because all of my language helpers are attending the teacher's in-service course, we have been able to do a lot of the finish work on our house that has been waiting months to get done. There is still a lot to be done, but now we have water going into our water tanks from both sides of the roof (previously we only had down spouts from one side of the house), the kids have a place to do their school (instead of at the kitchen table), we have all the studs covered on the interior walls (we had previously had only one side of the walls covered with a material akin to sheet rock), and by the time you read this, we will likely have lights in all the rooms and hot water (via an LP gas water heater). Yes, everything takes longer in Papua New Guinea—nothing is done quickly.

Thank you for honoring God by sharing in this ministry.

Your servant in Christ,

Todd Owen (for Angela and kids)