

Dear Family and Friends,

Often God takes us through things we don't always understand. This past month had been one of those times. In April and May I had to be in the capital for scheduled maintenance on the airplane. Both times the maintenance went smoothly. On the last day, I was rolling out the airplane to fly back to Maintirano when something happened in my back. Thinking it would quickly pass I crawled into the airplane and made the ten-minute flight to the small airport where I would be picking up Joanna, Eliana, the fuel and all our supplies for Maintirano. By the time I reached the small airport it was evident it would not be wise for me to continue the flight to Maintirano. Joanna and the guard helped me into the car, secured the airplane and we began the trip back to the capital. The hour and a half trip through potholes and traffic was agonizing. By the time we made it to the doctor, I could not walk and had to be carried both into the Drs office and back out to the car. Help for trouble like this is quite limited in our country. Thankfully another missionary couple in the capital has a guest house and made a place ready for us to stay. Upon arriving Joanna and Phil had to carry me to the bed. For someone used to being active and mobile this has been a humbling experience. We ended up spending almost a week in the capital for me to recover. After a month of rest and in-home exercises, I am doing much better. I still must be careful, but we are grateful for God's healing, especially living in an area where medical facilities are limited.

In Maintirano there has been much going on. Some of what we are seeing is encouraging, some of it discouraging. For several months now our church has been having a large emphasis on prayer. SS hour in the adult class as well as Wednesday evenings are spent mostly on praying for specific people in the church and church ministries. We have seen God answering in several specific ways. Several individuals we have seen begin to come back to the Lord. On Easter Sunday, 12 new believers were baptized! Last week we had so many visitors we had to put in an order for more benches. We have seen growth in several of the faithful members. Possibly the biggest change we have seen is a maturing in the prayer lives of the believers (mine included)!

We have also had discouraging news. In seeking out several of the church members who have walked away from the Lord, we've discovered saddening situations. We pray for wisdom and grace as we confront and counsel. As Paul instructs in Galatians, we examine our own hearts as well, and plead for God to do a work in all of us. Your prayers in this are appreciated.



God has also been strengthening his believers in the Church, sometimes through trials. Justin, one of our most faithful men (73 years old!) and someone who is a great help to me in the ministry, had a sudden unexplained problem with his foot rendering him unable to walk except short distances. The doctors can't find any issues. The fact that this has happened at the same time I was down with my back leads me to think it might be related to spiritual warfare. Justin has improved some, but the two of us still hobble along helping each other. We covet your prayers in all of this, remembering ministry is not a picnic, it's a battle, but the Lord is working!

We have several new people attending to whom we are witnessing. We appreciate your prayers for Honorine, Tafita(Honorine's husband) Joselin, Papan'i Thelle, Dien, Vonjy, Florence, Francine, Tiary, and Fred.

Thank you all for your prayers as I traveled to Tana and back in March, after three days on the dirt road I made it safely home. The road was challenging, and it has given me a new appreciation for our airplane!

Thank you all for your prayers, your love, your support!

Trusting always in Him,
Bobby, Joanna and Eliana Burdett

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