

What's Up With the Widups?

August 2020



How Does “Staying Safe” Fit into Missions?

Since the onset of Covid19, it seems like the world has made physical SAFETY the highest good and goal. While we understand that this stems from a genuine concern for people’s well-being, it saddens us to see so many Christians choosing to orient their thinking and behavior around what will “keep them safe” - or even “keep others safe.”

The Bible is clear that Jesus Christ is the only way to be *SAVED* from the eternal punishment we deserve because of sin, and that the mission of all Christians is to help others find rescue and *eternal* well-being in Him! The Bible does call us to serve those who are sick, hungry, weak; and to take care of our bodies so they can be useful for whatever God calls us to do. But it also says that we should *expect* to face difficulties as we follow Christ, and that we should not fear anything in this world, because nothing can take us out of His protection and providence. If we truly trust God with our eternal destiny, then shouldn’t we put our energy into giving hope to people whose need for spiritual wholeness far surpasses the risk of disease or hardship? As Jesus said, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?” (Luke 9:25 NIV)

As we examine our own heart motives, we confess that too often, we fail to live in light of God’s sovereignty and His indwelling Spirit. Yes, we get anxious. Yes, we fall into the trap of thinking that our security is based on things of this world. It is only by continually giving up our attempts at controlling our health, careers, homes, families — that we can experience His power and peace.

More than just concern for being “safe”, may the Holy Spirit impress on us the urgency for souls to be saved in Jesus.

40 Years of Independence, and 4 Months Since Cyclone Harold

We are so thankful to our teammates, the Liliords and the Nacisses, who endured April’s record-breaking storm and the difficulties it brought not only to the town where Up & Up is based, but to hundreds of villages on Espiritu Santo and neighboring islands. Without municipal power for almost three weeks, they worked tirelessly to restore function to the solar system, and then continued to make repairs to the base, mission house, and Nabanga Skul.

Tony and Lemy have done a great job providing disaster relief to our teachers and other ministry workers, as well as to villages connected with Bible translation projects that were hit hard. Maxine has been a source of advice and encouragement to teachers throughout the province as dozens of schools are struggling to rebuild their classrooms. The reports of numerous villages in remote areas who still need clean water and food, not to mention medical treatment or supplies to rebuild, reveal that the road to recovery will be a long one. We long for the day we can return and be more directly involved!

The photo above shows some of the celebrating that happened throughout the country when Vanuatu turned 40!

Prayer Points

Another Widup Family on Mission!

Marcus and his wife, Sierra, are building their own support team to begin long-term ministry with us! And... they'll be bringing a baby boy, due in just a few weeks—making us **grandparents!** Their goal, and *ours*, is to share with people who are interested in taking a part in our ongoing ministry as well as projects and outreach, so that we'll all be fully funded and ready to return to our island as soon as travel there becomes feasible. We'd especially love to see younger families and single adults make a personal missions connection with M&S.*



Sierra (pregnant) & Marcus

- ⇒ Contact us to **set up a get-together**, either in person, online or over the phone. Hosting a group meeting (even online) would be a great way to help us get back to Vanuatu!
- ⇒ Send us a note at wrw@usa.com to **receive monthly email updates**, or for any changes in postal/email address
- ⇒ Email wrw@usa.com for a link to **online financial giving**
- ⇒ Mail **checks** (note “for Widups”) to: Bethel Church & Ministries, 10202 Broadway, Crown Point, IN 46307 USA

*Email wegomissions@gmail.com to connect directly with Marcus & Sierra

Thank you!

See more photos in our gallery @ www.upandupministries.org



Bible TRANSLATION

Praise God that the missionaries and local translators on Ambrym and Mota Lava Islands have made great progress on getting Scripture into heart languages, and are putting print and digital resources in the hands of the community.



A tent displaying heart language resources during a village festival.

Pray for:

- Ongoing translation projects in *Rral* and *Motlap*, and for the *Merei* language missionary currently working remotely from AUS
- God to raise up more linguist missionaries!



Motlap translating session

Team MINISTRY

Praise God that Nabanga Skul is up and running (even though many other schools are still cyclone-damaged), and for new student enrolments.

Praise that Tony and Lemy are keeping supplies going to linguist missionaries, and to people rebuilding from the cyclone; also for thriving Sunday gatherings.



This linguist is also a nurse

Pray for:

- Maxine guiding Nabanga's teachers in their own continuing education, & in Bible study
- Nacisses' rental home to finally get cyclone repairs; Megan's Vanuatu citizenship application
- Hospital visits, discipleship, and Sunday worship to transform lives in our town & beyond



Tony carrying new posts for rebuilding the school's playground shelter

PERSONAL

We are *thankful* for the USA travel we've been able to do, seeing supporters & making memories with our kids. Christina's mom, Pat (pictured below) is doing well; it's been almost 6 months since Christina's dad, Al, passed away.

Pray for:

- A smooth labor & homebirth for our grandson, due in mid-September
- Support commitments for Marcus & Sierra, who still lack \$3000/month
- New or increased monthly partners for us too (still \$1600/month short)
- Us to trust God to provide all we need, and to get us back overseas!



Grateful for Christ & His body.
The Widup Family



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