

Dear friends,

We serve an amazing and loving Lord who cares about the things that concern His children!! Many of you have been praying for us (specifically over the past few days) about the decision regarding joining the Pal team. Thank you, thank you, thank you!! **We have seen the Lord clearly answer those prayers!!** But not exactly in the way that we (and maybe some of you) expected.

As we approached our most recent meetings with the team, we were asking the Lord (among other things) to give us encouragement and peace about moving ahead. He did exactly the opposite. After our first meeting we were rather discouraged and definitely not at peace about joining the team. We took a few days off from meeting together and as the days went on, He continued to confirm in our hearts that His answer was “no”. We then began praying that the Lord would confirm that this was His will by having the other two couples come to us thinking the same thing. Well, we met again two nights ago and we all agreed that it would **not** be wise to move ahead with us joining this team. Amazingly they said the exact same thing we were thinking!

So, on one hand, we are disappointed that we will have to wait longer to get into a tribal work, but on the other hand, we are rejoicing for yet another evidence that our Father hears and answers when we cry out to Him for wisdom and direction. We don't know what our next steps will be, but we know that if the Lord said “no” to this opportunity, then He must have something better in store for us. And in the meantime, the Lord is using us here on our NTM center to help support those missionaries who are already working in tribal locations.

Thank you again for praying with us regarding this decision. We are humbled, encouraged and blessed to have such a great support team who faithfully prays for us and the work the Lord is doing here in Papua New Guinea. **Please rejoice with us that the Lord has answered and also continue to pray with us as we seek the Lord for what path to take now.** Proverbs 3:5-6 says “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” The Lord has been faithful to direct our path up until now. We know He will continue to show us what He has in store for us!

Trusting Him,
Bart and Emily

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