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Dear Friends,

Our Wewak Manager, Joseph Ogmu and his wife Colleen have two children with the blood disorder, thalassemia, which causes severe anemia. Cynthia (11) and her brother, Manaseth (seven) must live near a medical institution to regularly receive blood transfusions every four to six weeks. That's at least 10 transfusions each child per year and the hospital blood bank often lacks the blood. Thus at times Joseph must locate blood donors by asking either church members and PIM employees for help, or as a last resort he has had to motivate others with cash to get a blood donation.

Through the years all transfusions have gone smoothly, except the latest in August for Manaseth. The nurse had cannulated him and started his transfusion. However, after five minutes Manaseth began to feel uneasy in his body, and he began screaming and shouting, "I am not feeling good, I am not feeling good!" He was thrashing around and then with his full strength pushes the nurses and doctors away when they tried to hold him. Finally, the nurses and doctors get him moved to emergency ward and worked on him after the adverse reaction to the blood.



This had never happened before so for his parents it became a bit of a blur and they were concerned for the life of their son. Joseph called his pastor and others and asked for urgent prayer. It seems eventually the medical personnel were able to begin an IV treatment and after some minutes Manseth finally calmed down. The family stayed overnight in the hospital and the next day another unit of blood was given and there was no adverse reaction. That afternoon following release for the hospital Manaseth was happily playing as if nothing had happened. Both his parents are thankful that God answered prayers.

For Joseph and Colleen they are thankful that PIM moved and employed them in Wewak where they can receive the transfusions for their children. However, this is an ongoing burden they have been dealing with for a decade with no holiday. Medical personnel have given little hope but suggest sometimes when the child is older the problem can diminish, but other sources say a bone marrow transplant could cure the problem but such a treatment is not available in PNG.

In his report Joseph wrote:

WE GIVE THANKS WHEN

- ❖ We feel down in our strength
- ❖ When we want to give up
- ❖ When we possess doubts and feel under attack
- ❖ When we face all the situations that make us fall down

Some Christians try to give advice which is not helpful which follows this logic; God is good and if you love Him and are living right, then you will be blessed with healing and not have suffering, sickness, and have God's protection rather than live under a curse. It may not be said this directly to the Ogmus, yet this is a limited view of God's sovereignty in midst of suffering which touches all humanity. Instances of suffering mentioned in the Bible include: Job, David, the prophets, the apostles, and the heroes of the faith in Hebrews. The apostle Paul wrote in Corinthians 12:9 *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

Thank you for your support of the PIM work in Papua New Guinea,

Douglas Heidema