

OUTREACH - THE HICKS FAMILY

Taken from the August Hicks Update

We are writing with full hearts for thankfulness for what the Lord has done for us and is doing for his people here in the Solomons. We have had a few weeks to catch our breath after an intense term. The school year here is divided into three trimesters, so we are ready to enter the last trimester before graduation at the end of November.

Family News

The children will be finishing their homeschool year next week and will enjoy a well-earned break for 6 weeks. They will be entering these grades: Judah (2nd), Caeli (4th), Cohen (6th), and Avalyn (8th). They have enjoyed using a new curriculum this year, Sonlight, and really look forward to what the new year holds.



Cohen and Caeli studying the Eastern Hemisphere for History

Immanuel is very active and our most social child. He can be found reaching out to people walking by with a friendly “*Halo, hu nao nem blong yu?*” (Hello! What’s your name?) The other day, he was in town with Jon and someone asked him if he goes to school. Immanuel replied, “*Mi skulim monki nomoa ya!*” (I go to monkey school!) That about sums it up.

Moses is a full-blown toddler and on the cusp of forming audible words. He is a real heavy-weight, so we are trying to carry him around with our biceps rather than our backs, as we don’t have any chiropractors on-hand.

Ministry Updates



We said our goodbyes to Sally, our NZCMS intern, at the end of July. She is off to apply for jobs back in New Zealand. We are very thankful for the time she spent with us and pray that God opens doors for further ministry in her future. She is missed and we keep referring to the guest room as “Sally’s Room.”

Jon is entering a busy time of year as the Dean of Studies. He will be editing all the senior thesis papers as well as teaching two classes: New Testament I and Expository Preaching on Revelation. He is close to being finished with writing all his own course material so we are hoping that next year he will have more time to focus on student discipleship and writing to contribute to the wider Melanesian church.

Thank you for your prayers for our Marriage and Family Life Class. We had some really great discussions and all of the couples said that they learned a lot from it. We had a double wedding in the middle of the course for two couples who had been married according to custom, but not in church. It was a wonderful day!



The happy couples

Tess will continue teaching the women. The first course is Health and Sanitation, with a section on reproductive health and natural family planning. The second is a Bible Study Skills course that will give the women an easy to follow plan to prepare and lead Bible Studies.

Tess is in the process of applying to a Master's in Counselling degree through the Westminster Theological Seminary Online. We have seen the need over the years for a deeper knowledge in Biblical Counselling to better help people who come to us for prayer and advice. Tess has signed up for the 5-year program which will only require her to take one course at a time. Hopefully she will be able to start in January.

Tess, Judah, and Moses are eagerly looking forward to their trip to Asheville, NC, for the SAMS All-Society Retreat and New Wineskins Conference at the end of September. Judah is counting down the days and Mommy is trying to gear up for the 10 flights on the trip and the necessary jet-lag.

Our students Fr Alister, Phylli, and Deacon Jack have been preparing for overseas study. They are passing their English exams and getting ready to apply to schools. At this stage, we are looking at some prohibitive monetary needs for them to pull this off. All the avenues we have tried in NZ and here in the Solomons look like dead ends. Could you pray with us for the right doors to open up for them to be able to do further training? All of them are important ministry partners for us, and we can see them really blessing the Church here if they are able to get further training.

Physical Developments



We are happy to report that the student house which was started a few months ago is close to completion, with all the floorboards being nailed down last week. We hope to have our former students Alister and Philly move into the house at the end of the month.

A new phase

We were talking the other day about how we feel like we are moving into a distinctly new phase of our time here in the Solomons. When we first arrived, we were treated like royalty: given the best seats at church services, fed first at feasts, etc. People were quite shy of us and did not like to come up into our house.

Now, we feel like we are becoming a part of the family. We are more involved in what is going on in the community, which allows us to be more helpful in difficult situations. This comes with pros and cons.

In this new phase, we are asking God to continue to keep our hearts supple to His will and filled with love and grace towards our friends, colleagues and students. It is easy to get into a rut, just doing what needs to be done out of habit, rather than submitting each new day to our Lord who has a real purpose in every conversation, class and interaction.

Prayer requests:

Please pray that as we enter the last trimester our classes will be well attended and that the Lord will open up minds AND hearts to his word and wisdom.

Pray for wisdom for the faculty in a few hard disciplinary cases involving students who have broken the code of conduct at the school.

Pray for Tess's trip, that it will be a time of refreshment and reflection, for health and peace.

Pray for Father Alister, Phylli and Jack as they continue to work hard for further studies.

Jon, Tess, Ava, Cohen, Caeli, Judah, Immanuel & Moses Hicks