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Mission News from the Sprau Family

December 2019

Dear friends,

It is high time for an update on our progress towards doing Medical Mission Work in Papua New Guinea (PNG). A lot of things have fallen into place in recent weeks and so it happens that we find ourselves preparing to leave for PNG in early January 2020. That's right, we are making the move in less than a month! We have booked our tickets and accommodation for travel, so all going to plan, we will be boarding a plane to Port Moresby on 8th January and arriving in Ukarumpa on 13th. We are very excited about this and that we finally have a set date to work towards! One of the reasons why we could set a date was that, thanks to you, we have reached sufficient ongoing financial support for our project! Thank you very much for partnering with us and believing in what we do: after a long period of preparation, it's now time to take that leap of faith.



What else has been happening?

Both Anke and Patrick successfully finished their studies in International Health & Development at Tabor College in November. Patrick has sat his Australian Citizenship test and can now tell you everything about the symbolic meaning of the Australian flag, the difference between a 'territory' and a 'state' and Sir Donald Bradman (Okay, the last one's a fib, the rest is true!). We are now waiting for an outcome and invitation to the citizenship ceremony, as well as the German approval for dual citizenship.

Also, Patrick has been given the opportunity to work for the Royal Flying Doctors Service. This is both a dream come true and an excellent opportunity to get more exposure to Remote & Retrieval Medicine before going to PNG. For Patrick, work will finish soon to focus on packing and getting ready for the move. He has already said his goodbyes to the Indigenous Health Clinic in Whyalla, where he spent productive and exciting times since 2017. Anke has also finished working, but has

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

branched out into becoming the Sprau family's personal travel agent, booking flights, arranging for transport and vet visits for our dog Phoebe, getting us accommodation in Port Moresby etc.

The boys are going about their usual business, but we can tell they are both excited and nervous about what lies ahead. Still, they are particularly happy to see the school year out with their circle of friends before setting sail for new horizons in January. A few family members have announced themselves for December, so we will celebrate Christmas one more time in a familiar setting here in the Adelaide Hills.

What's next?

We will now focus on getting the last pieces of paperwork sorted and putting our possessions into storage, so that by the turn of the year we are ready to leave. We hope to connect with many of you again at church services and during the weeks before we head off on our big adventure. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our Commissioning Service at St Mark's Lutheran Church, Mt Barker, on 29 December at 9:30 a.m., to which you are all cordially invited.

Praise & Prayer

Thank you for partnering with us and making our project a reality, it would not happen without your help!

Please praise for:

- Having reached full ongoing financial support and having a dedicated support team,
- A strong finish at Tabor College,
- Patrick's opportunity to build his skills with the Royal Flying Doctors Service,
- A firm travel date and planning security.

Please pray for:

- Patrick's dual citizenship to be approved in time;
- Sturdy nerves while we 'pack up the house' to depart for PNG.

Have a blessed Christmas and a great start into the New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Anke & Patrick Sprau

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Cheques can be made out to Wycliffe Australia, with a note 'for the ministry of A & P Sprau' and sent to Wycliffe Australia, 70 Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097.

Support through website: www.wycliffe.org.au/member/patrick-anke/