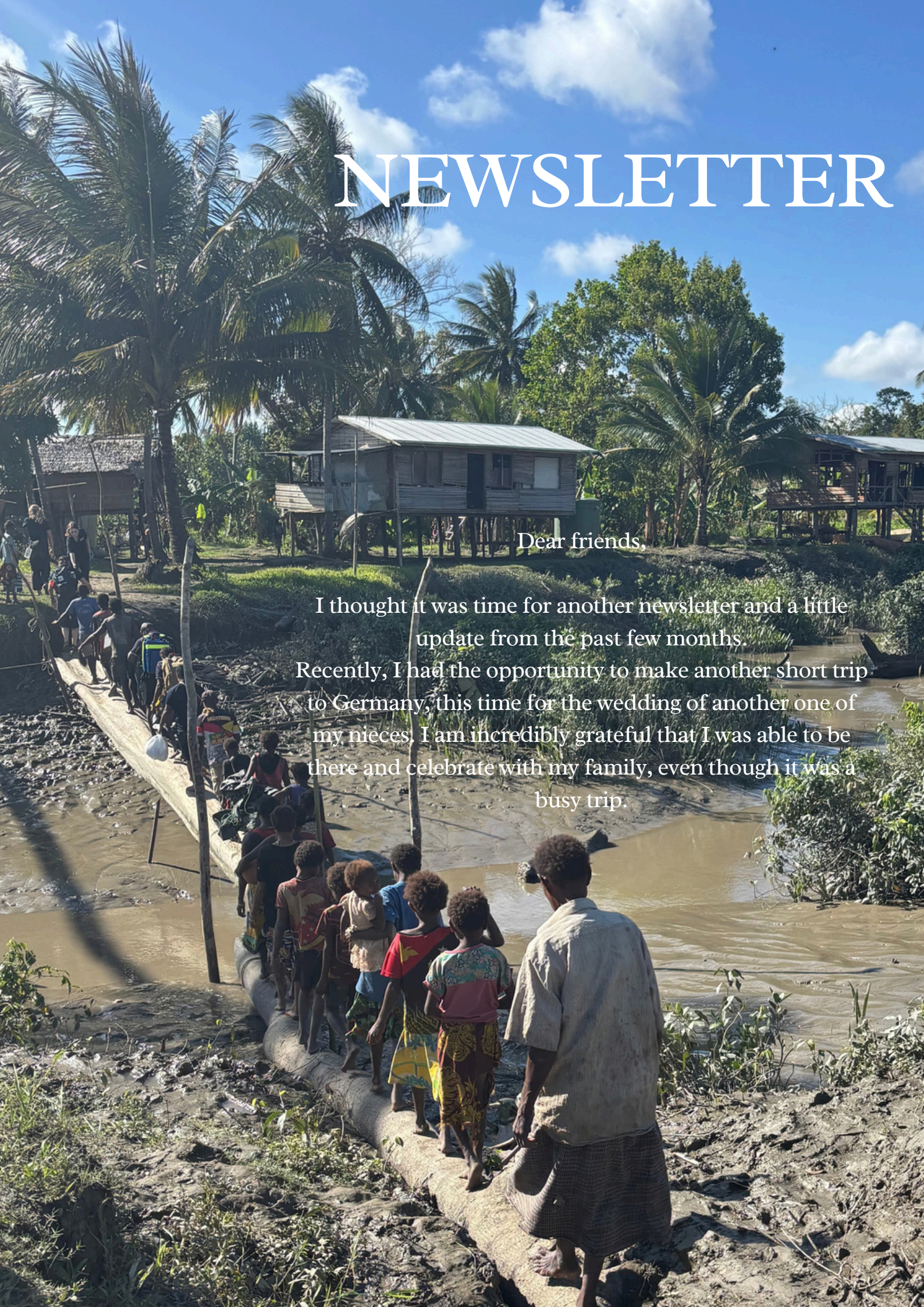


NEWSLETTER

A photograph of a tropical village scene. In the foreground, a group of people, including children and adults, are walking across a bridge made of large logs laid over a muddy river. The people are dressed in casual clothing. In the background, there are several wooden houses on stilts, surrounded by lush tropical vegetation, including palm trees. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

Dear friends,

I thought it was time for another newsletter and a little update from the past few months.

Recently, I had the opportunity to make another short trip to Germany, this time for the wedding of another one of my nieces. I am incredibly grateful that I was able to be there and celebrate with my family, even though it was a busy trip.

During our ship outreach in June, we were able to perform several eye surgeries. Our team helped find patients in the villages, check their eyesight and bring them to the ship for treatment. One elderly man returned to the ship the day after his surgery. To our surprise, we found him sitting in his canoe, happily paddling across the river instead of resting as we had recommended. When we reminded him to take it easy, he simply told us that he had not been able to use his canoe for years. Now that he could finally see again, he didn't want to miss the opportunity. That moment really showed me what restored eyesight means for people here. It means independence. It means being able to paddle their canoe, go fishing and provide food for their families again. All because of one small operation.

In August, we returned to some of the villages to check on the patients. Almost every eye we tested had excellent vision following the surgery. It was incredibly encouraging to see how much these operations had changed people's lives.



Matthias doing an eye test



Sisters after eyesurgery



One of my patients who I helped with delivery

August also brought a special visitor from home. A friend of mine, Matthias joined us on the ship for an outreach, spending one week with my medical team and another with the Community Engagement Team. It was very special to show someone from my home church what life and ministry here look like.

Next month, another friend, Lucy, a newly qualified nurse, will be visiting, and I am looking forward to giving her a little insight into the medical work we do here. I have now been living in Papua New Guinea for a whole year. Looking back, I can say that this year has challenged me in many ways. Living and working closely with people from many different countries, leading teams and travelling into remote villages is not always easy. There are many things I have had to give up while being here. But when I look back over this year, I see something much greater than the challenges: God's faithfulness.

Again and again, He reminds me that I am exactly where He has placed me. Sometimes through a patient whose life has been changed by a simple operation. Sometimes through an encounter with one individual person. And sometimes simply through the strength He gives me for another day.

Recently, Psalm 23 spoke to me again:
“The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing.

He leads me beside quiet waters,

He refreshes my soul.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me.”

I cannot solve every problem. I cannot treat every person or change every life. But I can be a small
light and share what God has entrusted to me.

Perhaps that is what this work is really about: not the big numbers, but the individual person.

The man who can paddle his canoe again after years.

The mother who can care for her child.

The patient who can see again.

The person who experiences that someone is willing to stop and take the time to care.

And that is why I am here.

After one year in Papua New Guinea, I am especially thankful – for every patient, every encounter,
my teams, the people at the base and on the ship, and especially for all of you who support and
accompany me from home.

All of us who work here do so voluntarily. We receive no salary and depend on people who are willing
to support us and help carry this ministry with us.

So from the bottom of my heart:
THANK YOU!

Thank you for every prayer, every financial contribution, every message and every word of
encouragement.

Without you, it would not be possible for me to be here and do this work.
I don't know what this next season will bring, but I know that God has led me this far, and I can trust Him
to continue to lead me.

I am excited to see what He has in store.

With love from Papua New Guinea,

Susan



Lilly's wedding



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