

McCay's Prayer Letter

September 2020



Kaamentee sitting in his hut with a 'taaka' (hanging basket) beside him which he wove from bamboo

Daily Prayer Guide
for the Kol Ministry

September and October

Needs at Ora

Sep/Oct 2020

1. (i.e. Tues Sep 1 / Thurs Oct 1) **The leadership group of the church at Ora (Sagi, Karele and Peetar)** – Pray that they would function as leaders and fulfil their role of overseeing the church ministry, including addressing particular issues that may arise among the believers. Pray that they would have a close walk with the Lord and that this would provide a positive example for others to do likewise.
2. (i.e. Wed Sep 2 / Fri Oct 2) **The two brothers living at Kommal – Gaae and Kaamentee** (both around their late 50's). These two men have been following their own religious system (based on good works) for many years. They attend our services regularly but just can't seem to grasp the truth that salvation is a matter of faith in Christ's finished work. Please pray that this critical concept would become clear for them.
3. **Gaae's family – Tolong** (wife), **Leelaa** (M/20) **Raaneng** (F/18) **Gammo** (F/15) **Pookyee** (M/12) **Nemang** (F/7) **Gonwaabe** (M/4) and Kaamentee's son – **Tooilaa** (M/30). Tolong may be a believer but she is also still influenced by Gaae's ideas. Gaae's children seem genuinely interested in Biblical teaching but are also aware of their father's divergent ideas. To accept the Gospel would be to go against what Gaae says. The 4 older children sometimes hear various believers speaking in a critical manner of their father and they need to cope with this ongoing tension. This is also the case with Toolilaa who is a baptized believer but still lives at the Kommal hamlet.
4. **The services at Ora** – Pray that the Bible teachers would be able to find previous material to review (in light of the fact that they would have completed the lesson material that we left with them). Pray also that services would be uplifting and God honouring with the Word of God speaking to people's hearts as it is presented.

5. **The Bible teachers at Ora – Peetar, Karele, Tololomo, Swaani, Pool and Laaii.** Pray that they would develop in their reading ability, in their ability to expound what they have read, and in their Christian worldview. Pray also that they would mature as Bible teachers and have a strong and growing burden i) to see God’s people understand and follow His Word and ii) for those who are not yet converted to come to Christ. Pray that they would resist the temptation of being Bible teachers simply for the sake of promoting their own social standing.

6. **The church’s support of i) the Bible teachers and ii) others who assist them during the services by reading the relevant portions of Scriptures**
- Pray that the church would encourage these men and resist the temptation to compare various individuals and praise or criticize them accordingly. Pray that they would be patient with those ‘Scripture readers’ who are particularly slow and hesitant in their reading. [Some of these ‘Scripture readers’ will eventually become Bible teachers.]

7. **The men of the church** – Pray that husbands would accept the responsibility of leading their families, loving their wives and providing their children with loving discipline and instruction. Pray that they would realize the importance of providing well for their families including providing clothes for young children, a well-maintained hut for the family, and basic necessities required by their wives. (The task of disciplining even young children is one thing that many parents do not handle well.)

8. **The women of the church** – Pray that they would be actively looking for opportunities to minister to others who have needs (e.g. the sick, young girls making poor decisions, visitors from other areas, families who are short of food, those recently bereaved etc...) Pray that they would have joy in their lives in spite of their difficult and repetitive life styles, knowing that their faithful lives and service will be well rewarded by God in eternity. Pray that each woman would mature in her faith and know the filling of the Spirit in her daily life.

9. The unbelievers at Ora – While everyone at Ora attends services and nobody actively opposes the Gospel message, there are still a number who are not yet trusting Christ. Some of these are adults who just don't seem to understand the way of 'faith'. The majority, though, are children who have grown up in the church and as yet, haven't trusted Christ. Please pray that these people also, would sense the teaching and convicting ministry of the Spirit of God in their hearts as they listen to 'The Talk'.

10. The men who run the medical clinic (Kamwee, Peetar, Tololomo, Swaani, Tooilaa, Meiige and Toogonu) – Pray that they would make accurate diagnoses of illnesses and administer correct amounts of the appropriate medications. They also need to function well as a team as they share the work. Sometimes the medical load is particularly burdensome with up to 30 or more patients per day, and many of them quite sick with malaria or pneumonia. Crushing tablets and drawing the solution made from them into syringes is time consuming (especially when young children vomit the medication and the procedure needs to be repeated). Pray that they would continue to view their work as ministry for the Lord and would receive encouragement from Him to persist in it.

11. The ladies who dress cuts and sores (Reeboyre, Gonaake, Guroba and Laneng) – Pray that they would be encouraged as they endeavour to assist people who arrive at the clinic each day to have their cuts and sores treated. Because some people can be quite unappreciative of the assistance they are given, pray that these ladies could sense the Lord's favour and view their work as a ministry for Him. Pray too, that these four ladies could work well together as they share the work.

12. Medical supplies – We are attempting to have a box, containing some important supplies, transported from Hoskins to Ora in September. We have a plane booked for the first leg of the journey but require 2 carriers from a neighbouring tribe to take the box from an airstrip across the range to Ora. So far, no one is willing to do this (as it is about a 4-day round trip). Please pray that volunteers (to be paid) may be found.

- 13. The speech of the ladies** – There are some very crude expressions that a number of the ladies use on a regular basis. These women have grown up hearing those expressions and have incorporated them into their own speech patterns. Pray that the Holy Spirit will make these ladies aware that He desires His people to use speech that honours God and that they would realize that some of their expressions are not appropriate for women of faith.
- 14. The single Bible teachers (Tololomo, Swaani, Pool and Kotoo)** – These young men are all at marriageable age. They also know that if they marry then it should be to Christian girls. The task of finding such girls, who they are not closely related to, is not an easy task. As the Gospel spreads throughout the Kol region, in time we would think that the options available would increase. However, for now pray that these young men would not marry non-Christian girls but would be able to find life partners who are born again and who could encourage and assist them in their ministries.
- 15. The safety of men** – Pray for men who travel out to the north coast to find work. They do this periodically in order to earn some money for buying essentials. Not infrequently, such men get serious cases of malaria while they are away due to the fact that they work intensively and run themselves down. September (i.e. at the end of wet season) is a favourable month for men to head to the coast for this purpose.
- 16. Biila (Male / approx. 40 yrs)** – Please pray for his recovery. He has been experiencing bouts of disorientation and a pulsating type of sensation in his forehead over a period of about 9 months. At the time of our departure he had gone out to the coast in order to travel to the Rabaul area where there is a hospital. It was his 2nd visit to the hospital. We are unaware if the doctors were able to give him assistance with the problem. Biila is married with 7 children but has been unable to work in his garden for about 9 months due to his illness.

- 17. The Bible teachers (Peetar, Karele, Tololomo, Swaani, Pool and Laaii) and their concern for other areas** – Pray that a number of these teachers will develop a concern for Kol people living in distant villages and would eventually be willing to leave Ora and go and minister to those people (similar to how Saapee left to assist the people at Peli and Temele left to assist the people of Mogoo). There are people in areas who are waiting for such teachers to go to them and evangelize them.
- 18. Our house and belongings** – When we left Ora we were expecting to return after about 3½ weeks so we turned the solar power system off. This means that our very expensive set of new deep cycle batteries, bought and shipped from Australia, are not having any charge going into them for an extensive period of time. Pray that they wouldn't discharge during our absence. Pray also that termites in two main house posts that are difficult to access, would come across the termite baits that we placed against those poles and that they would be eradicated. Pray that our house and belongings inside would keep well.
- 19. Christian widowers living at Ora (Kallo, Sagi [senior] and Sagi [junior] and widows (Uukirya, Reyowii, Raamo and Tolli)** – Pray for these believers as they cope with life without their partners. The three men have children to raise and the four women are all dependent upon sons or other relatives to make huts and gardens for them.
- 20. Kamwee (junior)** – This very promising teenager has been assisting Garry with translation work for about a year. We are also hoping to see him become a Bible teacher in the not too distant future. Pray that he would continue to mature as a believer and make sound choices regarding key life-shaping decisions.
- 21. Protection against Covid 19** – The PNG government has reported that the Covid 19 virus has only recently begun to spread among the general population in PNG. It appears inevitable that the virus will reach the island as provincial borders reopen and flights to New Britain resume. Please pray for the Lord's special protection on the Kol Tribe if and/or when they pass through that trial.

- 22. Our return to PNG** – Pray that our return to New Britain and Ora could be soon. We are waiting for international flights between Australia and PNG to resume, the PNG government to lift its travel restrictions, the requirement for quarantining to be removed, and for our NTM leadership in PNG to give us the go ahead. We are also wanting to see how widespread and how severe the pandemic will be in PNG.
- 23. For colleagues** – Pray that God may provide us with (ex-pat) colleagues who are willing to move to Ora and assist us with the task of translating the New Testament.

Needs in other places

- 24. The ministry at Mogoo** – Pray that Mooyal (the leader of the church) and Temele (who moved from Ora to Mogoo to assist Mooyal) could work together well and would both mature as Christian leaders. Pray that Siilee and Liika (both in training as Bible teachers) could improve in their ability to read and teach Bible lessons. Pray also for the salvation of a woman (who is the daughter of a Catholic priest) and her husband. They attend services on occasions.
- 25. Saapee's ministry at Peli** – Pray for Saapee as he leads the church. He is also trying to develop several other men as leaders to assist him with the work. They are Muulel, Lukaati and Tuuree. Saapee may be facing considerable opposition from the Catholic mission located to the south-east. (Opposition began before our departure.) His wife, Gammo, was also very ill before we left.
- 26. The Bible teachers at Peli (Saapee, Telteel – Saapee's son, Tuuree, Lukaati, Kintong and Kaatol).** Pray that they would all mature as believers, have a close walk with the Lord and develop as teachers. Pray also that the young men assisting them during services as 'Scripture readers' would likewise develop in their faith and ability to read well so that some of them may eventually become Bible teachers as well.

- 27. The people of “Village G” (located close to Peli)** – Pray that the believers at Peli would have a good testimony before the people of Village G and would not react in a negative way to any criticism and opposition that may come from them. Pray that the leaders of Village G would have a change of heart and would allow their people to attend meetings at Peli.
- 28. Teeriina and Kaapwori’s ministry at Gulubye (near the Ikoy River)** – Pray that the leadership group, which also includes Oree and Luube, would function well providing encouraging support for the church. Teeriina is thinking that many people who regularly attend services are still not saved. Pray for the salvation of these people as he reviews the evangelistic program with them. The excessive use of marijuana is a significant problem in the area and affects the tone of the church as well. Pray for the development of a new Bible teacher named Toomas.
- 29. Kambay and Kamoya’s development as Bible teachers at Kaabalee** – These two men live in a community beyond Teeriina’s hamlet. They completed the literacy course at Ora and are now attempting to develop their reading and teaching ability in order that they can present the evangelistic program to the wider community living in their area. They are currently teaching a small group of about 10 people in order to develop as teachers.
- 30. Baryee and the Tomoip-Kol people at his hamlet** – This man lives in a hamlet about a full 2 days’ hike from Ora and several hours past Kaabalee. He has requested that teachers come and teach the evangelistic program to his clan. Baryee sounds like a ‘Cornelius’ type of individual who is very open to the Gospel. Pray that we would eventually be able to locate a Bible teacher in his hamlet.
- 31. The people living on the ridge between the Ikoy River community and Ora, and the people living to the west of Ora known as the Sui Kol** – Some of these people are also desiring to hear ‘The Talk’. Please pray that God would make a way for these people to be able to hear the Gospel.