

Dear Prayer Partners,

This letter is especially for all of you who have been praying for me to experience some big God-moments during my time here in PNG. During these last two weeks, God has shown Himself to be the God of the impossible. This is HIS story:

It all started with a critical medical emergency with a youth girl named Jemila. She is our national pastor's niece, but lives with his family and, in their culture, is his "daughter." Two Thursdays ago, the nurses were frantically called over to Pastor's house because Jemila was having a seizure and had stopped breathing. Over the next few days, at least one of the nurses stayed with Jemila around the clock because she would seize frequently and needed rescue breaths until she could breathe again. Even with much medicine, the episodes continued through several sleepless nights. Few people here have ever seen this kind of sickness, and the side effects such as blurred vision, obstinacy, and violence brought much fear to their already heavy hearts.

Then the spiritual battle began. Most of Pastor's extended family is unsaved or only nominally Christian. When they came to visit from the neighboring villages, they continually pressured him to take Jemila to a witch doctor because all of the medicines didn't seem to be helping. Our whole team could feel Satan's spiritual oppression trying to dominate the situation, but we could do little but pray that the Lord would strengthen the faith of Pastor and the church people. Many times, it seemed as though Jemila would die or the believers would give up on God and bring her to the witch doctor. Through all this, God taught me again what it was to feel small and useless--I couldn't help the nurses except to cook for them, and I couldn't help Jemila's family and friends except to sit on the floor with them and pray.

The following Wednesday, six days after Jemila's sickness began, the church and many neighbors and extended family members gathered in Pastor's house to pray and establish a unified decision to follow God no matter what happened with Jemila's life. The next afternoon, Sarah decided to read Ephesians to Jemila since Bible reading always calmed her down. Although she was almost asleep, when Jemila heard the verse in Ephesians 4 about not letting the sun go down upon your wrath, she started repeating it with Sarah and then began apologizing one by one to everyone sitting there. It was like she just snapped out of it. She hasn't had seizures or breathing problems since then! There weren't too many people in the house at that moment, but Bro. John went around the village telling people to come see her. Seeing her in her right mind brought everyone to tears. GOD IS SO GOOD!!! These dear believers were put through the fire of affliction, yet they stood strong and have come forth as gold. It was a revival at Pastor's house that night--about 50 people crammed on the floor singing praises to God, and Jemila joining right along. She also specifically confronted at least a couple of her relatives who probably aren't saved, telling them to look at what God did for her and believe. Now we just pray that she will regain her strength and have no lasting brain injury from the seizures.

Although at first I didn't realize why God was allowing me to see this trial, God has increased my faith and showed me the power of prayer yet again. Furthermore, He has knit my heart even closer to the hearts of the believers here. I praise Him for His wisdom, and I pray that His mighty works cause you to rejoice and to trust Him more fully!

Love in Christ,  
Suzanne