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Mid-2011 News Update from the President

The year 2011 began with much more than what I could take on board.

The 20ft container which was shipped to Papua New Guinea (for Alotau Milne Bay Province) in October 2010 was filled with hospital beds for Lousia Hospital and other 'charity' items, for example, mothers' and babies' material packs (to be made by women locally), school books and soccer balls, was held up at Port Moresby wharf for a long period of time.

In the new year of 2011, I received a letter from the Wharf Storage stating that the charges for our container to Alotau were now over (PNG Kina) K26,000.00 (approx \$AU18,000.00)!

I had no option but to take action and fly to PNG to try to sort this K26,000.00 charge. My brother (in Port Moresby) kindly paid for my return ticket to fly to Port Moresby to sort out both family and charity (container) issues. By this time our charity container had been held for seven months in Port Moresby storage and my plea to release our charity container went unheard!

The clearance charges were only K1,400.00 before they released the container to Alotau Milne Bay Province. I did ask the local group to help pay for the clearance fees, however, that didn't happen which is why the charges just built up, regardless of my plea that the contents were charitable goods to help my rural people of Milne Bay!

While in Port Moresby for four weeks, Amnesty International stepped in to clear the charitable containers in Port Moresby storage. One of the containers was ours! I was so grateful that Amnesty International was able to help the charities to continue their good work in Papua New Guinea.

Funny though, once the container was released, we faced another set-back. The cash that was raised for the clearance (K1,300.00) was locked up in an office that we were not able to have access! I returned to Australia and sent the cash for the container to be shipped to Alotau in Milne Bay Province - once that was done, the container went missing!

On 8 May 2011 (Mother's Day), I decided to telephone PNG and enquire if they had found the container as yet. The answer was "No, we don't know where it is - might be still in the storage with hundreds of other containers"! When I heard that, I felt like crying - if I had, I might not have been able to stop! I immediately decided to telephone the Milne Bay charity branch to organise for the Co-ordinator to immediately fly to Port Moresby to locate that lost container of ours! We are not going to give up!

The Second World War victory was won in Milne Bay - "The Battle of Milne Bay"! They didn't give up! The battle was fierce, they stayed focused and won the victory - before the Kokoda victory.

We are Milne Bay people - we don't give up! John Makula flew to Port Moresby within a day or two, and he found the container with the help of Joe Moses. That was our VICTORY and our MIRACLE!; however, we needed to find more cash to get the container out of the storage (wharf in Port Moresby) before it could be shipped to Milne Bay.

We ended up borrowing cash from my brother, Joe Moses, to pay what was required. John Makula waited in Port Moresby until the container arrived in Milne Bay wharf before he flew back to Milne Bay (thanks to Pastor Lenden and his church who took care of John's ticket).

While waiting, John Makula sorted the registration of the sister charity group in Milne Bay to be on the local paper, before they could get the status as a Charitable Organisation in Milne Bay Province PNG. John Makula needed more funds from us to get that advertisement done with the local paper, so we did help. John Makula spent two weeks in Port Moresby and did what we asked of him, with flying colours!

Now, as I write this news, John is back in Alotau. John got the container cleared from Milne Bay wharf and delivered it to the Pastor's yard a few weeks' ago, then he fell ill. The container is still waiting to be opened and distributed. It is now ten months since our charity container left Sydney wharf - I call it 'The Container Saga'! Catch up with more updates in my next news about the container to Milne Bay!

Whilst in Port Moresby a Member of Kimbe, Honourable Francis Marus, heard about my charity work in Australia for the rural PNG people. He made time for me to meet him for lunch with my brothers Moses and Joe.

Mr Marus asked for my charity to help him help his people of Kimbe. I agreed to help but with one condition, namely, that if he paid for the cost of the shipping from the Sydney wharf to Kimbe, we would load the resources for his people. He agreed and kept his word. Upon my return to Australia we received the cash of \$6,470.00 transferred to our charity account for the shipment of his 20ft container to Kimbe for his people.

Now as I write this news update, the Kimbe container is already in Lae wharf in PNG waiting for clearance before shipping it to Kimbe wharf. We are small charity group but we don't give up! We work hard to make a big difference for the new generation of Papua New Guinea.

THE LORD IS VERY GRACIOUS TO US!!

We are a self-help group, and we use all of our resources to help the local group in PNG. We are a small charity group, but very active with projects such as water pumps and shipping 20ft containers full of second-hand goods to rural PNG, over the years. We work very hard. We are now praying, and doing our paper work to see if AusAid can help us with DGR status to be able to help us with our other future projects in PNG.

I was invited to attend the Sydney conference on how to obtain the DGR status for the NGO's organisation in April 2011. I found it very helpful indeed. I had to take all that in, and try to sort our connections with the sister group in Milne Bay, PNG, for local projects in the near future. As we are branching out to help other rural PNG, Milne Bay charity branch will be the headquarters for all our activities in PNG.

The going is tough, but when the going is tough, the tough keep on going!!! We can make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, by keeping our heads up and doing our best! As the saying goes, **Good, Better Best Never Let It Rest, Till Your Good Is Better And Your Better, Best.**

Our next 20ft container will be going to the Manus people. Anyone wishing to volunteer to load the container - or give some resources to fill the container - you are most welcome.

Thanks friends and potential members, your attention in reading our News Update is very much valued. To all who have helped us and/or donated to our charity work, both in cash and in goods for our containers, we value you so much and thank you for your heart of giving!! We greatly value you.

God bless and catch up with our next news in December 2011!

Yours faithfully
Vakuta/PNG Help Group/Australia Inc

Grace Hull (Mrs)
President & Founder