After years on the island of Aniwa, John Paton wrote about the first converts:

“At the moment when I put the bread and wine into those dark hands, once stained with the blood of cannibalism, but now stretched out to receive and partake the emblems and seals of the Redeemer’s love, I had a foretaste of the joy of glory that well nigh broke my heart to pieces.”

We live and long for such joy. Recent evangelism in River has brought a half-dozen adults close to the narrow gate. Do pray for repentance among the growing group that meets there every Sunday evening. We’d like to move this to Sunday mornings and leave Mbokota on their own, but Trinity isn’t yet ready.

One reason: it is almost impossible to keep people in our poor little village, with many almost running over each other just to get out and into the big cities for school and work. How does one build a healthy church with strong male leadership in a place like this? I do not know the answer.

But we are asking our Lord to bless our efforts in calling people to repentance and the He would bring genuine revival to our seat of labor.

WELL AND VisA UPDATES
Special thanks to friends and churches regarding Shadreck’s well project. After scads of red tape, drilling commences tomorrow. They expect to find a nice current 40 meters deep. I’ll be visiting the ministries of he and other LBI grads in Zimbabwe next week and hope to return with some pictures.

Regarding the visas, four were approved and three are in the process of re-application due to initial rejection.

A COUPLE CREEPY THOUGHTS
We get lots of letters and emails from children around the world asking questions about missionary life. Please continue to write, for this is how zeal for missions often begins. For the kids, then, here are couple items from this week.

At leadership training, our snack was fried termites. They’re pretty good with a toothpick handy, else they stare at your neighbor through your teeth. The stagnant river along our property brings many monitor lizards and snakes into our property, like cobras or the occasional adder like that above.

In His Bonds, Paul and Melinda