

## *News From The Homefront*

### Judging a Book by its Cover:

Recently I've been going through boxes of books and ran across some that my great aunt gave me. One was a slim volume and the cover was beaten up and the edges ragged. I was trying to decide if I should throw it away because it also smelled a little musty. But I opened it up and saw a nice handwritten inscription to her from her aunt dated 1911. Then I noticed the book was copyrighted in 1897. I was then curious what the book was about and started reading it. I was surprised to find that it was an allegory about a Christian man who lost his joy for a time along life's journey and then by God's grace found it once again. ---Or how we sometimes rob ourselves of God's blessings. It was odd because after I knew what the book was about, it didn't look as beat up and ragged.

Years ago when we visited a war museum in the USA, an elderly gentleman worked there whose throat had been injured and he had to speak using a voice machine. He was politely standing by and overheard us discussing something about World War 2 and came over and gave us the answer. He said he fought in France and that is where he was injured. Since speaking did not come easy for him, it seemed as though he weighed his words carefully and each sentence held a lot of meaning and he made history come alive. Yet sad to say, we probably never would have asked him one question on our own.

When we first moved to Papua New Guinea, I thought that we were there to teach them. It didn't dawn on me how much they would teach me. Though I was able to teach various school subjects, music, and cooking; they taught me more fully about caring for the elderly and handicapped. And if there was ever a problem, I saw their family and extended family immediately gather to discuss it and solve it. I was raised in a broken home, thus their sense of family was amazing to me. Another thing is that they got so excited over little things in life such as learning a new song at church, and I realized how much I took for granted.

The Lord has shown me time and again that gems of information and glimpses of knowledge so often come from unexpected people and places. Yet once more, I almost threw away a book because of its cover.

### A Goanna:

On a recent drive to a State Forest to look around we were admiring the big trees when all of a sudden we saw this huge, black creature climbing up a tree. We called it an iguana and I wrote some people saying that we had seen a really big iguana in the wild. Then I looked it up Online to get more information and found out that there are no iguanas native to Australia. It was really a monitor lizard or goanna. The USA has a reputation for doing things "big" and we do serve big portions of food and drinks and have a huge selection of goods at our stores; but our birds, insects, and reptiles pale in comparison to Australia's. We were discussing going camping sometime, but when I remember that black goanna and that it is a carnivore, I have second thoughts. ☺

A friend in Christ, Cyd James