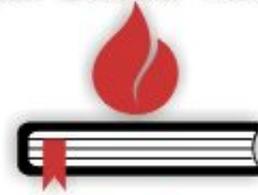


Johnson Family News
 Michael & Lori Johnson family missionary newsletter
 December 2000
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The Great Commission is our Mission!

Evangel Bible Translators



giving the Word to the world

Merry Christmas!

Many holidays are celebrated at this time of year. A few of them are called “Christmas,” even though they differ in exactly what is being celebrated. The Christmas that we celebrate is truly worth celebrating. We rejoice in the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, being born as a fragile baby, living a miracle life, preaching repentance and the Kingdom of God, dying in our place, and being raised from the dead so that anyone who believes in Him and calls on Him can be saved. Hallelujah!

What’s New?

Trust in Yahweh, and do good.

Dwell in the land, and enjoy safe pasture.

Also delight yourself in Yahweh, And he will give you the desires of your heart.

—Psalm 37:3-4 (WEB)

Those of you who know us best know that Christian missions has been on our hearts for a long time. Now, the reality of our move into full-time Christian mission work is setting in. God is truly giving us the desires of our hearts, and that makes us delight in Him even more!

Our three sons keep growing, learning, and getting stronger in faith and in their muscles. I can still beat Nathaniel at arm wrestling, but I may have to start lifting weights to keep my family arm-wrestling championship. Nate is getting better at playing the guitar. He has also

become an avid ham radio hobbyist. He has a general class license, and has earned the call sign KCØISE. This should come in handy when we go overseas, especially if he gets the HF radio station equipment that he is believing God will provide.

Benjamin is getting to be quite good at playing the violin. I like to hear him play. Please pray that we can find a way to continue the music lessons he enjoys. Ben is also a very talented artist, cartoonist, and a great kid. You’ll agree when you see some of his work in upcoming newsletters.

Evan has got some serious musical and acting talent, among other good things. His joy is infectious. He also seems to think that his daddy is a mountain to be climbed from time to time. He is looking forward to the adventures we are going on, even though it is a little tough to leave friends and pets behind. Alas, our beloved Beagle, Mandy, has been adopted by my sister, Sandy, and her family, so the dog will continue to be well cared for, but we will miss her and the birds.

Lori got to go with the church youth group on a mission trip to Italy last Spring. She is still actively involved at Life Choices Pregnancy Center, right up to the time we move. She leaves behind a thriving abstinence education program that she built from the ground up, a manual on how to start and run a teen advisor program, and some people trained to continue the work that she started. Lori and I have gathered the

books we need to home school our sons, and Lori will be doing the bulk of this when we get to Texas.

As for me, over the past year, I left my engineering job at Spectra Logic. I am currently working on a book on Cryptography for Sam’s Publishing part-time, and doing ministry work full-time. One of my major accomplishments this year has been getting *The New Testament plus Psalms and Proverbs of the World English Bible* into print.

Looking Forward to School

When I was a little boy, you probably couldn’t have convinced me that I would be going back to school, so many years later. Nevertheless, I am doing just that, and looking forward to it.

It seems like it takes a lot of training to be an effective missionary. In a way, it does, and in a way, it doesn’t. Just to share the Good News about Jesus Christ is easy. Any believer can do that—just share a few Scriptures, and tell people what Jesus Christ has done for you.

God has been preparing me for a long time for a very specialized ministry involving computers and Bible translation, and the next **9 months of training** is just the icing on a very large cake.

Bible Translation Progress

Many missionaries are working on translating Bibles and Scripture portions in languages where there is

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none. So far, this is what the scoreboard looks like, based on SIL Ethnologue data:

- **6,500 living languages in the world**
- **2,212 (34%) have some Scripture**
 - 366: whole Bibles**
 - 928: New Testaments**
 - 918: some smaller portion**
- **4,288 (66%) have no Scripture**

The language groups without Bibles are primarily smaller groups, usually with unwritten languages, living in isolation from their neighbors. Although some language groups that lack a Bible are relatively small, there are still millions of people without a New Testament in a language that they can understand.

When God Speaks...

God often speaks to us, when we are willing to listen. Of course, we have the Holy Bible. God also speaks to us in other ways, too, and always in agreement with what He has said in the Bible.

Sometimes, God may prompt you with a thought or impression to do or say something practical to show love to someone who needs it. Of course, not all thoughts or promptings are from God, but the believer in Jesus Christ will recognize God's voice.

On Friday, the 2nd of July, 1999, the Holy Spirit inspired me, and in the space of about 2 minutes, gave me this poem:

*For the Kingdom of God, I claim
Micronesia,
Melanesia, Polynesia, and Indonesia!
The islands of the sea are calling to me,
And to my family!
Many language groups, I see!
The Word of God in their tongues will
be!*



*Broken is the curse of Babel!
Every tribe will have a Bible!
Miracles of abundance I do see.
Converted to us is the hidden wealth
of the sea!
Broadcast far and wide the Gospel
In the language of every people!
Into full time service we will go.
When it is time, we will know!*

Thank You!

Remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly, or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work.

— 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (WEB)

Thank you for your support! We do not take it lightly. We know that there are a lot of ministries clamoring for your dollars, and we are both honored and humbled that you regard our ministry as a wise investment in the Kingdom of God. Our prayer, for our partners in ministry, is that our Father would prosper you and reward you abundantly for your gifts to us.

Contact & Support Information

As Evangel Bible Translators' missionaries, we rely on donations from individuals and churches to supply our living expenses, travel expenses, and other ministry expenses. **Tax-deductible donations** to support our ministry should be marked for Michael & Lori Johnson and made payable to:

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USA**

For **personal correspondence** and **mailing list corrections** you may contact us by email at mpj@eBible.org or at:

**Michael & Lori Johnson
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DALLAS TX 75236-5612
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Note that **the above address is only good from December 20, 2000, through May 20, 2001.** Our Longmont post office box will also work, thanks to Gary and Nettie Taylor, who have agreed to forward mail from there to us as we move from place to place.