

**Michael & Lori
Johnson Family**
The Great Commission is our
Mission!



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Godly Fruit

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

—Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

God's Word changes cultures. For example, last week, a murder was committed in a village near here. The murderer's entire extended family (including a friend of ours) was afraid that the clan of the dead man would take revenge by killing someone in their clan. This is the typical cultural response to this kind of crime. Instead, the Christian leaders of the village came together, prayed, and concluded that the right thing to do was to deliver the murderer to the police. This is truly a breakthrough, considering that the revenge and fear cycle was so entrenched here, but as Jesus said, "**You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.**" (John 8:32, WEB)

Radio Dreams

I have been interested in radio since I was a little boy. I still am. I see a window of opportunity beginning to open for some really good things to happen with Christian radio in Papua New Guinea. I can see the possibility of Christian broadcasting seriously taking root in many forms, here. There was a lot of interest in Christian radio at a recent pastors' conference that I attended. According to the latest official census, less than 44% of the people aged 10 and above in the Eastern Highlands Province can read any language, so it makes sense to get the Word of God out in spoken form as well as continuing to work on literacy and education projects. While I have big dreams that I believe come from God, I believe that the first step in Christian radio broad-

casting would be a low power Christian FM radio station in this valley. I am looking for some people who would be willing to host, maintain, and operate it, as well as a place to put it and funding to set it up and operate it. Since there is no other FM station in this valley, but lots of radios (mostly to listen to short wave radio), I believe that it would be an effective way to get the Gospel out. Please pray that I would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and alert to what His plans are for radio in this area.

Christmas PNG Style

Many have asked, "So how will your Christmas be different this year, now that you are in PNG?" Well, for one thing, I don't have to worry about driving to the crowded malls (as is evident in the picture, below), picking out the perfect gift (there isn't a lot of variety here) and wondering if my house looks Christmas picture perfect. (I have poinsettias growing in my yard!) Just like many of my "western" friends here, I have put up an artificial tree, lights, and some homemade ornaments. I have given out gifts to my national friends (mostly food, clothing & money) and organized the 5th grade Christmas party. We have had Christmas concerts and Christmas parties to attend. We have a few gifts under the tree and the Christmas music plays throughout the house. We are blessed because of the greatest gift of all—Jesus. We are also blessed because of you—our partners in this ministry. Thank you for the many that have stood with us in prayer, financial support, and friendship in the year 2002. You are our heroes! We look forward to the New Year as we anticipate more opportunities to share the Gospel, continue to write Bible translation software, and teach Bible translators' children in Ukarumpa so they can continue to translate the Word of God throughout PNG.



PNG style "strip mall" (trade store selling "tin fish," rice and a few other staple foods).

Kid's Column

By Nate, Ben, and Evan

This newsletter we thought we would give you more information about where we live in PNG. We live in Ukarumpa, which is a



large missions station in Eastern Highlands Province. It is almost like a mini version of America here. Nate and Ben go to school at the secondary school which is inside

Ukarumpa. Evan goes to school at the Primary School, which is about a 10- minute drive away (on PNG roads). We have a small store on center that occasionally gets a shipment of American goods including American drinks like Dr. Pepper, Mountain Dew, Cherry Coke, and root beer. We are always looking forward to the store's next shipment of American goods to arrive.

Whenever a shipment comes we stockpile as much as we can get and hope that it lasts until the next shipment (6-8 weeks, usually 8).



There is a river and a BMX track on the outskirts of Ukarumpa.



Prayer time at a pastors' conference in Hengenofi. What can a few hundred people dedicated to God's service do amidst all the problems in PNG? Anything God tells them to!

Light in the Darkness

No matter what the enemy does, the Word of God is taking root, and the Body of Christ is growing in Papua New Guinea. It is hard to express the joy I felt at attending a pastors' conference recently, where about 300 pastors were in attendance. I was invited to speak a few words of encouragement to them, but mostly I listened to the main speakers, prayed with them, and drew great encouragement from their dedication, love, and godliness. These dedicated servants of God live on what their churches provide them (which sometimes actually includes some money) and what they make on their own (usually by tending their own gardens). These are the people who continue the work of preaching the Word of God when the Bible translations are completed. The languages, culture, and climate are different here, but the same Holy Spirit is present and is doing the same good works of salvation, healing, deliverance, provision, and protection all over the world. Praise God!

Prayer Requests

- ▶ Effectiveness in ministry (Eph. 6:18-20)
- ▶ Health for our whole family (1 Pet. 2:24)
- ▶ Protection from any evil (Ps. 91)
- ▶ Divine favor in the adoption process (Prov. 11:27)
- ▶ Continued provision for all our needs, including housing, transportation, and ministry expenses. (Ps. 35:27)
- ▶ Blessings on all our partners (Gal. 3:13-14)
- ▶ Thank the Lord with us for His faithfulness and loving kindness which lasts forever! (Psalm 136)

Jesus Christ is Lord!
Michael & Lori Johnson