

Michael & Lori Johnson † SIL BOX 421 † UKARUMPA 444 EHP † PAPUA NEW GUINEA † Sept.-Oct. 2003
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Kainantu Dedicated to Jesus Christ

by Michael Johnson

Representatives of local language groups, local churches, and government officials gathered on Papua New Guinea's Independence day, the 16th of September, to repent, dedicate the entire district to God, and celebrate the blessings of God in Jesus Christ. This is a big answer to prayer!

The festivities started with a parade in which people from various churches marched in from the town entrances.

Six church leaders led the largest crowd I have ever seen in Kainantu in prayers of repentance, confession of sins, and dedication to Jesus Christ. They each prayed essentially the same prayer, each in one of six languages (Agarabi, Kamano, Tairora, Gadsup, Tok Pisin, and English). The dedication celebration lasted from about 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM, and included 3 excellent sermons, songs of praise and worship, dances, marches, and a mime and dance interpretation of Carman's "The Champion." The local member of parliament and the provincial governor spoke in support of the dedication, and signed a document dedicating the town to Jesus Christ. The people also presented a petition to the governor to change the provincial flag to remove the image of Nokundi (a demon-god who stopped appearing when the first Christian missionaries set foot on this ground). Jesus Christ is truly the Lord of Kainantu!



Teaching Abstinence in Kainantu

By Lori Johnson

PNG is having an explosion of AIDS/HIV teaching because the rate of infection in this country keeps escalating. They have adopted a policy of ABC— Abstinence, Be Faithful to your partner, and Condoms. The influx of international funds is addressing AIDS/HIV and is wanting every community supplied with condoms. As I have watched this continue, this year I thought perhaps I should make my "abstinence speaking" available to the local community. It seemed that the A in abstinence was getting short-changed.



So, there I was at Kainantu High School in September addressing the 8th grade on God's design for sexual relationships. In the PNG high schools, the grades aren't by age but by whether you passed your grade 7 exam and you are able to pay your school fees for the year. In the two classes I addressed, there were primarily males, ranging from age 12 to 18. The reason they are mostly males is that if the family doesn't have the money for all of their children to go to school, they will choose the son. I spoke in English (in grade 7 they start getting instructed in English) and tried to adapt stories, games and content to their culture. I could have done better on adapting to the culture, but overall I think that it went well. The best part was being able to pray for the students at the conclusion of the presentation and let them know that "Papa God i laikim tumus olgeta sumatin." (God loves them all.)

We believe we are making a difference to the young people of PNG.

Our Father made some really beautiful butterflies! This one landed on me during the dedication.



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Kid's Column



Ben & Evan collect knives. It is cheaper than collecting race cars or airplanes. It is also very useful. Around here, it is unusual to see someone walking to their garden **without** a huge bush knife (machete). The normal bush knife is longer than all of these put together.

On the 9th of September, Ben celebrated his 14th birthday with a renewed stash of rare American soft drinks. (Coke is bottled locally, but Dr. Pepper is an expensive import.)



Nate, right, played Marcellus, with his friend, Dan, who played Gregory, who was pretending to be Professor Harold Hill, in the play, "The Music Man." It is a major social event in Ukarumpa when the school has a play, concert, or sports event.

Blessings, Budgets, and Boxes

On our short trip to the USA, we were blessed by so many of you. **THANK YOU** for those of you who blessed us by opening your homes to us, taking us out to a restaurant, giving us money for necessities, the adoption shower, and we could go on and on. We thank you for being God's instrument in blessing us.

As we met many of you there were several questions that were asked frequently by our supporters. Since we weren't able to visit with all of you in person or even by telephone, we will try to share the answers to these frequently asked questions.

How are we doing financially?

This is a tough one to answer without either sounding like we are begging or sounding like we have no needs. First, please praise the Lord with us because God has always met all of our needs. We believe that He always will. We are very grateful to all of you who allowed God to work through you in financial and prayer partnership with us, making this possible. Many people we met were surprised that we don't get paid for our services that we give to the community here. In missionary circles we are known as "support people" meaning we support the work of Bible translation but are not out in the bush translating the Bible into an unknown language. Rather, we support those that are. We do that by helping to teach their children and creating good Bible translation software so they can get the Bible translated into the hands and hearts of the people quicker.

The support we are responsible to raise includes not just our own food, clothing, housing, insurance, local transportation, and taxes, but also ministry expenses and travel expenses (the biggest cost for us). Computer equipment, software development tools, telecommunications costs, and all manner of things that you would expect an employer to pay for come from our support pool. So do any costs associated with starting a radio ministry here. We see higher costs coming both personally and in terms of direct ministry. The value of the U. S. dollar has fallen by more than 15% against the PNG kina since the beginning of this year. The bottom line is that we are believing God for a substantial increase in our support. Partnership gifts to help in our ministry should always be whatever God lays on your heart, given cheerfully, so that you may be truly blessed. (2 Cor. 9:7)

What is the best way to send you something?

We **love** to get packages in the mail, especially when we don't have to pay heavy customs charges for them. It is best to check with us via email before sending anything. There are some things that are difficult to get in PNG so we really appreciate those that feel that their ministry is to send gifts to us. Surface mail can take 3-13 months, air mail 2-8 weeks, and DHL air shipments take about 2 weeks. All packages must have their contents and value properly declared. (For used items, think garage sale prices.)

Our New Email Address

Our old email address, **mpj@eBible.org** only works part of the time. You may reach us more reliably at our **new email address** (Kahunapule at the same domain as our old address, as shown to the left). **Please keep us updated with your current email address**, too, so that we can keep in touch. Most of our partner communication is via email, to save money. Thanks!

Kahunapule@eBible.org

Jesus Christ is Lord!
Michael & Lori Johnson