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Please mark support “For the ministry of Michael & Lori Johnson.”

Bearing One Another’s Burdens

by Michael Johnson

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

—Galatians 6:2 (WEB)

It has been over 3 years, now, since we have become full-time missionaries with Evangel Bible Translators. I just read our first EBT newsletter, again. We thank God that the rather bold statements of faith and obedience to God in that newsletter are being walked out right now, thanks to you, our partners in ministry. God has enabled us to work together to bring His precious Word to more people sooner. There is still a lot of work to do, and the vision has increased.

We are increasingly aware of the heavy burdens people carry around us. It isn’t just the local people, either. We live in a community of Bible translators and Bible translation support workers (like ourselves), many of whom are hurting. There is a battle of staying in faith. We’ve seen our brothers and sisters in Christ struggle with sickness, depression, family problems, and financial difficulty. We seek to strengthen and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ and our partners in ministry here, as well as those to whom we work so hard to bring the Word of God. The enemy of our souls rages against us because we bring hope and help to people who were perishing. Jesus already won the victory, but we must stand our ground and enforce that victory here.

We appreciate your prayers and support. You help us bear a burden that we could not possibly bear alone. We firmly believe that you are heaping up rewards in Heaven. The most precious reward of all will be the company of the people who are rejoicing in the presence of the Lord with us because of the Good News you have helped us bring to them. We are not ignorant of the enemy’s tactics. We understand that he would love to cut off our supply lines and isolate us. That is why we take praying for you, our partners, very seriously. Please let us know any specific prayer requests you may have.

We are grateful to God and to you who keep making it possible for us to be here laboring to fulfill the Great Commission. We love you!



Women in PNG carry loads (food, firewood, or babies) in hand-made string-bags draped from their foreheads.

Making Disciples

By Lori Johnson

Although the Operation World prayer book says Papua New Guinea is a Christian nation, there is still much “discipleship” that needs to go on.

I’ve been helping with a women’s national Bible study for almost a year. I just started teaching this fall, and in January I will be head of the study, since the leader goes on furlough. Most of the women that come to the Bible study work as a *haus meri* (cleaning lady) or *yard meri* (gardener) for missionaries. They have up to a 3rd grade education or no education at all. Over the past year, I’ve gotten to know these women. I’ve learned more about the PNG culture, their families, the fears that they hold, and the struggle these women have just to survive. They are a hardy bunch, walking an hour to get here, coming to the Bible study during

their lunch break and then going back to work or walking another hour home. Many of them are new Christians and just learning the ABC’s of walking in Christ.

As I am still learning the language. Please remember me in prayer as I lead these women to know Christ in a more intimate way.



Women’s Bible Study members

Kids' Column

By Nate, Ben, and Evan

Papua New Guinea

We thought it would be good to give you more information about Papua New Guinea, the country we've been living in for about 2 years now. Papua New Guinea is made up of 19 provinces and a national capital district. There are many different kinds



Coffee grows near our house in the highlands.*

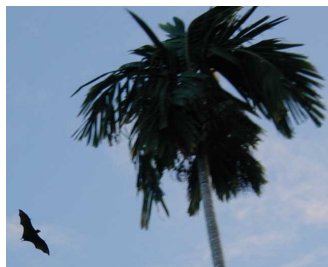


Highlands mudmen with bows and arrows*

of cultures throughout the different parts of the country. We live in the highlands, which is, you guessed it, in the highlands of the country. There are many differences between the people here in the highlands and in the lowlands. Here the people were traditionally more aggressive while the people in the lowlands are more easy-going. People in the highlands get most of their money from selling coffee while people in the lowlands get money from selling cocoa or coconuts. Most people here in PNG still get most of their food from their gardens, but there are a variety of packaged foods that are commonly sold in the cities and villages here. There are beef crackers, which are a salty cracker similar to hardtack, two minute noodles, which are similar to Top Ramen noodles. Both here and in the lowlands, the main language spoken besides the many local languages is Tok Pisin.



Lowlands musicians in traditional costumes



Coconut palm & flying fox*
*Photo courtesy of Craig Campbell.

Prayer Points

Adoption

We are still waiting for word of a match with a little girl. Please pray that no important message would be lost or delayed, and that we would have great favor with the government agencies.

Bible Translation Software Development

Please pray that Michael would be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit even as he writes software.

Christian Radio

Please pray that classes on running a radio station would go well, and that the right people would show up. Please pray that God would bring the right people together for the radio station board of governors.

Dates & Travel Plans

Please pray that we would have supernatural wisdom & insight in planning ahead. Please pray that we would be able to have at least one good family vacation outside of PNG in 2004.

Education

Please pray for Lori as she teaches missionary children, leads a Bible study in Tok Pisin, and still serves as a wife and mother. Please pray for Nate, Ben, and Evan as they attend Ukarumpa International School and for Nate's college plans.

Finances

Praise the Lord that we have always been able to pay our bills and do everything God has called us to do. Please pray that this will continue to be the case as our ministry expands and our family grows. Please also pray that God would prosper and protect all of our financial partners.

Grace for the Place

Please pray for our whole family to not just survive, but to thrive here, where God has called us to be, and that we would also recognize exactly when we should move on to another place.

Health

No weapon formed against us will prosper, and that includes biological weapons. Please pray that we all stay healthy.

Staying in Touch

Please let us know if your address or email address changes. If you have email, and would like to get our newsletters and updates via email, please let us know. It is amazing that we have email here, in this very remote area. Sometimes it stops working for days at a time without warning. Nevertheless, it is still the quickest and most cost-effective way for us to stay in touch.

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*Jesus Christ is Lord!
Michael & Lori Johnson*