

Michael & Lori Johnson Family

The Great Commission is our Mission!

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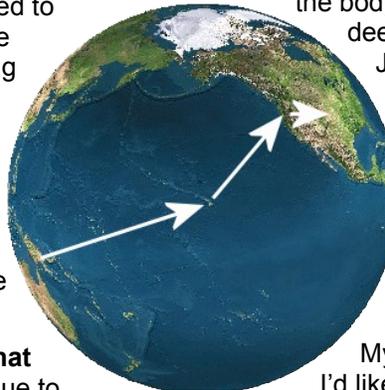
Ben, Lori, Rachel, Nate, Michael, and Evan Johnson

Reentry

by Michael

We're back in the wonderful United States of America again—for almost a year—and it is great to be able to see family and friends again! It is also good to reconnect with the better parts of American culture. We are enjoying many things that we missed for the last 4 1/2 years.

We know that there will be many adjustments. Lori had a recent one. She figured out that the oven was calibrated in Fahrenheit instead of Celsius when the muffins seemed to take forever to bake. We have remembered to drive on the right side of the road most of the time, but we haven't quite adapted to wearing shoes all of the time. It is also a time of awe and acute awareness of cultural differences and differing levels of wealth. Do you know just how awesome our paved roads are? Not as awesome as the paving in Heaven, but still much smoother and safer than the few roads in Papua New Guinea. Even more awesome is how much safer we feel here.



Since our return, some have asked, "What will you do here in the US? Will you continue to need financial and prayer support? How long will you be in the US?" We are still full-time missionaries, and I will **keep writing software to help Bible translators** while in the USA. Indeed, I anticipate making faster progress while we are here, because of the much-improved access to technology, communications, supplies and concentrating on full-time writing software rather than splitting my time in being a manager of a department, like I did in PNG. We are also looking forward to returning to our home in Papua New Guinea when the timing is right, as the needs are great there. **We only have permission for Rachel (who is still a citizen of the Philippines) to stay in the USA for one year** from the day we arrived, so we must **return to Papua New Guinea** before that time is up to finish the adoption process paperwork and do some ministry there. **Yes, we will still need prayer and financial support**, just like we do when working in Papua New Guinea—**whatever the Lord puts in your heart.**

Farewell Mumu

By Lori

For the past three years I have had the privilege of teaching a National women's Bible study. At times, I've had to do it on my own for months, and other times I've shared

the responsibility of teaching with two other women. We've met weekly on the women's lunch break from 12:00–1:00 in a nearby *haus win*. We tried something different this past year. We taught on the books of Philippians and Colossians for 3 Thursdays and then spent the next Thursday specifically on discipleship principles. Prayer, reading (about 2/3 don't read above the 3rd grade level) or listening to the Word, the importance of being a faithful member of the body of Christ, sharing Christ with others through deeds and words, and other biblical principles.

Jesus specifically called us to "Go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20).

Many of these women work as a *haus meri* on our mission compound. Some have walked from their nearby village or as far as a 2-hour walk away. All in all, I think I am really the one who has learned so much. My *Tok Pisin* language skills still aren't where I'd like them, but I've noticed when the love of God is mixed with any language, people respond openly and sincerely. The women have been gracious with my lack of perfect *Tok Pisin*. I've learned about their hardships, their victories, their struggles and everyday PNG life in the village. We've wept together, laughed together and prayed together.

MORE →



Rachel (held by Esta) and the national women's Bible study

KIDS' COLUMN
NATE, BEN, EVAN, AND RACHEL



Nate graduated!



We carried Rachel for thousands of miles and got to see lots of relatives and friends.



Cool photographer, huh?

Magraw cousins



National Women's Bible study mumu feast

In appreciation of my years of teaching they gave me a farewell *mumu*. The ladies prepared the *mumu* pit at my house the day before, digging the hole, gathering rocks and banana leaves from our trees. We had an abundance of food—*kaukau*, *kumu*, potatoes, chicken (they cut them up on my porch!) and lamb flaps. I was given a beautiful *bilum* that one of my dear friends made. Then I gave them each gifts with a scripture attached that encouraged them to continue to be lights in their village and to stand firm in the spiritual battles of life.

Tok Pisin Mini-lesson

bilum (BEE-lum): a string bag, usually hand woven; may be carried by men or women.

haus meri (house merry): a woman hired to do house work.

haus win (house win): a small house with a thatched roof but that has few or no walls, allowing free passage of the wind.

kaukau (cow-cow): any of several varieties of white and yellow sweet potato.

kumu (coo-moo): edible greens of various sorts

mumu (moo-moo): a barbecue prepared in a pit in the ground lined with hot rocks and banana leaves with meat and vegetables slow-cooked together; much like a Hawaiian luau.

Tok Pisin (talk pizin): Melanesian Pidgin. A trade language spoken in much of Papua New Guinea and (in different dialects) in some neighboring nations.

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING AND GIVING!

Michael & Lori Johnson