



Michael & Lori Johnson Family

The Great Commission is our Mission!

September 2006

Please mark support "For the ministry of Michael & Lori Johnson" and send to:

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↑ NOTE NEW SUPPORT ADDRESS ↑

Bumper Crop in a Famine

by Michael

"There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, to Gerar. Yahweh appeared to him, and said, "Don't go down into Egypt. Live in the land I will tell you about. Live in this land, and I will be with you, and will bless you. ..."

Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year one hundred times what he planted. Yahweh blessed him."

— Genesis 26:1-3a, 12 (WEB)

In John 2:5, Mary the mother of Jesus said what we need to do when we need a miracle: *"Whatever he says to you, do it."* It worked for the wedding party in Cana. It worked for Isaac. That good advice still works, today. We really can trust in our Lord, Jesus Christ, to provide for us wherever He sends us, no matter what things look like in the natural. Be led by the Holy Spirit. He might lead you to a desert to be tempted, to a mountain top for fellowship with God, beside some still waters for refreshment, or right back to the same job you are doing. He has led our family through an interesting set of faith-stretching adventures. Through it all, God has shown Himself faithful.

We are looking forward to a bumper crop of souls saved and disciplined with the Holy Bible in the languages they understand best!



Frequently Asked Questions

by Michael

Where do you live?

We live near Buena Vista Colorado, USA, at about 8400 feet (2560 m) above sea level.

Why do you live there?

God led us to this area. We need to be here to meet the needs of our children. I can continue Bible translation software development, here. It is close to relatives, so Ben and Evan can stay with them and continue with school when Lori, Rachel, and I need to travel.



How are your children doing?

They are all doing well. Nate is settling into life at Brown University in Rhode Island. Ben and Evan are students at Buena Vista High School. Rachel is an energetic, affectionate, happy, delightful girl who excels at keeping her mother occupied. They are all adjusting well to the major change in culture from PNG to the USA.

What is needed to finalize Rachel's adoption?

Both the PNG Social Services people in Port Moresby and the Inter-Country Adoption Board in Manila have to complete some paperwork and communicate with each other and with us. Then we have to get a lawyer and a court date for the final decree. All this will cost about US \$5,500.00 (mostly in travel expenses), if all goes well. Lori, Rachel, and I must leave the USA before the 17th of June before Rachel's USA visa expires. Please pray that this goes well.

How long will you stay in Colorado?

We will live in Colorado at least until Ben graduates from High School in 2008. We will be travelling some during that time, for ministry and to take care of Rachel.

Will you move back to Papua New Guinea?

Yes, unless the Lord leads us otherwise, in 2008.

What have you noticed reentering the USA?

More cell phones, HDTV, more stuff, smooth roads, consistently well-stocked stores, low per-capita crime rates, English monolingualism, commercialization of holidays, enemy attacks on marriage and family, affordable broadband Internet and telephone service, a growing Church, and a very blessed nation.

What is your main job, right now?

I am working full time on developing free and open source software for use by Bible translators. My current project is software to help typeset Scriptures in many languages and writing systems, as well as to facilitate electronic publication of the Bible. It is used in many places in the world.

How is your support level?

We are currently receiving about 55% of the minimum amount it will take to meet our budget here and return to the field as planned. We believe that God will provide.

Could you speak in our church or organization?

We would love to. You, our partners, are our best contacts. We have some interesting pictures and stories to share. Please call or email us if you are interested.

More →

KIDS' COLUMN

FEATURING NATE, BEN, EVAN, AND RACHEL

Joy in Following God's Call

by Lori

What do I miss most about Papua New Guinea? There are so many things: the perfect weather, my friends, the ladies in my national Bible study, my teaching job... But one thing I have found I really miss is working with the youth of Ukarumpa. A former student wrote me a thank-you letter before I left Ukarumpa. It's not often you actually get a thank-you note from a youth, so this is very special to me. Here is a short excerpt from the letter:

"I just wanted to write you a letter to thank you for all the time you have invested into my life, and so many others. You are always such fun and don't mind getting out there and possibly even making a fool of yourself with us. Thanks for coming up to Lone Tree with us, going to Ramu, and all the girls parties/Bible studies. Thanks for coming to this country."

Here is a young lady that I was privileged to pour my life into for over 4 years. I also taught and coached both of her sisters, one older and one younger. This family will be leaving PNG next month for good. Why? The work that the Lord had called them to do in Papua New Guinea will be finished. They arrived in PNG in January of 1988 to translate the Bible into the Tabo language and to plant churches in that language group. On September 30th, 2006 they will be dedicating the Tabo Bible. It took almost 19 years and a lot of help from various people for them to complete the New Testament in the Tabo language.

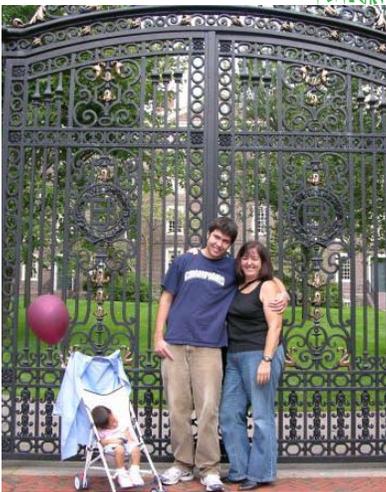
If you ask Bible Translators what it took to complete their Bible, they would say it took their partners in their home country supporting them prayerfully, emotionally and financially. It took the people of the language group hungering and thirsting after God's Word and helping to translate. It also took people in Ukarumapa, the 'support' workers, like me, ministering to their children, giving them peace and security that their children were well taken care of while they continue to do the work God called them to do.

THANK YOU, all of our partners, for being part of the great work of bringing the Word of God to the Tabo language group. Without YOUR support I couldn't have been there for this young lady.

Please pray that the church leadership of the Tabo language group would unite in celebrating the Tabo New Testament on Sept. 30th, and that the Tabo people will not only buy copies of New Testaments, but that they will also be diligent in reading and study. Pray that through these books, they might truly connect with the Living Word, hearing what He says to them in their heart language. Pray that a Scripture use seminar, to be conducted on Oct. 1, would go well.



Tim Schlatter and the team proofreading the Tabo New Testament translation



◀ Nate at the gates of Brown University with mother and sister. Nate says: "I have a lot of homework. I'm going to be up late, again."

▼ Ben gets help with birthday candles on his 17th birthday cake. Ben says: "I think I'll buy another knife."



Rachel says: "Mama! Dada! Nana! Fire! Deer! Elk! Bird!..." Rachel likes to run. ▼



Evan says: "Don't let Dad take your picture. He might use it in a newsletter." ▼



Rachel likes to go on walks and look for birds, deer, and other animals in the forest.