



Michael & Lori Johnson Family

The Great Commission is our Mission!

January 2007

Personal mail until June 2007:

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

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New Plans: BV in February, PNG in June

by Michael

Because of a combination of factors, including complications in Rachel's adoption paperwork, combined with expiration of Rachel's USA entry permit on 19 June 2007, our family is in agreement that we need to return to Papua New Guinea, leaving the USA before that expiration date. We expect to live in PNG for about 3 years, except for Ben, who will return to the USA after high school graduation in June 2008, and Nate, who will stay in the USA to continue studies at Brown University. Please pray that the many logistical requirements are met and the right doors for effective ministry open for us.

The house we were renting has been sold, so we will be living in downtown Buena Vista February through May, 2007. Our new address is above.



Radios Proclaim the Gospel

by Michael

Can you imagine life without radio, television, CD players, MP3 players, cell phones, etc.? We can, as many don't have access to electrical power or the means to buy these things. Even though the vast majority of Papua New Guineans live without electrical power (about 90%), and batteries are expensive for many people, radios are more common than you might think. This opens the door for another way to get the Word of God to people.

The Papua New Guinean government lists the literacy rate (in any language) in rural areas at 51.7%. Most cultures within Papua New Guinea have strong oral traditions, but little or no written tradition. That makes radio ministry even more important. Radio reaches people where they are in their gardens, in market places, and in their homes. They can hear the Word of God, even if they can't read it.

Last year, Galcom International said they would give us 1,000 solar-powered, fix-tuned



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

FM radios if we would cover the shipping to PNG (about \$1 to \$2 per radio... we won't know the final figures until we get all the bills, including customs charges, as the radios are still in transit). We said YES, by faith, believing that God would lay it on the hearts of enough people to pay that bill. These radios are tuned to the frequency of Wantok Radio Light, the Christian radio network that reaches much of Papua New Guinea, including an FM station in Kainantu.

When you support us financially, you not only supply our family needs, but help with ministry opportunities like this. **Thank you** for following the Lord's leading and helping us do His work!

Reflections

by Michael and Lori

2006 highlights:

- ▶ First full year with Rachel in our family
- ▶ Numanggang New Testament dedication, celebrating getting printed Scriptures into people's hands, seeing fruit from my software development (Michael)
- ▶ Continuing to improve the Onyx software set, expanding it and renaming it to WordSend (Michael)
- ▶ Learned to use IPub Publishing Assistant and Adobe InDesign CS2 for complex Scripture publications (Michael)
- ▶ Provided consulting on Bible translation software and Scripture publication (Michael)
- ▶ Lori's HIV/AIDS presentation for SIL employees
- ▶ In Nov. 2005 she presented a workshop at the International Children's Educator Conference in Thailand.
- ▶ National women's bible study outreaches in nearby villages.
- ▶ Teaching a new Career's class, besides her 2 other health classes, at Ukarumapa International school.

2006 challenges:

- ▶ Funding shortfall
- ▶ One notebook computer stolen
- ▶ One notebook computer broken more than working
- ▶ PNG Social Services losing some adoption paperwork
- ▶ Adjusting to life in America.

2007 goals:

- ▶ Return to Papua New Guinea debt-free before Rachel's USA entry permit expires in June
- ▶ Complete Rachel's adoption process
- ▶ Continue WordSend software development (Michael)
- ▶ Teacher recertification (Lori)
- ▶ More HIV/AIDS education in PNG (Lori)

KIDS' COLUMN

BY NATE

Well, America is a one-of-a-kind country. There's a lot of **stuff** here. I (Nate) have been off at Brown University in Rhode Island. In a lot of ways, it's been like a whole new world. Not only has it been my **first** time living in America for four and a half years, it's the longest time I've been away from my family. It's my **first** time living in America outside of the evangelical Christian subculture, my **first** time being on the east coast, and lots of other **firsts**. It's been great. It seems odd sometimes, but the same God exists everywhere, even when everything and everyone around you is foreign. There are some days where I feel like I'd give anything to be back in Papua New Guinea, even if only so I could speak Pidgin, and see kunai grass growing out of red clay instead of buildings growing out of gray concrete. At the same time, I've been blessed with countless opportunities to learn and grow, hopefully all for the glory of God.

It's been good being back with my family during winter break. Rachel keeps growing and speaking more every day. She'll change a lot when I don't see her for a year or more. It's been good fun being back with my brothers, camping in the basement, discussing anarchist politics, school, weapons, and other deep and meaningful conversation subjects. I sincerely hope, pray, and believe that God will continue to bless my family, and that the Kingdom of God will continue to spread across all the countries of the world.



▲ A deer hopes Nate will uncover grass instead of gravel while shoveling snow in Colorado.

◀ Rachel sleeping with Meow, a present from her brothers.

If you would like to get prayer letters, updates, and photos from us via email, please let us know at Kahunapule@eBible.org.

We also keep updating our web site, which is at <http://eBible.org/Johnson>.

The Ministry of Serving as Senders

by Lori

If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well. — 3 John 6b (NKJV)

Did you know that in secular war, for every one person on the battlefield, there are NINE others backing him at home in what is called the 'line of communication'? What a concept! Nine essential personnel helping to insure that the person on the battlefield is successful, as well as many more who are behind the scenes funding and supporting the soldier. As we begin our steps for preparation to go back to Papua New Guinea, I have felt the need to have a minimum of nine people for a core support team of five very different groups in order to help insure our success in His work on the field.

Moral/Emotional: Could Jesus have used emotional support when he agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane? For sure! We too wrestle with decisions, temptations, homesickness and living cross culturally. We need those who would encourage us in words and deeds.

Logistics support: In 2 Timothy 4:13 Paul asked Timothy to bring his cloak and books when he came to visit him. We also need help managing our business and personal matters as we get ready to **GO**, and while we are in PNG.

Financial support: When we sign our mission organization's *Statement of Financial Preparedness*, we want to be confident that we really are fully funded to go, to remain in PNG to do the work He has asked of us for the full term, and to return without having to borrow money. We know that there are creative people out there to help us engage Christians to give into this work.

Prayer: WOW... we've been blessed to have a strong prayer team, but we know we can stretch further in this area. Col. 1:4,9-14

Re-Entry: Re-entry back into the American lifestyle after being gone for 4 1/2 years has been one of the hardest parts of our missionary experience so far. We need sensitive, caring people to help with our re-entry needs when we return again.

Would you like to get involved in the Great Commission by being a member of our core support team? Please pray about this and if you are interested or need more details please e-mail or call us. I would love to have the support team meet in mid-May to pray, discuss their role as core support team members, and encourage one another in their **partnering with us and serving as a sender!**

Jesus Christ is LORD!

Michael & Lori Johnson