



## Michael & Lori Johnson Family

Supporting the work of Bible translation  
in Papua New Guinea and the world



May 2008

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## Fighting HIV/AIDS

by Lori

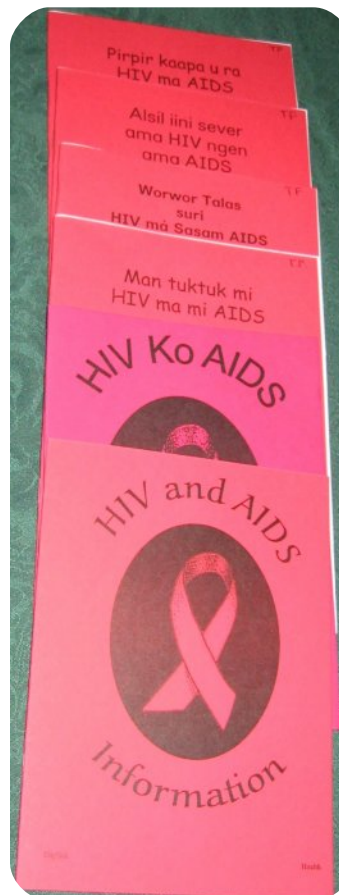
**"You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."** – John 8:32

As I sat and talked to my friend, I could hear her concern for her daughter, Mary (not her real name), who was sitting nearby with her 2 small children. My friend explained to me that Mary's husband is often gone for months in another city working and then returns to live with Mary for awhile and then goes back again to the city to work. It was rumored that he had been sleeping around with other women while living in the city and her daughter thought it was probably true. My friend asked me if her daughter should get an HIV test. I told her "Yes," and told her where the nearest clinic was to get the test. She didn't want to go this clinic to get it done, because the test is only given on one particular day of the week, and if you go on this day people will assume that you are HIV+. In a world of superstition, witchcraft, and stigma for those who are HIV+ or even suspected to be, this could mean being ostracized from your family and village.

It's estimated that 3% of PNG's 6 million people are presently infected with HIV. If present rising infection trends persist, 18% of the population could be affected by 2010, and 25% could be affected by 2020. That is why I've been a part of the SIL HIV/AIDS



Dedication of a new HIV/AIDS awareness book translation. Photo by Matt and Christy Taylor.



Task Force for a number of years, and as of November, the Chairman. Presently, I manage a large grant from the PNG National AIDS Council that funds HIV/AIDS materials translated into the vernacular for the people of PNG. Our organization is unique because we have Bible Translators who are already working on translating the Bible and other materials into the vernacular. In the last 2 years, these hard-working Bible Translators have been able to translate HIV/AIDS materials into 28 different languages. Our Task Force has created an HIV/AIDS awareness book, a culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS video and Bible study. We also train Bible Translators, support staff, and many others in HIV/AIDS awareness. Just recently, I trained some young people in HIV/AIDS awareness so they could accurately answer any questions that might have arisen on their 5 day hike through rural villages showing *The Jesus Film* and our HIV/AIDS video. In June, I will be doing an HIV/AIDS awareness training for Nationals who are working on Scripture use in their own language in their villages. Pray for me that I would teach accurately in this topic, and also that I would share Christ's love, compassion and the Church's role for those infected and affected with HIV in PNG.

More



## Kids' Column

*News about Nate, Ben, Evan, and Rachel*

Nate is coming to Papua New Guinea for a short term mission trip/family visit, May 26-July 21st, with Wycliffe Associates. He will be showing *The Jesus Film* and some HIV/AIDS Awareness videos in various villages near us. He will also join us in celebrating the dedication of the new Kuman New Testament.

Ben graduates from high school here on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. (He is in the upper left corner of his class picture, above.) He is planning to attend Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania, where he will be majoring in Entrepreneurship.

Evan has been enjoying camping, weight lifting, learning to drive, and videography, as well as finishing up his sophomore year in high school. He didn't want me to take his picture and put it in this newsletter, so I didn't. You will just have to take my word for it that he is a handsome, strong, young man.

Rachel has been enjoying playing with our new kitten, which she named "Puma." Rachel starts 3 year old preschool, 2 times per week, next school year (July).



## Getting the Good News to the people of PNG

*by Michael & Lori*

Both Jesus and the Apostle Paul had people who supported their ministry with gifts. (Luke 8:1-3, Phil. 4:15-16) This Biblical example is also how our ministry is



supported. It costs a great deal to get the Good News of Jesus Christ's free gift of Salvation to the uttermost parts of the world, but our God is well able. He isn't worried about the currently disturbing economic conditions. Neither are we.



Thank you for helping us to obey God's call and THANK YOU for obeying when God asks you to give. We believe that the Lord Himself will reward you.

## Staying In Touch

*by Michael*

We keep our paper newsletters concise and send them approximately quarterly because of their cost, and because all of us are busy. We do communicate more often with email and web site updates, though. If you aren't getting our email updates, and would like to, or if your email address is changing, please email us and say so.



## Please Keep Praying

- ▶ For the Lord of the Harvest to send more laborers into His harvest
- ▶ For our family's PNG visas to be issued and our passports returned well before Ben's scheduled departure
- ▶ For completion of Rachel's adoption, citizenship, and visa paperwork soon
- ▶ For our ministry here to be effective
- ▶ For our family's spiritual and physical health
- ▶ For safety and protection
- ▶ For Ben's college costs to be covered
- ▶ For abundant provision, especially for Nate & Ben's travel costs (over \$4300)

Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement!

*Jesus Christ is Lord!*

*Michael & Lori Johnson*