



**Michael and Lori Johnson** — working to bring the Word of God to people in their own heart languages  
<http://eBible.org/Johnson/> 808-333-6921 September 2011

## What does Michael do?

*by Michael*

In Melanesian village culture, people watch and listen to learn how to do things. This works great for basic life skills, like fishing and canoe construction. In the case of things I do on computers, it is a woefully difficult way to learn. All that they would see is that I sit down at my computer, wave the mouse, press buttons, study the screen, press some more buttons, and lo and behold, web sites appear on the public Internet with translations of the New Testament and other Bible portions in many languages. The more I do that, the more Scripture translations and download formats appear. This makes people ask questions like:

### **Q: How do you learn all of those languages?**

A: I don't. Teams of Bible translators spend years to learn a language and translate a New Testament into that language. I just help publish their work.

### **Q: Do you have the computer translate Bibles?**

A: No, but computers and specialized software help speed the Bible translation and publication processes along. Good Bible translation is dependent on people who are dependent on God.

### **Q: Are you a one-man show?**

A: No. There is no way to do this by myself. This project involves cooperation and coordination between many people in Wycliffe Bible Translators, Papua New Guinea Bible

Translation Association, Youth With A Mission (YWAM), Bible Societies, and more.

### **Q: So what do you actually do?**

A: I help write open source software that processes



Patrick Bruce and one of his sons in Bulal Village, 2004. Their local language (Em) still lacks a Bible translation, but Bulal has mobile phone and Internet service, now.

Scripture files that other people translate, essentially typesetting them into different formats. These formats are then made available to people to read and study the Bible on various electronic devices, like computers, smart phones, book reading tablets, etc. I also create and maintain several related web sites like eBible.org and PNGScriptures.org. My goal is to post Scriptures that people can freely download, read, and share. I'm focusing right now on the Pacific area, but have helped a few people in other areas.

### **Q: How fast can you post new Bible translations and formats?**

A: That depends on many things, but the biggest speed limiters are how fast Bible translators can translate and when I can get all required permission to post a Bible translation. It also depends on what format I get the Scripture in and the current state of the software I'm writing and using.

### **Q: Are the Scriptures you post whole Bibles?**

A: Usually not. Most of them are New Testaments. Some have portions of the Old Testament. Most of the minority languages don't have a whole Bible translation. I post whatever has been translated and sent to me.



Susan, Rachel, and Lori. Susan, on staff at YWAM Kona, speaks Melpa. The New Testament in her language is at PNGScriptures.org.

**Continued** ➤

## Rachel's Column



I'm happy that my big brother, Evan, is visiting before his school starts. He rode on bumper cars at the fair with me. Uncle Shawn and Grandma Carol came and visited us, earlier. It was good to see them!



Evan and I found a Jackson's Chameleon in our yard. We let it go, though, so it could find its own bugs to eat. Mom said we already have enough lizards in our house.

What does Michael do?, continued from page 1...

**Q: Does anyone else post freely downloadable Scriptures on line?**

A: Yes. ScriptureEarth.org is hosted by Wycliffe Canada, for example.

**Q: Who is going to read and listen to the Scriptures you post?**

A: The current primary audience is people who have moved from their remote villages into places where they have Internet access. The secondary audience is those who already have that access in their own villages, which is a growing number.

**Q: What do you charge for Bible software and Bible web hosting services?**

A: Nothing.

**Q: What do you charge people for downloadable Bibles?**

A: Nothing.

**Q: Who pays for the costs of Scripture web hosting, other ministry expenses, and your cost of living?**

A: Our partners. We greatly appreciate you. May your tribe increase. Thank you! May God bless you!



We love visits from family and friends! Lori's brother, Shawn, and mother came to see us!

**Got Email?**

If you would like to add your email address to our partner list (or change it), please email us with your request. (Our address is below.)

**Pray Without Ceasing**

We earnestly desire your prayers for us, our ministry, and our partners. We also pray for our partners. How can we best pray for you, today?

*Jesus Christ is Lord!*

*Michael & Lori Johnson*

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