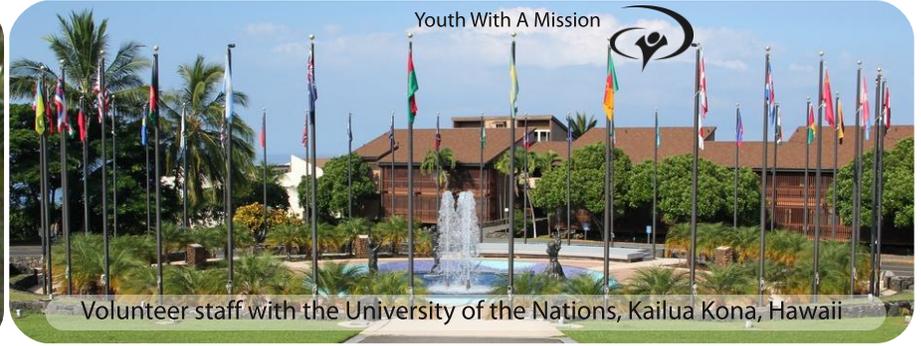




Michael and Lori Johnson — working to bring the Word of God to people in their own heart languages
<http://eBible.org/Johnson/> 808-333-6921 February 2012



Volunteer staff with the University of the Nations, Kailua Kona, Hawaii



Group photo at the YWAM Pacific Gathering in Suva.

Pacific Gathering/Pacific Wa'a

by Michael

In January, I attended the YWAM "Pacific Gathering" and the "Pacific Wa'a" meeting. "Wa'a" (pronounced vah) is the Hawaiian name for "canoe". "Pacific Wa'a" is the name that a group of people from several Christian ministries operating in the Pacific area gave to themselves. The purpose of this group is to **promote and improve cooperation between these groups** in reaching people in this vast area. One of the main challenges in the many nations of the Pacific area is isolation. We live on islands that are territories of many nations. We also speak about **1,250 languages**. We don't want any language group left behind, and neither does God. (See Rev. 7:9.)

Although we work together remotely, there are some things that need face-to-face contact to really communicate on a deeper level. Good things happen when we worship God together and spend time over meals together, as well as having formal meetings. There is great joy in coming together to serve the same Lord from so many islands, nations, and language groups. **You should have seen one woman's eyes light up** when I said that I would try to get permission to **post the Bible in her language on the Internet**. (We were speaking through an interpreter, since I didn't know any of the languages she knew.)

Now comes the hard part: getting permission to post Bible translations online for free download. It is actually a miracle that I have gotten permission to freely distribute 212 Bible translations (mostly New Testaments or smaller portions) so far. The sudden

reduction in speed of posting new translations is because I ran out of translations for which I already had permission. Fortunately, at this last meeting, some relationships were started that should bear fruit in **getting more Bible translations to publish electronically**. I already have one more translation in a language spoken in Micronesia that is ready to publish. I'll keep pursuing those until I get permission for many more languages, including my new friends that I met at the Pacific Gathering.



We shared many worship styles at the Pacific Gathering, as is fitting to the heritage of our many islands.

While I wait on Scripture publication permissions, I have a lot of work to do **writing and improving Scripture publication software**, running Scripture web sites, and **finishing the World English Bible Old Testament**.



The Pacific Wa'a: leaders from YWAM, The Wycliffe Global Alliance, SIL, The Seed Company, Isles of the Sea, Kreative Koncepts, Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association, and Wycliffe Bible Translators. Michael's role in this group is publishing Scriptures electronically. The Bible translation agencies provide the translations.



Promoting Spiritual and Physical Health

by Michael



Lori has been training enthusiastic missionaries to not only keep themselves healthy on various mission fields, but also to be ready to train others in primary health care. Drawing on her God-given talent, training, and experience both in teaching and being a missionary overseas makes her a very effective teacher. Even long-term staff have told me that Lori does a great job, and

that they learned new things. Although doors have not opened for Lori to teach in a paid position, the opportunities abound for volunteer service at the University of the Nations at times when Rachel is in school.

An Investment with Guaranteed Return

by Michael

One of the hardest things I've experienced in over a decade of full-time Christian mission work is balancing trust in God for finances and swallowing pride and asking for people to support us financially. I know that sounds silly, because God is entirely trustworthy, and because we know for sure that God blesses those who support His work. Therefore, we don't beg or ask for welfare-type payments from a position of poverty. Rather, we have marketable skills that we could use to earn plenty of money to support our family, but choose to devote all of our working time to things that advance the Kingdom of God but don't earn a salary. We believe that when God calls someone to do that, He makes a way for them to be supported. Even us.

Although I would like to just happily keep doing what God has called me to do and ignore fund raising

except to say "thank you" periodically, the pain in my budget won't always let me do that. Our average monthly support is below what our minimum budget is by at least \$1,200/month, plus we have some immediate expenses that are more than that. (You can ask us for more details if you like.) I know that most of the people reading this newsletter, especially this far into an especially wordy newsletter, already support us. For that, **we are grateful**. Here are some ways you might be able to help us fulfill the call of God on our lives and share in the eternal rewards as God leads you:

- Commit to **pray regularly** for us.
- Start or increase **monthly donations**.
- Give one or more **one-time gifts**.
- Introduce interested friends** to our ministry.
- Help **arrange speaking opportunities** with a church group, Bible study, etc.



This is an opportunity for you to trade some of what you cannot take with you for a share in reaching countless people in many language groups and nations for Jesus Christ—people who will join with us in the many joys of celebrating eternity with our precious Lord, Jesus Christ. See Phil. 4:17.

Plans & Dates

We have a limited amount of time on the mainland this May 11th - July 4th. We hope to meet with many of you. If you would like for us to speak at church, a Bible study, youth group, or even just spend some time together, please call or email us.

- May 9-10: Fly to Denver
- May 13: at New Creation Church, Longmont, Colorado
- May 19: Nate graduates with a Master's degree in Indiana.
- May 19: Ben graduates with a Bachelor's degree in Pennsylvania.
- June 15: Evan graduates (AA) in Oregon.
- June 16: Ben and Naomi get married in Pennsylvania.
- July 5: Leave Denver

Rachel's Column

My class went on a field trip. Mom and Dad came along to help. We got to see some humpback whales. Most of them were far away, but a momma whale and a baby whale swam close to us. It was fun, and we learned a lot about whales.



Praise God for

- Over **two million hits/month** total on all of the web sites that Michael operates that have Scriptures on them.
- **212 Scripture translations** posted; permission from copyright owners is coming for more.
- Progress on the **World English Bible OT**.
- **Lori is an answer to prayer** for the Primary Health Center as she heads up **health education** for Discipleship Training Schools.
- Progress on **Scripture publishing software**.
- **Faithful partners** who make our work possible!

Got a spare car?

If anyone has a reliable, reasonably fuel-efficient vehicle to loan or give us for use while we are on the mainland, May 10th-July 5th, please let us know.



Partnership Opportunities

- Scripture Publishing Summit and Eurasia Media Distribution Conference in Germany. Needed now for airline tickets + hotel + conference fees: **\$2,400**.
- **Car** for use while we are on the U. S. A. mainland May 10-July 5.
- July trip to PNG: **\$3,000** by May 15.
- Additional **regular monthly support** needed to meet our minimum budget: \$1,200. Please note that you can set up **automatic monthly donations** at <http://mpj.us/give>.

Prayer Requests

- Productivity and fruitfulness (Mat. 13:18-23; Ps. 1:1-3)
- Prosperous soul and health (3 John 2; 1 Pet. 2:24)
- Protection (Is. 54:17; Ps. 91)
- Provision, more partners (Mat. 6:35-23; Ps. 23:1; 1 Pet. 1:3)
- Wisdom, understanding, love (Eph. 3:14-21; Col. 1:9-14)

Got email?

If you would like to start (or restart) getting our email updates, please email us and ask.

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Michael & Lori Johnson

You may donate online at <http://mpj.us/give> or write "FUND CODE #70" on a note with your check and send to:
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Note: you may now set up automatic monthly gifts.

Please send personal mail to:
MICHAEL & LORI JOHNSON
PO BOX 5278
KAILUA KONA HI 96745-5278
USA

Michael-Lori@eBible.org
Web: <http://mpj.us>

Michael: +1 808-333-6921 Lori: +1 808-333-6931
Skype: kahunapule or +1 719-387-7238