



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

At a Crossroads

October marks our 12th year of full-time Christian ministry. We are extremely grateful for those who have stood with us through thick and thin. We have been diligent to go wherever the Lord leads us, including the University of the Nations Kona Campus. We are still committed to serving the Lord. Right now, Lori and I are at a crossroads. Our support levels have fallen to about \$1800/month below our minimum budget, and we must raise more support to continue in full-time ministry. If you are not currently supporting us financially, please read the attached letter and prayerfully consider doing so. If you are currently supporting us financially, then please consider introducing us to others who could also support our work for the Lord. Donation details are at the bottom of the 2nd page and on our web site, MLJohnson.org.

Right now, we rely on donations for all of our personal and ministry expenses. We don't get any pay, office space, or equipment from the University of the Nations or any other organization that we work with. All of our web hosting, travel expenses, computers & software, etc., come from donations, as do our basic living expenses.

If you have specific questions or would like more details, please contact us directly.

JESUS CHRIST IS COMING!

by Michael

Do you feel the urgency? I'm sure you do! The signs of the times keep pointing to the Lord's return.

The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count slowness; but is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth

and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore since all these things will be destroyed like this, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

— 2 Peter 3:9-13

Things can change **suddenly**. Life-changing and even life-ending events often happen in a very short amount of time. The ultimate example of such an event in Scripture is the "day of the Lord" that the Apostle Peter wrote about, above. For those who are counted as righteous in Jesus Christ, it will be Good News. For everyone else, I can't think of any worse news. How will people be told the Good News about how to receive eternal life with Jesus Christ, unless we tell them? How will they understand if it isn't in their language? **How will they read or hear the Good News unless we make it freely available to them?**

Cooperation and the Pacific Wa'a

"Wa'a" (pronounced "vah ah") is the Hawaiian word for "canoe". The Pacific Wa'a is a discussion forum among people (including me) from various organizations operating in the Pacific area, including Youth With a Mission, the Wycliffe Global Alliance (formerly Wycliffe Bible Translators International), SIL, the Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association. We meet regularly to plan ways to more effectively reach everyone in the Pacific area with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

One of the Pacific Wa'a participants, David Brooks, Associate Director of the Wycliffe Global Alliance, wrote the attached endorsement letter.

More ↘

Rachel's Column



I like to play soccer. My team is called the "Orange Highlighters".



Here is my soccer team.



We just got copies of Ben and Naomi's wedding pictures. Now that I have a sister-in-law, Mom and I aren't the only girls in the family.

Lori: Partner in Missions

by Michael

Have you ever read about strong missionary heroes who go to exotic lands, see tribal warfare much too close for comfort, endure hardship in finances and living conditions, labor over raising godly children, conduct spiritual warfare daily, and still keep faith in God? I just celebrated 28 years of being married to such a woman of God. Every time we move to a new place and start a new phase of ministry, she wonders what she will do. And every time, God leads her into some amazing ministry.

Right now, she is teaching primary health care to missionaries being trained for field service with YWAM. She is also working on getting approval to substitute teach in Hawaii. As always, she keeps seeking God's best for her family and others she serves.



Please Pray:

- Praise God that Nate got his Papua New Guinea visa so he can teach at a Christian school there.
- Thank God for progress in getting 236 Bible translations online for free download, and pray for favor with copyright owners for more.
- Please pray that we would all be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.
- Please pray for unity and love in the Body of Christ.

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Michael & Lori Johnson

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Dear Friends of Michael Johnson:

In the past few years it has been my privilege to work with and get to know Michael Johnson in the context of a developing partnership in the Pacific. Michael is part of the Pacific Wa'a Partnership, involving global and local organizations that want to see the remaining languages of the Pacific region without the Scriptures, about 400, started by the year 2020 and completed soon after. Discipleship is impossible if there is not a good understanding of God's word, and many of the peoples who speak these remaining languages don't have a strong grasp of a language with Scriptures. Even for those who do, research has shown that the Word of God has greater impact when it is in their heart language.

This is where not only Michael's skill set but passion lies. The Bible translated is not helpful if it can't be used. As Scripture is translated, Michael is seeking to get portions, New Testaments, whole Bibles, both the text and any recordings, online and available to all on more devices. Computers are becoming more and more available in some of these regions but what are even more available are cell phones.

Papua New Guinea has joined the wave of countries who have allowed more independent companies to compete for business in the cell phone industry and now they have gone from about 5% coverage of the country to over 75% just in the last 5 years.

Michael's work has been cutting edge and ahead of its time. As technology grows and phones improve, we will see his work becoming even more valuable. But that is just it. Michael does all this work so that all will have free access to the scriptures. To date Michael has been directly responsible for getting Scripture online in 231 dialects of 208 languages. He also provides indirect access to many more Bible translations. This includes not just the technological side, which is not easy, but getting copyright permission adds to the work.

Because of his combination of servant attitude, sense of mission and professional skills as a software developer and facilitator, Michael's work potentially will impact millions who will now have access to God's word in their heart language. I look forward to continuing to serve with and learn from Michael as he serves the work of Bible Translation with his unique skills.

Financial support of Michael and his family in his work will mean impacting many and thus multiplying the value of your resources. If you have any further questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David J. Brooks'.

David J Brooks
Associate Director
Wycliffe Global Alliance

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