

Michael & Lori Johnson † SIL BOX 421 † UKARUMPA 444 EHP † PAPUA NEW GUINEA † February-April 2004
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 Please mark support "For the ministry of Michael & Lori Johnson."



Lori teaching abstinence at a school in Kainantu



Lori with her soccer team

Teaching & Coaching

Lori continues teaching High School students at Ukarumpa International School, Secondary Campus. The students are primarily children of Bible translators, Bible translation support workers, and other missionaries. Some of the students are PNG nationals. Lori teaches Physical Education and Health and coaches girls' soccer. She is also available to speak in public schools on occasion.

Bible Translation Software Development

In 2003, Michael contributed to the development of a prototype linguistic software toolkit shell as part of the WordWorks project. This project also involved travel to a conference in Dallas to coordinate efforts with team members from other locations. He also did a little consulting with Bible translators in PNG and helped



Applying technology to improve Bible translation speed & accuracy

Annual Report

About two years ago, we arrived in Papua New Guinea, convinced that God had sent us here to help bring His Word to people here in their own language. As "support" workers, we help people doing the actual translation into the many languages in this area.



Lori with students

one translator automate some conversions to his lexical database. Michael's current task is increasing the speed and accuracy with which we can typeset Scriptures. So far, he has helped typeset Scripture portions in two PNG languages.

Discipleship & Spiritual Growth

In addition to their main jobs, Michael and Lori teach and proclaim God's Word where practical. Lori leads a national women's Bible study in Tok Pisin. Michael preaches from time to time in various churches, also using Tok Pisin. He also enjoys discussing Scriptures with some of the elders in the marketplace as the younger men listen in. We also take care to ourselves and with our family.



Our church family at Dylup Station, Madang Province



Lori's Bible study

Christian Radio

For the last year, several local pastors have been praying with Michael for Christian radio to come to the PNG highlands. We have started a weekly class to teach interested people what they need to do to make it happen.



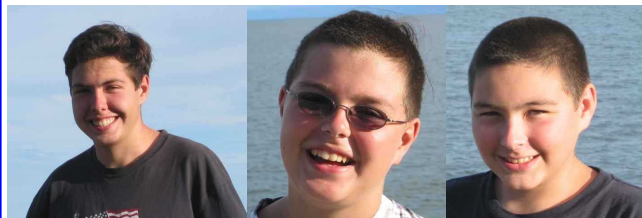
Church leaders in Kainantu pray for God's leading in Christian radio ministry

Looking Forward

We have renewed our secondment agreement with SIL PNG Branch, effective through June 2006, when Nate graduates from High School. We are eagerly looking forward to the good things our loving Father has in store for us and our partners this year and beyond as we yield to Him.

KIDS' COLUMN

PRESIDENT—NATE; EDITOR AND ARTIST—BEN; WATER BOY
AND IDEALIST—EVAN



Here in PNG, anyone who breaks the law is referred to as a raskol. A raskol could be anyone from a murderer to a petty thief. In most villages, there are a couple raskols, but people are afraid to turn them in because they are their wantoks. A wantok is generally someone who you are related to or is from your village. Wantoks rely on each other and many times act as a unit. If you hurt someone's wantok it is just as bad as hurting him or her. Sometimes police will come to a village and threaten to burn down the whole village if the village doesn't turn in the raskols.

Raskols will often try to hold up cars on the road between us and the nearest city (Kainantu) and on other roads, including the Highlands Highway. They usually each have a bush knife (machete) and sometimes have one or more guns. Just because someone has a gun does not mean that they have bullets in the gun. Sometimes the gun has no bullets or the gun doesn't work anyway. Despite the fact that we have driven between here and Kainantu dozens of times, we have never been held up and we have only had one attempted hold up. When they attempted to hold us up, dad just floored the car and Ben waved at the guy with the gun from the back of the truck.



The best seats are in the back of the truck.

Overcoming Danger

By Michael Johnson

The safest place to be is in the center of God's will. If we are not where God most wants us to be, no place is safe. Our safety is in Him. This is the secret place of the Most High mentioned in Psalm 91. This place is just as real in Papua New Guinea as it is in the United States of America or any other place people can go. You may face dangers we don't and vice versa, but God is able to cause us to triumph, no matter what. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

We live in a dangerous universe. I don't have to remind you of that. News reports do that all of the time. Nevertheless, too many people ignore the biggest danger of all. The biggest danger is not terrorism, crime, traffic fatalities, diseases, earthquakes, famines, wars, fires, floods, droughts, dangerous animals and bugs, accidents, pollution, poisons, ionizing radiation, weapons of mass destruction, meteor impact, sorcery, or fits of rage by the devil himself. These all pale compared to the biggest danger of all.

In Luke 12:4-5, Jesus said, "*And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!*" (NKJV)

Hebrews 10:26-31 (WEB) says, "*For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which will devour the adversaries. A man who disregards Moses' law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will he be judged worthy of, who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, 'Vengeance belongs to me,' says the Lord, 'I will repay.' Again, 'The Lord will judge his people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*"

The **most dangerous** thing in the universe is **rejecting Jesus Christ**. The only fear worth having is the **fear of God**. (See Psalm 19:9; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7.) None of the rest matters. **Perfect love casts out fear**. (See 1 John 4:18). **No weapon formed against us will prevail**. (Isaiah 54:17). **We who believe in Jesus have eternal life**. (John 3:16) Nobody can take that from us. **God is for us**. (Romans 8)

Staying in Touch

Please let us know if your address or email address changes. If you have email, and would like to get our newsletters and updates via email, please let us know at our email address to the left. We usually send out email updates at least once a month, but paper newsletters approximately quarterly, for reasons of economy. Email is also a much more effective way to get urgent prayer concerns to you. We also like it because people are much more likely to reply to our email than to our paper mail, and we like to hear from you. ☺

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Michael & Lori Johnson

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