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Please mark support “For the ministry of Michael & Lori Johnson.”

Unannounced Visitors

By Lori Johnson

In the USA, when we want to visit someone, we usually call them up, ask when it is convenient to meet with them, and then come to visit. Here in Papua

New Guinea, it doesn't work that way. I don't know any national person who has a telephone in their home. If they want to visit with you, they just stop by.

When my mother was visiting here in September, she commented, “Is it always like this, people coming and going?” Meaning; “do people always come over unannounced any time of the day?” I said “YES!” PNG people are very relationship-oriented. Their relationships are more important

than tasks. This is something I continually have to remember because as a Westerner, my tasks seem so important, but in reality, it is the person who should be more important!

Within a week, I may have a variety of visitors; from a few ladies from my national women's Bible study, a pastor looking for Michael, a *wontok* (relative) of one of my workers, a teenager from school, or just a friend. I always offer them something hot or cold to drink and something to eat. Therefore, it is always important for me to have coffee, cold drinks, banana bread, muffins or beef crackers (a PNG-made cracker) available. We will sit and *stori* (tell stories). This is the greatest opportunity for me to listen and then share the Good News. For many, this will be the first white person's house they will have ever entered, and I want them to remember it as warm and inviting.

Just yesterday, I saw one of the ladies, Inkaso, who occasionally comes to the national women's Bible study, in the town of Kainantu. I stopped and talked with her and she told me that she was on her way to the *haus sik* (clinic) because her baby was sick. I looked at the baby, felt her head and it was obvious she was sick and had a fever. I put my hand on the baby's head, prayed for her and then pulled out all the money I had in my pocket and gave it to her so that she

could pay for the visit and medications. She was so thankful, she had tears in her eyes; and I could tell a big weight had been taken off her shoulders. I would have never had this opportunity if I hadn't taken the time to offer hospitality and

kindness to this sweet young woman for the past year. Previously, she would occasionally stop by my house and visit or give me some produce from her garden. It was just 4 months ago that she stopped by my house and told me she was not feeling well and wanted to know if there was any way I could drive her home. She walks 4 hours a day to work on the center, and at this time she was 8 months pregnant. I drove her as far as I could go in the truck, but she still had a 20 minute walk, up hill. One of her *wontoks* told me 3 days later that she had a baby girl the morning after



Some of Lori's friends

I drove her home. I was able to get together some baby clothes, diapers, and soap for her and the baby, and get them to her that week. Her baby was small and sickly, so she hadn't named the baby, in fear that she would die. I have only seen Inkaso a few times in the last few months. I know she stopped working in order to take care of her baby, so she doesn't come to the Bible study very often. A 2 hour walk to the center and a 2 hour walk home is a lot for a 1 hour Bible study, though she has done it occasionally.

1 Peter 4:9 says: “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.” I have to confess that at times I've offered hospitality with an inward grumble (“Don't they know that I have things to do?” or “That is the last of my bread. Now I'll have to make another loaf for dinner.”) Yet, I know that God commanded us to offer hospitality in love for a reason. It is through relationship-building that people will eventually see that we love God and want to know more of HIM. Will they see God through your hospitality? I surely hope so. Please remember to pray for Inkaso and her little baby girl. She still hasn't named her because she walks in fear that she may not live. Pray that she will thrive and live a long and healthy life.



Three men dressed up for a *sing-sing*

KIDS' COLUMN

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



Wow! This hamburger doesn't taste like fish! Ben is enjoying a meal at the SIL Store Kai Bar.



Not Nate's normal attire



Evan & Nate resting after hiking up Lone Tree Mountain



Nate tasting some friends' attempt at making new beverage flavors (ginger beer)

Grandma Carol visited Bulal Village with us



Bible Translation Progress

140 New Testaments have been completed in PNG, 7 of them in 2004. Bible translation work is now in progress in 1,678 languages, 190 in PNG. (Sources: WBT, SIL PNG Branch Statistics)



JAARS CTC 2004

By Michael Johnson

It is amazing that in this remote part of the world, I'm able to have Internet access and work together with people in other countries on Bible translation software development. Working with Bible translators in the places where they work has given me valuable insight into how best to write software that really meets their needs. However, meeting face-to-face with my fellow software developers and other people who use Bible translation software is a wonderful thing. The richness of face-to-face communication compared to email is refreshing, and makes the trip well worthwhile.

At this November's JAARS Computer Technical Conference in Waxhaw, North Carolina, I learned that many people were expressing a need for the kind of software that I had just written. It was a great set-up for a well-received presentation of the software I was giving away. This Bible typesetting software will be used in many places in the world, and not just in Papua New Guinea. Thank you for helping us give this software away to so many people who are doing God's work.



This group reminds me of some Native American tribes. The cultural diversity in Papua New Guinea is amazing.

Prayer Requests

- ▶ Praise God for answered prayers.
- ▶ Effectiveness in ministry
- ▶ Provision of at least 100% of our official budget
- ▶ Protection from spiritual and physical harm
- ▶ Godly wisdom
- ▶ Godly joy for all of us
- ▶ Favor with the adoption authorities

Our Requests to You

- ▶ Please send us your email address or address changes.
- ▶ Please send us a current picture for our prayer wall, either a digital photo to the email address at right or a paper copy to our address in Papua New Guinea.

Thanks for your support! We love you!

Jesus Christ is Lord!
Michael & Lori Johnson

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