

Michael & Lori Johnson Family

The Great Commission
is our Mission!



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

Winds of Change

by Michael

In October 2000, at the calling of the Lord, Lori and I joined Evangel Bible Translators. It was a major step of faith to go from a predictable salary to working full-time for God and living on support from the partners God called to enable us to do this work. After 5 of the most adventure-filled years of our lives, we are happy to report that God is faithful. We are very grateful to you, our partners, for being faithful with Him, as well as to Him, for supplying both your needs and ours.

By the time Nate graduates from high school in June, we will have been serving the Lord in Papua New Guinea for 4½ years. We sense the Lord calling us to go back to the USA for a work assignment for about 2 years. We plan to return to Papua New Guinea as soon as our USA assignment is completed, unless the Lord directs otherwise. While in the USA, we will still be working full time as missionaries and not drawing a regular salary. We will still need donations through Evangel Bible Translators to continue the work. In the USA, I will still be working in the area of software development in support of Bible translation, not just for EBT, but (as is the case now) for all Bible translation agencies, including Wycliffe Bible Translators, Pioneer Bible Translators, New Tribes Mission, and others. The software I develop for this purpose is open-source, free software. That means that (1) I don't get paid directly for any of it, and (2) it can be copied freely and used by the people that need it most, and portions of it can be (and are) incorporated into other software packages for Bible translators. In other words, your gifts towards our support also help supply productivity-enhancing software to many Bible translators.

When we first return to the USA, we plan to spend some time itinerating and telecommuting, mostly in Colorado. After that, we plan to return to the International Linguistics Center in Dallas, Texas, for more efficient communication and face-to-face work with some of the same people I work with now. I plan to take some courses at the



PNG Independence Day Celebration in Kainantu.
God blesses us with grace to be wherever He calls us.

Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics that will help me in my work. The environment for Bible translation software development in Dallas is much more productive than it is in Papua New Guinea, but the experience gained here in PNG will always be of great value in understanding who my Bible translator and Bible translation support customers are and what they really need.

Open Doors to Share on Biblical Sexual Purity

by Lori

In light of the AIDS crisis around the world, PNG is ranked 1st in HIV infections per capita in the Oceania region. It is hard to watch, so I have chosen to be proactive in this area, especially with my past involvement in Abstinence Sexual Education in America.

In September, I attended a teachers' conference put on by Campus Crusade, called, "Life at the Crossroads," in Rabaul, East New Britain (ENB), PNG. It is an abstinence education curriculum that focuses on character development. I was with 42 other PNG public educators, primarily from ENB, learning this curriculum. It was exciting to be with PNG educators and see their caring attitudes and eagerness to teach this vital information to their students. For me, much of the curriculum was very similar to what I had taught in the United States, but I did learn some new stories and information that I have been able to integrate into my health curriculum here in Ukarumpa.

One month later, I was asked to represent the SIL PNG Branch at an HIV/AIDS Conference that was sponsored by Samaritan's Purse (a ministry of the Billy Graham Association). This conference was attended by over 400 Christians from 28 different denominations, primarily PNG Highlands pastors and lay workers. I was so encouraged to see the Body of Christ come together and seek ways to minister truth and compassion to their congregations.



Lori with the Youth at the Crossroads group in Rabaul

more ►

KIDS' COLUMN

PRESIDENT—NATE; EDITOR AND ARTIST—BEN;
WATER BOY AND IDEALIST—EVAN; CUTE BABY GIRL—RACHEL



◀ Here is Nate, driving on a paved road for the first time. You have to be 16 and 9 months to get a permit and 17 to get a drivers' license in PNG. You also have to watch for the unexpected.

Most of the bridges in PNG are one lane. This means that you must look around the blind corner for speeding PMVs or trucks before crossing the bridge. Don't forget to keep left. ▶



◀ Nate's driver education class. The usual instructor is a brave children's home parent.

We recently had a school carnival. Here, cowboy Evan reloads a rubber band gun in the shooting gallery. ▶
Ben worked at the school carnival as receptionist for the "Curl up and Dye Beauty Salon."



Nate dunked at carnival ▶▶



◀ Rachel is still waiting in Cebu City for her PNG visa. We will have more pictures of her when Dad gets close to her with his camera.



In mid-November I will be traveling to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to attend an Association of Christian Schools International Teachers' Conference. Over 600 teachers and school administrators will attend from the Asia and Oceania regions. I will be conducting a workshop called, "The How, What and Why of Implementing a Directive Abstinence Sexual Education Curriculum Into Your School." Many of these schools are in a region where STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) including HIV/AIDS are rampant, and there is a need for this type of curriculum. Please pray that I would be an instrument of God's truth and love.

Thank you for investing in our lives through your financial giving and prayers. Like any good investment, what you invest in us is highly diversified with great returns!

Linux & Bible Translation

Technobabble by Michael

Did you ever have something go unexpectedly well? I recently did. I have been developing Scripture typesetting software on a computer running Microsoft Windows, and hoping to some day port it to run on Linux, too. It turns out that the planning that I did to facilitate running on multiple operating systems was effective. Portions of my software already run on Linux and Mac OS X. Why do that? Because many Bible translators would like to shift to Linux to stretch their donations further. That is just good stewardship. Linux also has some security advantages. Unfortunately, most of the software unique to Bible translation work now requires Microsoft Windows. A few people (myself included) are working to correct this deficiency, while still supporting the world's most popular operating system. This prayer letter was produced with OpenOffice.org writer, currently the best open source Office suite for Linux. SIL has plans to integrate the ability to handle many writing systems into this software.



Did you know that there is an anointing to write software, just as there is an anointing of the Holy Spirit to teach, preach, or to create artistic designs? (Ex. 31:2-5) God is good!

Prayer Requests

- Rachel's PNG visa to be issued very soon
- Safe travel for Lori and me to retrieve Rachel
- Funds for a debt-free return to the USA
- Wisdom and funding for Nate's college plans
- Safe travel for Lori to Thailand and back
- Effective and productive ministry
- Health, peace, and protection for our family

Thank You!

Michael & Lori Johnson