

The Clark Connection

News from Christopher, Darlene and Nathan Clark August 2005



Wanted:

Plumber: Qualified plumber needed to serve six months or longer, willing to train national employees.

Carpenter: Needed six months or longer to manage projects and train nationals.

Network Administrator: Dec-Jan, experienced administrator to manage Microsoft system while administrator goes on furlough.

Assistant Manager: Experienced manager needed to provide training and support to manager in many of the Departments in Ukarumpa.

Finance: Skilled volunteer to coordinate cost analysis and budget maintenance for departments.

Maintenance: Handyman needed for repair and maintenance in Ukarumpa and around PNG.

Team members: Need willing volunteers to serve on a team coming to support Bible translation

January, Ukarumpa-Teen Center; March, Ukarumpa-Training Center; May in the Pacific (Darwin, AU) June, PNG (Buka)

Translators, Literacy Specialists, Linguists, School Teachers, Aviation engineers/mechanics : ALWAYS IN NEED!

Can you picture yourself or someone you know filling one of these roles? We'd be happy to direct you to the right place so that God can put you or your friend to work in a job that will not be done in vain! Check out our volunteer program at www.wycliffeassociates.com.

Darlene's Ponderings:

As an "unassigned" stay-at-home mom, it's tempting to think that I'm not of much use to the cause of Bible translation. It would seem that preparing food, washing strawberries, hanging clothes on the line, playing with tractors, shopping

at the store, sitting down over a devotional book and some crackers for morning tea with Umunaso and Nathan, taking a walk to see cows, giving some noodles to Kay, toilet training our little boy, reading Richard Scarry books and teaching Sunday School have little to do with grandiose things such as giving an entire people group God's talk in their own language. And yet, God encourages me through His Word in I Corinthians 15:58. In this current season of my life, I believe His greatest work for me is to be transformed into His image so that I can be a Spirit-filled, fruitful mom and wife who occasionally gets a chance to use her spiritual gifts outside of the home for the edification of the greater Body of Christ. Perhaps you're in a similar season of life. Don't be deceived into thinking your "work" is meaningless. Determine instead to see your current assignment through God's eyes and in it be steadfast, immovable and always abounding. Your labor is not in vain.

TOK BILONG GOD:

"Therefore, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
I Corinthians 15:58



Maropa Village: A "walk about" with Kandi



Nathan and Daddy relax in the ocean



Entertaining our friends in Matugar

EVENTS

DATE

Celebrate the opening of a new church in Nick and Kandi's village	July 21
Visit our wasfamilies in Madang	July 23-25
Darlene substitute teaches at H.S.	Aug-Sept.
Ladies Retreat	Oct. 14-16

Your partners in Bible Translation,
Christopher and Darlene Clark

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For a tax-deductible receipt, please make checks payable to Wycliffe. Attach a note indicating "For the ministry of Christopher & Darlene Clark".

Bringing you another chapter of A Day in the Life of a Missionary Pilot. The schedule bore my name as pilot of a series of flights in the Sepik region. I arrived at the airport at 5:45 a.m. for a scheduled 7 a.m. departure. Due to thick ground fog both at our airport and at our first destination we did not leave until close to 8:30 a.m. Neil, Joyce, James (4) and Cameron (1) Coulter were buckled into their seats in our compact Cessna 206, ready to spend several months in the village of Munduku where Neil and Joyce, trained ethnomusicologists, would help the local people write and compose praise and worship songs in their own musical styles and language.

As we took off, light winds slowly shredded the low morning clouds, raking them across the mountain ranges. After an hour of flying we started our descent from our cruising altitude of 10,000' down to the floor of the Sepik valley and our midway refuelling point. One of the boys started to experience ear pain, so we stopped our descent, picking our way through the clouds until his pain subsided. The cool clear air of the highlands was slowly replaced with the hot, heavy, wet air of the Sepik as we continued our descent to find the airstrip and make a landing. I rolled a 55 gallon drum of aviation gasoline about 60 yards from a village house out to the airstrip. By the time the plane was refueled, my clothes, now thoroughly soaked in sweat, were doing their best to cool me off. Just a short 30-minute hop at low level, underneath the clouds, brought us to the Coulter's village.

Praise God For:

1. **A change in Christopher's anti-malaria medications, which has resulted in a stronger feeling of health and wellness along with zero sickness for the past four months.**
2. **A stable renting situation for housing which will likely allow us to live in the same house (with a garden, swing and sand box!) throughout our first term.**
3. **Nathan's increasing awareness of Jesus; His awesomeness and love for him.**
4. **Spiritual growth and revival in many of the villages filling the Aiyura Valley where we live.**
5. **Continued safety as Christopher progresses in his flying check-out throughout PNG.**

A new passenger, the daughter of a national translator seeking to matriculate in a Bible College, joined me on the leg to Wewak and one of SIL's regional centers. Heavy rain between Munduku and Wewak caused us to divert from course. With no working radio aids today, it was a matter of using our compass, keeping track of time and using a map to confirm we were on track. After landing in Wewak, I had to make some difficult decisions about how to continue with the rest of the flights on the day's schedule. I was supposed to pick up the Davies, a couple doing translation work in a very remote mountainous area, from an airstrip at 6,000 feet elevation and bring them back to Ukarumpa. But, uncharacteristically, they had not come up on the radio during the regular morning time slot to report weather conditions at the airstrip. However, an airplane operating in their area had reported very poor weather conditions earlier in the morning. While on the ground in Wewak, I used the phones and radios to try to find another pilot that had recently been in the area and could report current weather at the Davies' airstrip. My attempts were unsuccessful.

I headed back to Munduku, this time with the Brooks family on board, getting a weather report enroute that said things had improved just enough to continue with the



flight schedule beyond Munduku. The Brooks, usually Wewak SIL Center managers, would be spending the next 5 weeks with their three young boys in Munduku, helping to teach a SALT course (Scripture Application & Leadership Training) to the local people who had already received the New Testament in their own language. After safely delivering the Brooks to Munduku, I headed toward the Davies' airstrip, with the option to turn around and spend the night in Munduku if necessary. The weather worsened just 20 miles out of Munduku. Several times I said to myself, "If it gets any worse than this I'm turning back." But each time, the weather improved a little, or remained the same, still flyable and safe, but near the edge of my limits. As I moved into

the higher terrain the rain stopped and the visibility slowly improved. I found the Da-



vies' airstrip within a clear pocket of air, but with plenty of clouds in the vicinity. With a quick turn-around I would have just enough time to get airborne before the clouds enveloped the airstrip again, and also just make it back to Ukarumpa before my 5 p.m. curfew.

John and Maila Davies were very ready to jump in and go, and only delayed long enough to give some eye medicine to one of the village men who had received a mild burn and abrasion around one of his eyes during a tumultuous night in the village. As was reported to me later, the injured man, as well as the Davies, had been up all night trying to prevent a deranged man from using a torch to burn down the Davies' house and other school buildings. When the deranged man got close to a building, John would run at him to scare him away. After a few of these episodes and some intense praying, God sent a heavy rain that put out the man's torch. However, when the Davies tried to use their radio to call for help, the man got extremely agitated. So, they decided not to use their radio, trusting that God would send their plane as scheduled or continue to protect them until one was able to pick them up.

On the last leg of the flight back to Ukarumpa, we encountered more bad weather and until we were just 5 minutes out, I was not sure if we would be spending the night in the SIL Center in Madang or in our own beds! With a special exception to extend my curfew we ended up finding the right holes in the clouds and, feeling relieved, settled down at our home airport at 5:15 p.m. Another day's labor not in vain. Thank you Papa God!

Please Pray For:

1. **Wisdom, humility and love to abound in our lives.**
2. **Darlene as she prepares to lead worship for the Ladies Retreat in October, leads Ladies Bible studies and Sunday School, and does some substitute teaching.**
3. **Beautiful talk from Nathan, who is fluently using this new and powerful tool called speech.**