

The Clark Connection

News from Christopher, Darlene and Nathan Clark April 2005



Unveiled Secrets

In the past few months, the Clark family has experienced numerous revelations! What revelations? The “unveiled secrets” of the Christian life as described in I Corinthians 2:9-10. We’re going to be so bold as to let you in on some of those unveiled secrets as they apply to our work, relationships and family. Hold on to your hats. We’re going on a journey.

TOK BILONG GOD:
“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. But, God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.”
I Corinthians 2:9-10

Within our Branch

With a bit of naivety, unknown expectations and less than one year in Ukarumpa “under our belts” we agreed to join a Branch Conference Focus Group made up of five other Wycliffe members. We met as a group twice a month beginning in October to discuss the topic of spiritual unity,



particularly as it is reflected in our branch, which is made up of over 300 Papua New Guinean employees and over 600 ex-patriot missionaries from 18 different countries (North America, Europe, Australia, Islands, and Asia), all of whom are here to work toward the translation of God’s Word into the hundreds of heart languages of Papua New Guinea. We prayed about how we would present the issue of our need for greater unity to the branch during the April conference. Four presentations, three skits, several discussion questions, and lots of prayer later, we stood in awe of how God helped

us and encouraged our branch. Simultaneously, the employees met with a dynamic Papua New Guinean pastor who challenged them to exhibit greater unity towards one another, in their homes, and with the Lord. God’s Spirit was active among us and we are seeing the results of people living out the Biblical “one another” commands. God knew all along what we needed to hear and present. We’re glad he let us be a part of His now unveiled secret.

Another two of God’s secrets concerning this branch were unveiled at Conference: 1) A growing AIDS virus epidemic in PNG creates a need for our organization to develop a response plan that would model what Jesus would do if He were walking in our shoes. 2) The goal of beginning a translation project in the remaining languages that need it (perhaps as many as 2,700 worldwide, over 300 in PNG) by the year 2025 is unrealistic if we only think in term of “western” missionaries joining the task force. We are looking for ways to engage the Latin American and Asian churches in the task of Bible Translation and for building upon the partnerships we have with national translation associations in each region that we work. May the Church rise to the challenge in the power of the Holy Spirit to turn these unveiled secrets into real good works that He has prepared for us to walk in. (Eph. 2:10)

At the airport

It seems that Christopher’s “pilot” assignment is somewhat illusive. When we returned from our holiday in the States in January, Christopher was dreaming of flying airplanes again after a three month stint of writing training modules. He flew for two weeks and then was re-assigned to flight coordination duties. It was a good lesson in patience and empathy! Now Christopher has a greater appreciation for the behind -the- scenes work involved in book-



ing passengers and cargo to go to the uttermost parts of this country. He also has become better friends with a national employee named Ben. Christopher is back into a flying role now and continues to work part-time writing training documents in preparation for a June government audit. This turn of events reminds us of God’s greatest unveiled secret. He sent His own Son from the glory of Heaven to the earth He had created in order that human beings might have a Savior that can empathize with them. As a familiar chorus states: “Oh, what a mystery, meekness and majesty. Bow down and worship for this is your God!”

In Matukar

It’s been nearly a year since we left Matukar, our “home” for nearly five weeks of village living. We write to our waspapa and wasmama’s family periodically to fill them in on Nathan’s new secrets and our latest praises and prayer needs. A couple of weeks ago we received our first letter back from them! We learned that the Sunday School teachers Darlene helped to train are holding two classes each Sunday. We were so excited to hear about this now unveiled secret! The children in Matukar are such excited worshippers. Praise God that His Word is now being proclaimed to the little ones in Sunday School.

In our Home

When we moved into a different, larger rental home last November, we only had an inkling of what

God's secrets might be concerning our new home. With an extra bedroom and an extra bed in Nathan's room, we knew that God had given us some bounty that could only be meant to be shared. Kay has enjoyed Sunday night sleepovers in "little brother" Nathan's room and our friend Kandi has occasionally spent nights in the spare bedroom with her infant son Zechariah and some of her other children. It is a two-hour walking commute each way for her family to come into the SIL Center to work in various homes, made harder when carrying a baby both directions. We are thankful for the opportunity to minister to this family. Now that the baby is able to stay in the village while Kandi works, we may only "foster" son Junior, who attends grade 3 at a school close to our Center, once a week. Our house is also a favorite Sunday afternoon hang-out for several of the national boys who attend Sunday School here on Center. With an addition of a sand box and a couple of Herbie videos, we're an even more attractive home! We've discovered an additional benefit too. The boys love to pick the never-ending supply of guavas off of two trees in our yard. We're thankful that they enjoy them, because otherwise the fallen, ripe guavas make quite an odiferous mess on the ground! We love God's unveiled secrets, don't you?



Praise God:

1. A beneficial branch conference and several good presentations and opportunities for a number of us to apply our understandings of unity, submission and reconciliation!
2. Over 35 Papua New Guineans are presently taking a course here in Ukarumpa to prepare them to become translators and translator assistants.
3. The Folopa type-setting of the New Testament translation has been completed. The printing and dedication ceremony is set for later this year! The New Testament has been translated into more than 150 languages of PNG.

Please Pray:

1. For safety as Christopher continues his training into more challenging airstrips and routes.
2. For good health, both physically and spiritually for all three of us.
3. For good discernment and balance between "work" and "friendships" as we serve and live here in PNG as His witnesses and children.
4. For eager hearts and tongues to speak of our God in the circumstances and conversations of every-day life.

Our Family's Top Ten Unveiled Secrets

10. Kangaroo meat "ain't" bad!
9. Christopher and Darlene's most enjoyable date in Ukarumpa this past year involved a swing dancing lesson!
8. Nathan's first morning words the day after his second birthday were "More presents, please". He really gets into unveiled secrets!
7. The Clarks enjoy periodic prime-time entertainment in the form of community and school concerts and plays.
6. We can get fresh strawberries anytime we like!
5. Christopher and Nathan can be seen cruising the Center on "daddy's motorbike" on sunny afternoons while mommy fixes dinner.
4. Darlene and running partner Lisa were the 12th and 13th runners to cross the finish line in the co-ed community 5K fun run last month.
3. Christopher makes a bean burrito "i gat kik" (that really kicks!)
2. Darlene is believing God more, thanks to Beth Moore's Bible Study materials and a group of lady friends.
1. Nathan has a favorite double stroller-mate: his girlfriend named Allie. Just don't tell Allie that a very close runner up is stuffed monkey friend named "Walter"!

In Kay's Family

"Mama bilong Nathan, yu tu i bin tanim bel?", Kay asked. His question caused me to nearly jump out of my skin. Kay, the national boy featured in our October letter who has weaved his way into our hearts over the past several months, had just asked me if I had ever repented from my sin and received Jesus into my life. My flesh felt like shouting, "Well of course I have! I'm a missionary, for goodness sake!" Thankfully, God got a hold of my mouth before I spoke those words. During the next ten minutes, we talked about how Jesus changed my life when I was a girl and how He is still teaching me not to be ashamed of Him who became sin for me that I might become the righteousness of God. I shared with Kay what it meant to "tanim bel." (Tok Pisin for "repent"). We storied about the hundreds of people in our valley who have recently "tanim bel" as a result of the ministry of the Holy Spirit through a Papua New Guinean pastor who came to speak to our employees during Conference. And mostly, we rejoiced together over his father and 5 uncles, who had just, in the past few months, been arrested by Jesus. Kay's father Joseph has had a 20-year record of crime, much of which was done under the direct influence of demonic powers. His brothers followed in his footsteps. Missionaries and Papua New Guineans alike have been deeply hurt by the sin of these men. But God, who is rich in mercy, spoke into the hearts of these men and has saved them! Joseph's primary desire now is that his wives, children and extended family will come to know his gracious God. Please join us in praising God for unveiling this humongous secret to our community and in praying for Joseph's entire household to be united in faith.



Your partners in Bible Translation,
Christopher and Darlene Clark

For Personal Contact:

Christopher & Darlene Clark
Box # 65
Ukarumpa EHP 444
Papua New Guinea
E-mail: c-d.clark@sil.org.pg



For Partnership or Information:

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200
www.WYCLIFFE.org

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