

# The Clark Connection

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Daniel's prayer of praise has been a song in our minds these past few months. We are thankful to be the children of the Most High God whose wisdom and power govern changing times and seasons. Where do we start?

In January we asked for prayer as I trained new pilots in various regions of this country. During one training flight in February, fellow-pilot Travis and I had to change our final destination for the day due to bad weather; finding accommodations at a Catholic Mission's guest house with several other national guests. God showed His wisdom and power as He allowed me to talk with one of the other guests about salvation, the Glory of God and how to have a daily, personal relationship with Christ.

## CHANGED FLIGHT PLAN

**TOK TRU**  
Daniel 2:20,21a (NIV)  
"Praise be to the name of God forever, and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons . . ."

## CHANGE IN VISION



In January we also asked you to pray for the upcoming 5-Day Bible School to be held in our yard. From past experience we were expecting 150 kids. However, one week before Bible School was to start we received 350 names of "pre-registered" children. Wait a minute! How were we going to fit 350 children in our back yard, provide food and recreation for them and have enough staff to lead them in "small group" activities? How would Darlene's voice hold out for a week teaching a crowd that size? But, wisdom and power belong to God. He did it and used a mighty team of both fellow missionaries and local valley Sunday School teachers, all thinking "way out of the box," to daily minister to an average of 360 children. Many will remember the week of January 14-18, 2008; how God initiated a change in vision and then empowered an army of children and teachers from several villages with His Word. Imagine what next January's Bible School will look like. We believe God already has his fingerprints all over it.



## JOB CHANGE

Since coming to Papua New Guinea in 2004 our roles have changed several times in order to most effectively support Bible translation. For a pilot who absolutely LOVES to serve God and people by flying airplanes, these changes have very effectively assaulted my selfish and prideful nature and given opportunity for daily battles in my mind that are not always won. God has graciously given me practice though and we have seen growing selflessness, humility and joy in several transitions. In February we were encouraged to consider becoming short-term regional center managers to fill a critical need for our branch. We and our partners prayed about this change, and believing God was calling us to this change, we prepared to go to the East Papua Regional Center in Alotau, a nice town on the eastern tip of the mainland. We looked forward to seeing another part of the country and serving Bible translators in the Oro and Milne Bay Provinces through regular radio contact, buying store goods, making needed pick-ups or deliveries at the local airport and wharf, showing hospitality to translators working at the center and managing the facilities and employees at the center and "guest house." We had begun taking medication to prevent the coastal strand of malaria present in the Alotau area when the plans changed again. You see, our medical staff recommends that women in their first trimester of pregnancy do not live in high-risk malaria regions such as Alotau.

## MORE DIAPER CHANGES

That's right! Praise be to the God who changes times and seasons. Lord willing, a third precious gift will be added to our family in October! While we were surprised by the news, we are delighted and humbled by God's sovereignty over our family's size. The pregnancy has been healthy and Darlene is doing great, just pretty tired and resting more as she should. An ultrasound just this week showed a healthy, developing baby swimming around. At this point we plan to be in Cairns, Australia from September through November for the birth of the baby and the subsequent passport and visa processing. Australia?! You may say, "That's what you call a long-distance hospital visit!" Yes, due to the possibility of tainted blood supplies and the lack of emergency neo-natal medical facilities in PNG hospitals, our medical staff requires that we travel to Australia or our home countries for births.

## LOCATION CHANGE

So, what now? As the first trimester of the pregnancy draws to a close, we are turning our attention again to Alotau and being regional center managers there. The latest plan is to travel down on April 22 and stay through mid-July. We anticipate many changes to our lives there, such as learning another new job, making new relationships while leaving behind special relationships and ministries in Ukarumpa, getting to work together all as a family, adjusting to the hotter climate, living right next to a beautiful ocean, shopping in town at 3-4 grocery stores in order to stock our kitchen and those of the translators, home-schooling Nathan, planning devotionals for the center staff (we hope to work through the Walk-Thru-The-Bible curriculum in Tok Pisin as well as English), ministering to the local children and remembering to speak English instead of Tok Pisin to the majority of the residents in Alotau. (English is the preferred trade language in Milne Bay Province.) We also look forward to working alongside another young family which is on the center managing the boat program for the region.

## CHANGING BOYS



Our boys continue to change before our eyes. Nathan is becoming a brave tree climber, is starting to hone in on letters and words on anything which has writing and is speaking fluent Tok Pisin with his PNG friends. Nehemiah is crawling and walking around furniture, signing some words, (especially those which can get him more food!), and is hearing the word "no" more than ever. The boys continue to love each other, for which we are very thankful. Both boys celebrated their birthdays (5th and 1st) in March. Nehemiah will only be 19-months old when the baby arrives so please pray for his adjustment to being a big brother instead of the youngest child.



Some things have not changed. The AIDS epidemic is still a reality in PNG, but education on the disease is spreading. Kay (12-year old PNG boy and family friend) and his family in Ukarumpa Village and beyond still need our prayers for abundant life in Christ. God's powerful and life-changing written Word continues to be translated in over 200 languages in PNG, with many more languages to go. Lastly, our family and the people of Papua New Guinea greatly appreciate your support and prayers!

## SOME THINGS STATIC

### Praise God:

1. Changing plans that foster spiritual growth
2. Healthy pregnancy
3. Opportunity to serve God and others in Alotau
4. In the year 2007 the Folopa and Ramoovina language groups of PNG received completed New Testament translations in their own mother-tongue!
5. Scriptural confrontations to cultural practices, changed lives, and joyous satisfaction in dealing closely with God's Word — Common experiences for translation teams.

### Please Pray:

1. Joy, flexibility, and good health in Alotau
2. Our boys – Love for God and others and submissive hearts
3. Medical visas will be granted to our family for our time in Australia
4. Continuation of Bible translation work in PNG – Attacks from the enemy, various team or mechanical problems, poor health, and discouragement are common setbacks to translation teams.