

# The Clark Connection

News from Christopher, Darlene and Nathan Clark

March 2006



## Put on the Whole Armor of God!

(PASIM OLGETA KLOS PAIT BILONG GOD!)

In Mid-January our front yard was transformed into a battle ground for five days of Vacation Bible School. Each day, over 90 Papua New Guinean children learned to put on the whole armor of God so that they would be able to stand strong in their battle with their scheming, deceiving enemy, Satan. (See Ephesians 6:10-18). A missionary story about Jim Elliot's life and commitment to Christ's call among the Auca Indians of Ecuador encouraged the children to be active, obedient soldiers for Jesus. Words really cannot express the overwhelming joy we experience as we teach, pray with and love these children - children who are allowing the Spirit of God to transform them and then use them mightily in our valley.



## TOK TRU

(The Belt of Truth)

"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fullness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore. "

**Psalm 16:11 (KJV)**

Darlene began to memorize this verse for her Beth Moore Bible Study Living Beyond Yourself a few days before Nathan invited "Mrs. Joseph" to his birthday dinner. Antonia, wife of Pastor Joseph, is a special Papua New Guinean who daily seeks God's face and consequently proves this verse. After Nathan was tucked into bed on his birthday night, Pastor Joseph and Antonia encouraged us as a couple to seek the face of God and spend more time in prayer. What a timely word from the Lord for us. We want to experience fullness of joy because we've been in God's presence where He makes known the path of life to us.

## The Sword of the Spirit

The Word of God

(BAINAT BILONG HOLI SPIRIT)

On January 27, 2006, the approximately 1500 speakers of Numanggang became equipped with new, powerful, double-edged swords. Our family had the privilege of attending the Numanggang New Testament and Psalms dedication in a beautiful, mountainous village just a 2 hour bus ride and 4-minute helicopter ride away from our home in Ukarumpa. David and Yohana Hynum, translators, along with three Numanggang co-translators, worked for over 25 years to complete these translated mother-tongue Scriptures. Literacy programs have also been established so that the people can read for themselves God's talk in the language that speaks best to their hearts. What an incredible week-end of celebration, dancing, dramas, speeches, worship services, presentations and hospitality. We were dressed up, "bilased", in the traditional way with beads, face paint, head-dress and leaves and then invited to participate in one of the sing-sings (dancing, singing and drama combined) during the dedication celebration. The best part for us was hearing the local speakers reading their new Scriptures in the church services and outside. Before, Numanggang speakers read the Bible in Melanesian Pigin, English or a language native to a neighboring group. Those Scriptures were like a dull bush knife in comparison to the sharp, two-edged sword they now have to combat the deceiving talk and ways of the enemy, Satan.



## Praise God:

1. Both of us wear the **breastplate of Christ's righteousness**—the blood of Jesus saved us from the punishment of our sin!
2. We have seen some improvement in Kay's demeanor recently. He has been more communicative and smiles more. Continue to pray for God to be his joy and peace.
3. Nathan is three years old. His conscience is still alive and his mind is open to talk about spiritual things.
4. God is giving us contentedness as we wait on Him for another child.
5. Christopher's aircraft maintenance experience is being put to good use in the hangar as he helps to alleviate a maintenance personnel shortage.
6. 9000 New Testaments (three different languages) arrived in Ukarumpa last month, ready to be dedicated later this year!
7. Papua New Guineans from many different language groups are currently enrolled in several translation and literacy training courses.



## Gospel of Peace Shoes

(Su bilong Autim Gutnuis)

"Do you have your gospel shoes on?," I, Darlene, asked one of the young girls who was attending the Vacation Bible School. She shook her head "no" in shame. I quickly realized that the figurative language had confused her. She looked at her bare feet (most PNG children don't wear shoes) and concluded that her feet were not shod with gospel shoes. The next day we talked about beautiful feet instead that spread the good news of peace with God (Romans 10:15)! It has since been reported to me that some of the boys who were at the Bible School have been going into town, gathering crowds and preaching the gospel! On their own, these same boys held prayer meetings in their village during their long school holiday.

Some of you have been asking about Kay's father, Joseph, a former well-known criminal in our valley. Since Jesus "arrested his soul" last February 2005, we are told that he has been involved in evangelism "out in the bush" where he lives.

## Shield of Faith

(Hap Plang Bilong Bilip)

Believing God is who He says He is and can do what He says He can do—that's the essence of holding the shield of faith. It's one of our pilots believing that he and his passengers can rest easy in the shadow of Almighty God when lightning struck an engine while they were in flight this past January. It's believing that God will supply all of the needs for our aviation department, including an unexpected \$438,000 new engine to replace an engine that was severely damaged by corrosion. It's believing that God can and does still do miracles, like He did just the other day when He fixed a fiber optic inspection tool that was accidentally broken. It's believing that God can completely heal our fellow-pilot Steve Geis whose left leg and two wrists were badly broken in a motorcycle accident in February. It's believing God will show up in life's mundane activities as well as in the grandiose occasions. May we all, like King Jehoshaphat, believe that God can and will fight our battles in His way and in His time. Check it out in 2 Chronicles 20!

## And Pray in the Spirit . . .

1. We would love for the **Helmet of Salvation** to be worn by: Nathan, Kay's entire family, friend Ben's wife May, and our yard-man "Papa Nick". Pray for God to illumine their hearts to their need for Jesus.
2. We are planning a 7 month furlough in the U.S. from mid-September 2006 through April 2007. Pray that our preparations will go well.
3. We want wisdom to know if we should bid on / buy a house before we come to the U.S. for furlough.
4. In April, 32 local students (including two of Kay's uncles) will graduate from the first class of the Aiyura Valley Bible School for Evangelism. Pray that they would be bold instruments of God in this valley and would also become promoters of Mother-Tongue Scriptures and literacy.

### TENTATIVE FURLOUGH ITINERARY

<b>Southern California</b>	<b>Sept/Oct</b>
<b>Central California</b>	<b>Oct/Nov</b>
<b>New York Area</b>	<b>Dec/Jan</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>Jan/Feb</b>
<b>East Coast &amp; Texas</b>	<b>Mar/April</b>
<b>Return to PNG</b>	<b>Late April</b>



3 Yr. Old Nathan

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