

The Clark Connection

Christopher, Darlene, Nathan, Nehemiah & Baby Clark August 2008



Would you like to take a walk?

Nathan has begun his Monday-Friday walking commute to the Primary School on our Ukarumpa center, where he is now a Kindergarten student. We are so thankful for the committed, skilled teachers at our school, who, like us, are supporters of Bible Translation. Nathan has become a faster walker and runner these days as he has “grown into” his long legs. We’ve begun talking about the school Sports Day coming up at the end of August where Nathan and his classmates will run all kinds of races as part of their physical education class. Thank you for praying for Nathan as he adjusts to school-life!

At 14 ½ months of age, Nehemiah finally decided that walking was for him! With a houseful of friends cheering him on, he giggled his way to 15 or so steps. Once a lean little guy, he’s become a solid, “munchy” toddler who does a great parade-type wave to the masses, cock-a-doodle-doos like a “pro”, and can spend long periods of time in the sand box. Thank you for your prayers for Nehemiah (currently 17-months old)!

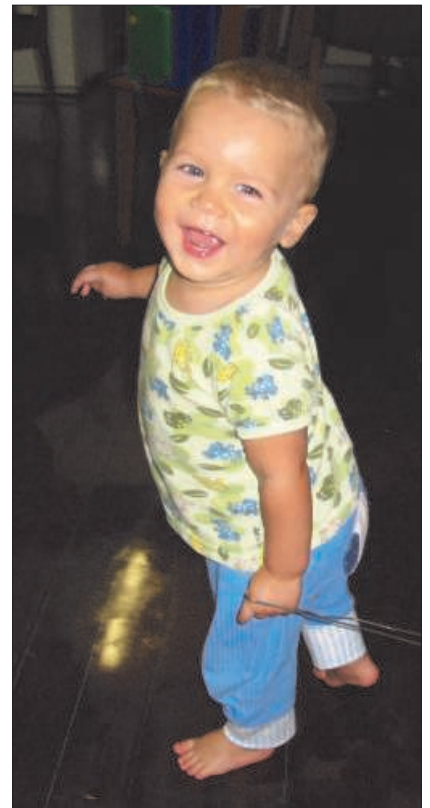
And lest we forget the youngest member of our family, the baby growing in Darlene’s womb is doing his or her share of walking, kicking and leaping too. How pleasant it is to feel a new life being fearfully and wonderfully made inside of the womb! Our prayer is that all three of the Clark wonder-children will walk IN the Truth and WITH the Truth (Jesus), for there is no greater joy for parents than to witness this. Please let us know how we can pray for the wonder-children in your lives.

So, what sort of walking are we doing now? On the 16th of July we said “good-bye” to our new friends in Alotau and returned to our home-base in Ukarumpa. Until we leave for Cairns, Australia on September 11 to await the birth of our baby, Christopher is working at Aviation in the Ground Operations department as a flight coordinator. He sure does miss being in the cock-pit of an airplane, so keep praying for his attitude to be full of joy and contentment! Darlene is teaching the Walk-thru-the-Bible to a weekly PNG ladies Bible Study group and to the combined Tok Pisin Sunday School classes. The Sunday School children will do a lot of walking and playing through the Old Testament at a week-end camp August 22-23. These two groups are our “guinea pigs” for the Tok Pisin version of the walk-thru. Christopher plans to teach the material to his co-workers at work after our return from the baby delivery. Darlene is also facilitating an ex-patriot Bible study, whose women participants are figuratively walking up the Biblical Temple steps singing the Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 121-134), a study written by Beth Moore.

TOK TRU

3rd John 4

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”





Our three-month stay in Alotau serving as an assistant center-manager has come and gone. While in the small city of Alotau we enjoyed walking on the beaches and jogging on the clean, safe roads. Darlene and the boys could walk the 1.5 kilometers to the stores and market without even getting their feet muddy, a rare feat during rainy season in Ukarumpa! We also enjoyed walking alongside the translation teams as we assisted them with purchases, travel, regular communication via radio and chatting and praying with them. But probably most memorable is the figurative walking that four different groups of Papua New Guinean friends made through the Old Testament during May and June. We both were privileged to teach the “Clark rendition” of the Walk-Thru-the-Bible (adapted from materials by Bruce Wilkinson and Ralph T. Braun) to the center employees, the youth and adults at Bemari Baptist Church and the participants of a one-month long, multi-language group translation and literacy course called “VITAL,” which is held locally three times per year. From Creation to God’s calling of the “SALT of the earth” (Sarah, Abraham, Lot, Terah), from Canaan to Egypt, from Mt. Sinai and the Law of Moses to Jericho’s tumbling walls, from the cycle of the Judges to the split of the nation of Israel, from the time of the kings and prophets to captivity in Babylon and from Judah’s return under Persia to the time when the fullness of time had come when God sent his Son as a baby to redeem and adopt us, the participants walked, laughed, talked and did motions sometimes deemed down-right silly to help them outline and remember the major themes, people, events and four eternal covenants of the Old Testament. We don’t know who received more joy, us or the participants, but it is exciting to hear that many of the participants plan to “walk-thru” the Old Testament with their villages and home groups in the near future. Praise God for a Bible worth studying, teaching and believing – in our own language! By the way, it is exciting to report that the VITAL course participants also took home the Gospel of Mark with a corresponding Bible study book in each of their languages after many long hours of work and God’s guidance during the past several courses. Pray for them as they share the results of their labors with their own people. May God’s Word speak into and change lives in Milne Bay, PNG.



Praise God:

1. A fruitful and encouraging time in Alotau
2. Opportunities to teach God’s Word and equip the people of God
3. New friends
4. Continued healthy pregnancy
5. Continued focus on God and corresponding good attitudes amidst change and discouragement.
6. Very faithful prayer and financial partners!

Please Pray:

1. S.S. Camp August 22-23 – Pray for ready hearts and minds to learn, an adequate number of teachers and helpers, good weather and cooperative children.
2. Continued healthy pregnancy and delivery of Baby Clark (gender to be discovered at delivery)
3. For the granting of medical visas from the Australian government so we can proceed with the plan to deliver the baby in Australia.
4. Wisdom and grace as we help each other through the current life changes for each of us.