

The Clark Connection

Christopher, Darlene, Nathan & Nehemiah Clark

January, 2008



Happy New Year everyone!

We Clarks have just finished a restful week of celebrating the birth of Jesus here in Ukarumpa,

Papua New Guinea and are gearing up for the new year. During our Christmas ponderings, we were drawn to both John Chapter One and the prophecies of both Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, and elderly Simeon. These passages all speak of the greater reality of who this child Jesus was and is. Each passage speaks of a Savior – a great light to shine on those living in darkness both in the Jewish world and in the uttermost Gentile World (that’s us, wherever you are!). The well-known Christmas song “What Child is This?” sums up the Savior’s heart’s cry well: “Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.” May you be blessed as you answer his plea, and may you enjoy our own Clark Connection rendition of “What Child is This?”



This child, now almost 5 years old, is a tall young man. He loves to hear and tell stories, put on dramatic performances (sometimes unintentionally), build wonders in the sand box, play with friends, work in the yard, create projects for himself, and make his baby brother laugh. He can also quickly learn and often rightly apply Bible verses. He is looking forward to pre-school starting again in February. He misses his grandparents and is hoping God will tell them to come see him in PNG. This is our son Nathan.



This child, now 9 ½ months old, is a lean, jolly good fellow. He has a wonderful smile and a keen sense of humor. He would give you a hello wave if you came by to see him and worships Jesus with the rest of us by raising his hands. He can really put the food away and is starting to put on some healthy weight while at the same time learning how to get around using the “army crawl.” This is our son Nehemiah.

This child, about 12 years old, comes to Tok Pisin Sunday School regularly. She and her friends have been invited to attend a 5-Day Vacation Bible School this month in our back yard. Would you pray with us that she and the many other children who will attend will be blessed and challenged by the Word of God? She will be learning how to develop right attitudes that will give glory to God. This is Melisha (May-Lee-Sha)



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This child, now 12 ½ years old, is a quiet, athletic, good student who is caring toward small children.

He comes from a large family of 10 children, five of whom attend Sunday School regularly here on our Center. While we don't see him as often as we used to, he and his family hold a place in our hearts. We ask you to keep praying with us that each member of his family would become a faithful follower of Jesus. This is Kay.



This child, infinity old and full of resplendent glory, is the Word of God, the Creator, the True Light who gives light to every man, the Life, the Truth, and Full of Grace. He was made flesh over 2000 years ago in order that he might show us what God is like. His own people did not recognize nor receive Him, yet to all who do receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God! This is Jesus.



This child, about 5 years old, is an orphan who speaks the Usarufa language.

This photo was taken by friends who took him a Christmas present this past month. There are orphans amongst the Usarufa people of PNG because for many years, revenge fighting was a way of life for Usarufa men. Death was the ever-present reality for their families. This past year, Sivini, one of the chief Usarufa fighting men, attended a Translator Training Course in Ukarumpa "by accident." God had ordained that he would take the place of others who couldn't attend so that translating God's Word in his own language would be the seed of conversion for Sivini.

This once great warrior is now a man of peace bringing the Word of Life to the Usarufa people. Sivini's story will be shared by a puppet at the up-and-coming Tok Pisin 5-Day Club this month.

This child, about 40 years old, is one of the four smallest aircraft of the SIL-PNG fleet. But being the small "child" means that it is the work horse of the aviation ministry here in Papua New Guinea. Christopher loves flying this plane because with it he can get into small, remote airstrips in any part of the country, as well as go to longer, paved runways like one would find in Port Moresby, the capital city. Currently, this plane is carrying all of the fixed wing aviation load because our two twin-engine planes are grounded with engine problems. In recent months, Christopher is doing less flying and more training in this plane and covets your prayers as he helps to train men named Jamie and Lyle to be regular line pilots on the aviation team. This is the Cessna 206.



This clown child, stuck at 7 years old or so, is Darlene's alter-ego.

She has had many opportunities this past year to "exercise her clowning muscles" and especially enjoys clowning with Midget and Nate the Clown. In her childish way, she has found great joy in spreading the love of God to both children and adults here in Ukarumpa. This is Sparky.

Please Pray:

1. That the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts would be pleasing in God's sight.
2. That many will come to know God as we help conduct a 5-day Bible Club this January 14-18, 2008.
3. That plenty of gifted teachers and helpers would help conduct the 5-day club.
4. That some of the 5-day club teachers would take an interest in the full-time teaching positions opening for the Tok Pisin Sunday School.
5. Funds for a replacement engine and quick service to return both our twin-engine aircraft to service.
6. That we will develop deep friendships with others around us.

SPECIAL REQUEST:

Many of you receive a hard-copy of The Clark Connection through snail-mail. If you would prefer to receive it by e-mail, (more cost effective & timely!), please respond to us at c-d.clark@sil.org.pg Thank you.