



2011

Changes ~ Challenges ~ Answered Prayer ~ Blessings

Changes

The most significant change for our family in 2011 was the birth of our 3rd son **Caleb** who was born on January 11!! He is such a blessing and we thank the Lord for giving him to our family.

After about 6 months back in the U.S., we once again said goodbye to family and friends and headed back to PNG. More changes – weather, time zone, language, availability of food at the grocery store... How thankful we are that the Lord is our Rock – constant and faithful no matter the changes that we experience!

Challenges

Living in a 3rd world country always has its challenges (with no roads that connect most major towns and no McDonalds, some people call PNG a 5th world country). And sometimes the heat and humidity can really take a toll on us.

But another challenge is the fact that the need for laborers here is great! There is more work to do than there are people to do it. So, consequently, each missionary here is carrying the load of several people. We are actively pursuing getting to work in a tribe, but at the same time, until that happens, we are filling vital roles here on our NTM center that allows the tribal missionaries to continue to minister in remote areas. Waiting is not easy, but we know that the Lord is using us right where we are now.

Answered Prayer

For the past year, we had been praying much about the possibility of joining a particular tribal team in the Madang region. If you have been following our email updates, you know that the Lord said “no” to that opportunity. While it was disappointing not to be getting into a tribal work as quickly, at the same time we were encouraged because the Lord had so clearly answered prayer. We continue to pray for the Lord to open the door for us to get to work with a good team of missionaries in a tribal group. (See the next page for the latest news regarding possible teammates)

Did you know?

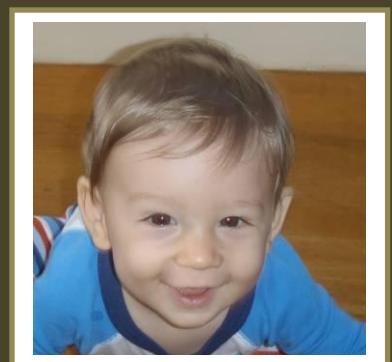
The word “long” in Melanesian Pidgin (the trade language here in PNG) is very versatile. Among other things, it can mean – *in, on, at, to, from, with, by, about, because, for, and during*. The word “longlong” means crazy. Because “long” is often used many times in just one sentence, some people joke that Pidgin is a “longlong” language!

Blessings

- A special blessing since we've back has been the opportunity to visit Agnes, a young woman in prison. We have been taking her Bible lessons in her tribal language to read and study and then we talk about the lessons in Pidgin. It seems that she has truly trusted in Christ as her Savior as a result!! To read more details, please go to our blog – www.ntm.org/bart_allen (specifically the articles titled “Off to Prison” and “Agnes”)
- In the past few months (and most recently just last week) the Lord has continued to add new churches and individuals to our financial support team. Several have also increased our monthly support. Thank you to all of you who sacrifice so that we can serve here!!
- Possible teammates: The Lord has brought two couples our way with whom we are considering forming a tribal church planting team. You may remember hearing in recent updates that we were hoping to travel to another part of PNG to meet with them. We made that trip and, as a result, all three families were excited about continuing the process of forming a team. Now the Hatton and Parry families are traveling to Madang next week (Jan. 10-19) so we can talk more. We'll share more information as we are able.
- Our boys: They love living here - they love to play together, build things and be creative - they are doing well in school (notice, though, I didn't say they love school 😊) – they are steadily using more Pidgin. It is so neat to watch them grow, change and mature.

Prayer Requests

1. For our upcoming meetings with the Hatton and Parry families – Jan. 10-19. Please pray for wisdom and clarity for each family as we determine if we should form a team. This is a big decision and we want to be sure we are following the Lord's wisdom and not our own.
2. For more followers of Christ to be willing to come serve the Lord in PNG. While there are needs in many areas, one critical need right now is for pilots and mechanics. With several hundred tribal groups still unreached with the Gospel and many of them located in remote areas accessible only by helicopter or airplane, the flight program here is vital!



Thanks for your part on our team through your prayers and gifts!

Love from all the Allens,
Bart, Emily, Luke, Titus & Caleb