



the Russell Family

Among the Wipi Tribe in Papua New Guinea

May 2010

Dear Friends and Family,

FURLOUGH TRAVELS

And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. Acts 14:27

We are done! We have visited 74 churches in the last 10 months and added several new ones to our family of *partners in ministry*. We have traveled from California as far as to Connecticut and from Florida to Washington State. Thank you to all who have allowed us to report of how God has opened the door of faith unto the Papua New Guineans and for your generosity either in an offering expressing your love toward us and/or towards our people through the P.N.G. Project Fund.

READY TO RETURN

*And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, **LET US GO AGAIN** and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. Acts 15:36*

We are due to leave for Papua New Guinea on Tuesday evening June 1st. Having said that, we are still waiting for 4 visas to be approved—Please pray!

Plan "A" is that the visas will arrive in time for all of us to travel together. However, because we already have our tickets which cannot be changed to a later date, plan "B" is that I will go with our two youngest children first. As the saying goes (in regard to the tickets), "you either use them or lose them."

VISITING THE MISSION FIELD?

Many have spoken of an interest in visiting us over in P.N.G. You are most welcome to come, but I need to know your time frame that I might be prepared to receive you. Please contact me through our email address and express your desire to come and a rough estimate of when (*summer, winter, etc of which year*) you are planning your trip. When travelling to a third world nation, logistics is often the most daunting task, therefore long-range planning is paramount! Write to me, and I will give you advice on what you will need to do prior to your visit in Papua New Guinea.

Thank you for your continued interest and investment for souls in P.N.G.



Jason and Ana Russell

In the Swamps and Savannahs with the Gospel
jrussell.wipim@yahoo.com (619) 922-5497

Support Address—Lighthouse Missions Ministry 1345 Skyline Dr. Lemon Grove, CA 91945
A Ministry of **Lighthouse Baptist Church**—Pastor Doug Fisher

www.lighthousebaptist.com (619) 461-5561 x 125

END OF FURLOUGH REPORT

FROM THE FAMILY'S SIDE OF THINGS

May 11, 2010

Dear Partners in Ministry,

This year of deputation is quickly coming to an end. It has gone so quickly, yet, oh so slowly! The Russell family is scheduled to return to Papua New Guinea on June 1st. We praise the Lord for His abundant mercy, love, and blessings. Here is a quick run-down of our time spent in the U.S.A.

June 4, 2009

The children and I were able to return to the States a month before my husband's return to America. We spent time with my parents in San Diego and at our home church. It was quite an interesting time of acclimation. We had two toddlers who were scared of all the new people and nursery classes. The rest of us had to get used to speaking American English again and to the "freezing" sixty degree weather! San Diego is known for the "June gloom" which means overcast skies and cool weather. Here we came with our tropical summer clothing and slippers (flip flops for you Yankees). To top it all off, we all got the worst flu we'd encountered in four years. Welcome home!

July 2009

My husband returned to the States after finishing up the Bible school classes he was teaching in P.N.G. Soon after his arrival, he and I with our two youngest children were able to fly to Florida to be with his mother for her open heart surgery. We praise the Lord that the surgery was a success and that she is doing well. At that time, we were also able to visit with his younger brother and sister, an aunt and his maternal grandmother as well as cousins and a never-before-seen nephew. It was good to see them all again.

August 2009

After our return to San Diego, Jason got busy booking meetings and getting prepared to go on the road. With the help and creativity of a very gifted young man in our home church, Jason was able to get a video presentation of the work in P.N.G. completed. The Russell family "hit the road" and began reporting to our supporting churches on the west coast. We travelled from California to Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Nevada. Our busiest time consisted of being at seven different churches in one week. We saw many friends and made new ones. We made memories that will last us through the next several years of our third term

in New Guinea. To those of you who opened your homes to us, gave us gifts, or invited us to share a meal with you, we want to once again say, "Thank you." As we travelled those thousands of miles, we endeavored to send a thank you card to everyone to whom one was due. If we inadvertently overlooked anyone, please accept our apologies now and know that we are grateful to you. The Lord sees all and will surely put it on your account!

November 2009

We returned to California at the beginning of the month of November, rejoicing that we had travelled all those miles safely. We settled into a house that was graciously offered to us by a family at our home church. Their offer was a genuine answer to prayer. We needed to settle the kids in one place where they could concentrate on school work as well as send some roots down for a while. Everything we needed to make a home was provided as well as an ample yard for learning to play football and baseball. There were also horses in the pasture next door which fulfilled the children's dreams of seeing and petting a real horse.

Not only did we settle into school work, but also into the ministry of Lighthouse Baptist Church. It has been good for the children to be part of a large church in which they can participate on their levels. When we first arrived into the States, our two toddlers hated to go to their classes; it was all so new and scary. The teachers in the beginner department were patient with them and eventually won their hearts. Now their question is, "Are we going to class today?" They love church, their teachers, the songs, the activities, and especially the Bible stories. Libby has been part of the youth department and has been able to go teen soulwinning as well as sing in the youth choir. This has been a good step for her in coming out of her shell as well as learning useful tools to take back to the ministry in New Guinea. Titus has been in the juniors department where he has been able to participate in some choir singing as well. He's also been able to take a few guitar lessons which we hope will be of use to him later. Ruth has thoroughly enjoyed everything about America, except the hurry that everyone seems to be in. If she could stay back, she would. Please pray with us that she might settle back into P.N.G. without too much heartache. It will be very hard for her to leave family and comforts of America behind. I am sure there are those who could sympathize with her and pray for her all the more.

November – February 13

Jason was able to take Titus with him to Texas on a two week trip. There, they were able to visit Jason's father and paternal grandparents as well as some other relatives. Titus was able to fish to his heart's content and finally enjoy a fish fry with his grandpa. As is true to Jason's nature, he scheduled business with

pleasure by visiting several churches in Texas and Arkansas before returning to California. During these months, Jason and I mainly travelled alone or with one or two of the children to meetings in the Southern California region. For the sake of continuity, we left the children with family so that they could be in their classes at Lighthouse. After the annual leadership conference at our home church in February, Jason headed east alone. He was given use of a vehicle by a generous friend and was packed and ready to go. It was a tearful goodbye and off he went to report to the churches out east with stops along the way. During his absence, the family did what we could to stay involved with our home church and be a part of the ministries. Sometimes I felt like a military wife, raising the kids alone while the husband was doing his call of duty. I just thank the Lord that it wasn't six to twelve months as many of the soldiers have had to perform in recent years.

February – April

As my husband visited many of your churches, we prayed for his safety through the storms and cold of the East. We prayed that God would be glorified as Jason presented the work in Wipim which He has performed. We labored on in school and church activities. Then the day for Jason's return finally came. There he finally was, hugging everyone and looking quite "healthy" from all the generous hospitality shown to him across the country. He and I were able to have a three day vacation away from home and children. Since then, we have been packing boxes and preparing for our return to Papua New Guinea. Our container will leave San Diego on May 17th. We have tickets to depart on June 1st, but have yet to receive our return visas inside our passports for myself and the three older children. We are making this a matter of prayer and understand that if God sees fit to keep us longer, then it is for a purpose of his choosing. We seek His hand of guidance in this matter and wait on His working.

I want to once again express our love and gratitude to all of you who have shown your love to us and for the Lord's work in Papua New Guinea. Thank you to those we have personally seen and been partakers of your hospitality. May the Lord richly bless you! To those who we did not see on this furlough, thank you for your faithfulness the Lord and to the Russell family. I am personally grateful to those of you who took such good care of my husband as he travelled to your churches and was received so kindly by you. Lord willing, we will see you next time and rejoice in what God is doing in your churches and in Papua New Guinea!

With Christian love,

Ana, Libby, Titus, Ruth, Joy, and David Russell to Papua New Guinea