



MICHEALS' PNG MEMOIRS

June 2009 PNG TRIP UPDATE Papua New Guinea Trip

We will be leaving for Papua New Guinea (PNG) on June 18, 2009. We will be returning to Ukarumpa where we worked with Wycliffe for 15 years. We are leading a group of 10 young people who are exploring if Bible translation work is for them. This trip is part of our recruitment work with Wycliffe.

Six of the participants of our GET Global trip will travel to the island of New Britain with other trip leaders once we arrive in Port Moresby. We will travel with the other four by small mission aircraft (shown below) into the interior to Ukarumpa. The New Britain trip will show students a village Bible translation project. Our trip will show students Wycliffe support work and Bible translation workshops going on at Ukarumpa.

We will be on our trip for three weeks and will return, the Lord willing, July 12, 2009. We will spend one week first in California going through our recruitment TOTAL Vision (Taste of Translation and Linguistics) course. This course introduces the trip participants to phonetics, phonology, language learning, grammar and Bible translation principles along with a variety of other subjects related to translation work. This will serve them well when they arrive in PNG by giving them language skills and an understanding of Bible translation work before they arrive.



Chuck & Barb with a Wycliffe pilot and Wycliffe's new Kodiak airplane on its way to PNG later this summer

To help reach the remaining 300+ languages in Papua New Guinea still needing Bible translation work, it is extremely urgent that we increase our recruitment work. These GET global trips are one way we promote our work with young people that have proven to be successful. In the past two years we have had at least five previous GET Global trip participants decide to attend college and begin study of Applied Linguistics and Bible translation principles. Several others are taking other steps toward greater involvement.



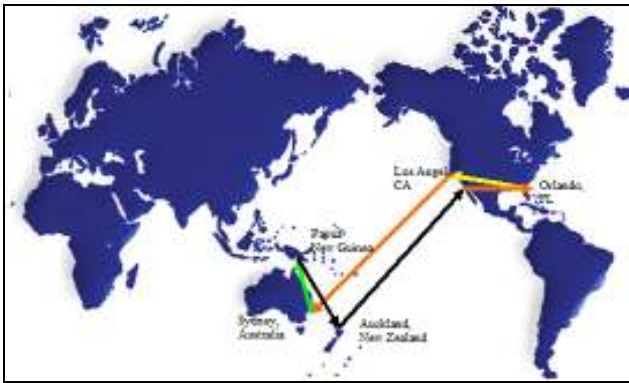
Papua New Guinea

We value your **prayers** as we travel back to PNG. As you know, flying is not Barb's favorite thing, so we ask that you **pray** for safety in travel (air and land) and for smooth flights. We also value your prayer for health. With the Swine Flu and the other regular health issues of malaria and hepatitis we previously faced during our years in PNG, we ask that you **pray** for us and our participants in this regard.

It has been nine years since we were last in PNG. Our hearts are still very attached to the people and country. However, nine years also means we have not spoken the Tok Pisin language for that long. **Pray** we will have good retention of the language. **Pray** too for good contacts with the Papua New Guineans we worked with.

Pray that the 10 participants will catch a real heart for Bible translation work as a result of the trip. **Pray** that each person will find a way that they can join us in our work. As you know, I ran a supply store for Wycliffe and Barb worked in the library at Ukarumpa after our kids got older.

The need for workers in PNG is very large. Currently there are 233 open missionary positions in PNG (and that does not cover nearly all of the translation needs). Right now we need 91 Bible translation staff, 21 construction workers, 48 teachers, 8 aviation staff, 5 finance workers, 17 IT computer personnel, 9 medical workers, 2 counselors and 32 managers (including a store manager). **We are recruiting for all of these!!!**



Our Travels To PNG and Back – June 18 – July 12

GET Global is offered each year for high school and college students. The trips are three weeks long. This allows students to get back to their home churches and also earn money for the summer to help pay for college.

The issue of debt and the connection of students to their home churches is critical. Recent studies show that between 60% to 80% of college students who begin college with a church background, drop out of church after they graduate. Also, the average college student graduates college with \$ 19,000 in school loans. On top of that, the average American holds \$ 6,000 in credit card debt.

All of these issues hold students back for service in missions. Much of what we challenge students with is a call to make church important and find ways to lower college costs. Since Wycliffe is a service organization to the local church and not a missionary sending agency (the local church has that privilege), it is important that people stay connected to their local congregations.

Without that connection, people seeking service with Wycliffe will find themselves without a firm prayer team, a team of financial supporters and a lack of spiritual accountability. Please pray for these GET Global participants that they would truly find their hope in Christ, in His Word and desire to serve Christ and His Kingdom in and through mission work.

On a side note, another alarming trend we see in some churches is a moving away from the inerrancy of Scripture. That fact, combined with Biblical literacy falling at 1% a year in the USA, is making our work a challenge. Pray that people who come in contact with churches that are teaching inherency (the Bible contains the words of God) would have wisdom to find churches that believe in **inerrancy** (the Bible is the Word of God), or as Francis Schaffer called it, "True Truth". We recruit people who hold to an **inerrancy** doctrinal position.



Barb at a tulip farm in Portland, OR during our free time at our NW Recruitment Meetings



Barb with several of our Wycliffe NW recruiters

We want to again thank each of you who have stood with us in prayer and finances. If you would like to help us with our costs associated with our PNG trip, please contact us as noted below.

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