

Nicholas News

Spring 2009

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God's Call Upon Our Lives

Praise the Lord!

- We heard from the SIL Director of Language Affairs in Papua New Guinea giving us permission to pursue language and literacy work in New Ireland Province.
- We rejoice to see that our budgeted needs for travel and the first months in Papua New Guinea is adequate.
- We were able to visit with most of our immediate family.
- We have spiritual and physical vitality in the midst of very busy schedules.
- Our financial support is at about 100%. Thanks for your faithfulness.
- Gertrude's mother continues to regain strength .
- We had a great time reconnecting with family, friends and/or supporting churches in Texas, Missouri, New York, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi.

Sometimes, it's hard for family and friends, especially family, to understand why we are returning to Papua New Guinea. Kevin and I spent the week-end after Christmas with my mom and Jean, my oldest sister who was visiting from Colorado. On Sunday morning, Jean wasn't feeling well and so Kevin and I went to church with Mama. Once again, it was a special feeling to enter the old Baptist church sanctuary where I first begin to know the Lord. Just before altar prayer my mom mentioned to the Pastor of our plans to return to Papua New Guinea. It great to know that she is releasing us to go even though she will miss us. As the Lord would have it Pastor Rockmore chose a sermon topic about God's calling. He focused on Mary and Joseph's calling in this Matthew 1:18-25 to be the earthly parents of Jesus. Joseph was engaged to Mary but when Joseph found she was expecting a child, he naturally rejected the idea of marrying her. In fact he wanted to dissolve the relationship. He being a righteous man had the right to refuse to go through with the marriage. Perhaps he was concerned about what other Jewish people would say about him and Mary. An earlier event occurs with Abraham when God called him to sacrifice Isaac, the son God



Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas

promised him. Because both men had a personal relationship with God they recognized God's call upon their lives to do what was humanly impossible. If they had asked public opinion about what they should do, it's almost certain that people would have advised Abraham against sacrificing his son and the general populace would surely have advised Joseph not to marry Mary. But they each personally recognized God's word to them and in faith, they sought to obey His call upon their lives. So it is with Kevin and I—in faith, we are seeking to obey God's call upon our lives.

—Gertrude

Many Thanks!

The last few months have been an exciting time of travel. Since the end of August we have traveled to Kansas City, MO; Portsmouth, VA; Houston, Austin, & San Antonio, TX; Baton Rouge, LA visiting friends and partners in ministry. On one trip we attended two missions conferences in Albany, Schenectady, & Troy, NY. We visited friends and relatives in Washington, DC; & Columbia, MD. On another trip we drove to Jackson, MS and Bolivar, TN. We enjoyed listening to each other read Scripture as we travelled. Leaving TN, we drove through Corinth MS headed for Birmingham, & Montgomery, AL. It was fun to tune into a Christian Radio broadcast reading 1 and 2 Corinthians as we entered Corinth! It was so good to connect with friends who we had not seen in a number of

years. Often our time in different places was just too short, which made the time we had in each place even more precious. We are so grateful for our supporters faithfulness, because of that we are at 100% of our monthly support. We are encouraged and confident in the Lord to provide for us each step of the way.

We were busy preparing for our departure when I revisited Dallas Seminary to take care of a few things on campus. I was filled with mixed emotions as I said goodbye to faculty and staff. The Seminary has been such a central part of our lives for the last three years. Now Gertrude and I are starting a new chapter with new challenges. We eagerly look forward to serving overseas together. Please pray with us for the Lord's help and wisdom in this time of transition.

—Kevin

Count Down to Papua New Guinea

In July 2008, we received an official invitation to return to Papua New Guinea via an email from the SIL Director of Personnel in Papua New Guinea. I'd forgotten how tedious the process was for visa application. It involves a three-way communication between the applicant (us), the sponsoring organization (SIL) and the PNG government. We needed to get everything submitted before December because the PNG government offices are often short-staffed during Christmas holidays (December/January). Kevin was heavily involved in linguistic studies so I started immediately to prepare the required information. Unlike our first applications to the field, nothing was sent to Papua New Guinea by snail mail. Things like health questionnaires, resumes and transcripts with full work and educational

experiences, and even copies of our previous visas to Papua New Guinea could be scanned and sent by email. Nevertheless, even with e-mail we seem to run into one kink after the other. By September the first clerk handling our visas changed jobs and a second clerk assumed her role. Most e-mails went through just fine but then one or two must have gotten lost in cyber space. We missed the earlier e-mail that advised us of a problem. Here we were thinking we had sent everything. In October we received a message advising that the work permits were approved, and the next thing was to get sponsorship letters approved from the PNG government. To our surprise just before Thanksgiving we got an e-mail urgently requesting a long awaited copy of Kevin's old visa to PNG. What? I thought they had copies of both our last visas with departure

dates from PNG. We sent the required information and in the meantime the clerk handling our file went on Christmas vacation and so did we! By January 7th we called the SIL Visa Coordinator (in the USA) to get a status report. Kevin's visa had been approved by the PNG Embassy and mine had not! Go figure. We are reminded that ours is a work of faith—even when it comes to receiving our visas. God is able to grant us favor and we trust that we both will have our new visas when we need them. At the writing of this letter we are days from our departure date and I do not have an approved visa, yet.

If you're reading this letter, it's a good chance that we have received our visas and are on our way to PNG. Praise the Lord. He is in control—not us.

—Gertrude



Please respond to us by email, if possible, so that we may send our letters to you by email.

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*For financial gifts, please specify in writing your interest in the ministry of:
Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas*

*Write checks and send funds to:
Wycliffe Bible Translators
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Prayer Points

Prosperity and blessing on our partners in Bible Translation. That's our prayer for you!

Don and Sharon Hutchisson and their team as they complete typesetting of the Sursurunga New Testament, and funds needed to publish the Sursurunga New Testament .

Fruitfulness in ministry resulting in an increase in African Americans going to the mission field. We are praying for 24 career members per year and 12 more African American recruiters.

Continued support and prayers of our financial partners as we seek to involve others in Bible translation.

Salvation of unsaved relatives and re-dedication of those who have walked away from the Lord.

Wisdom, health and strength of our parents and siblings with chronic illness; and also my nephew, Denard who suffers from diabetes.

Full recovery for Gertrude's sister Flora—health of kidneys and other vital organs as a result of taking anti-rejection meds after a liver transplant.

For Gertrude as she continues to retool for ministry..

Partners in ministry for new Wycliffe missionaries—for prayer and finances.

Successful completion of the Pacific Orientation Course (POC) January 27 – April 5, 2009

Physical and Spiritual vitality during POC.

...in His service,

Kevin and Gertrude

Be sure to visit our website: www.KevinNicholas.Net