



Ford Family in PNG

March – April 2010
Volume 5 Issue 2

PNG Fords, PO Box 912, Alotau, Papua New Guinea
www.pngfords.com pngfords@gmail.com

Church Camp and Baptism Blessings

By Craig

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Church Camp and Baptism Blessings
- 2 Miscellaneous Updates
- 3 Family Perspective
- 3 Celebrating 4 Years in PNG: An Interview with Craig
- 4 Devotional and Pictures

*If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our
sins and purify us from
all unrighteousness. (1
John 1:9 NIV)*



The church gathers by the ocean for Kylie's baptism

Organizing events where Christians from all around Alotau and outside Alotau can come together is rare. Typically when we have such events, the missionaries spend a few hours driving around and picking up Christians from in and around town. But, once a year we make an effort to get the Christians from all the churches around together for a church camp.

This year we focused on the theme of the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

One of the exciting aspects of the camp is the opportunity for a lot of different men from the churches to share some words of encouragement. At this retreat, we had about 10 different men who were involved in the teaching and preaching.

Baptism Blessings

Over the last couple of months, we welcomed several new people into God's family. For me, the most exciting part is seeing that different individuals from in and around our town have been active in the evangelism process.

- At the Gama church, Wesley reached out to a member in his community.
- At the Lautevateva church, Robert studied with one of the ladies in the village.
- Here in town Helen encouraged her sister Elizabeth to start studying the Bible.

God is continually working. He is faithful and just.



*You hem me in—behind
and before; you have
laid your hand upon
me. Such knowledge is
too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to
attain. Where can I go
from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from
your presence? If I go
up to the heavens, you
are there; if I make my
bed in the depths, you
are there. If I rise on
the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far
side of the sea, even
there your hand will
guide me, your right
hand will hold me fast.
(Psalm 139:5-10 NIV)*

Miscellaneous Updates

By Craig

Craig Trip to Canada and USA

May 20th - May 30th Craig will be taking a trip to Beamsville, Ontario and Houston, Texas. Due to some changes in the requirements for Craig's permanent residency status in the States, he is required to return to US soil at least once every year.

Men's Leadership Training Days

We continue to host a bimonthly men's leadership training class. Our most recent class dealt with the elementary Bible teachings. During this session, we doubled back to be sure everyone had a solid biblical foundation for church leadership.

Ongoing Bible Studies

Over the last few months, there have been a lot of positive things happening. It is an easy time to be reminded of God's presence with us. Here are my current studies:

Monday morning I have a study with a lady name Elizabeth. In fact, just last week she was baptized. Her sister is a member of the church and she encouraged Elizabeth to consider studying about God.

After my study with Elizabeth, I stay in the neighborhood and have a study with a lady named Doris. Doris is going through a difficult personal time and she is looking to God to be an anchor during this time.

Tuesday morning I study with the parents of a young man from church. It has been a long study journey with them, but perhaps God will open their hearts to the message they need to hear.

Wednesday evening I do an at home Bible study for a group of ladies from the church. They all live in the same area so we sit down to study together on Wednesday.

Thursday afternoons I go visit some of the churches west of town. During my visitation, I sit with a baptized man and his wife. From there, I study with a young lady who is interested in becoming a Christian.

Craig recently baptized Elizabeth



Family Perspective

By Jeri

I was blessed at the beginning of March to help coordinate a Ladies Day. It was such an enjoyable day, and I was particularly encouraged that a local woman did the speaking. About 20 ladies participated. We had lots of time to learn, laugh, pray, and eat together.

We spent a lot of time taking care of our puppies over the last couple of months. It was a great experience for the kids, and Hannah was especially good at looking after them. But I am glad that we finally gave the last one away this week.

It seems like a little sickness swept through our house again, but it didn't stay long. Elizabeth had a staph infection, but we were very thankful to a Christian pediatrician in the States who helped us out with information and treatment.

We said good-bye to the Reeses at the beginning of April. Hannah and Caleb will especially miss Rochelle over the next couple of months while they are on furlough in the States.

Monday is preschool day at our house. I teach Hannah and Caleb preschool in the morning. They love it. I've been very thankful for obedient children. Being a preacher's wife always offers a challenge in church since I get to take care of all 3 kiddos alone. One Sunday I had to walk around with tired Elizabeth while Craig preached. Hannah and Caleb just sat still and listened so well! They are definitely a blessing. Elizabeth is crawling around now and giving us more and more reasons to smile.



Hannah and Caleb make a train

*It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.
(Philippians 1:7 NIV)*

PNG Four Year Anniversary: An Interview With Craig, by Craig

How is everything going in PNG?

Craig: Can you be a little more specific?

What has been the most satisfying part of your work lately?

Craig: I've always loved sitting down one on one with people and studying the Bible. I track their eyes and body movements to make sure they 'get it'. I find that extremely satisfying.

Could you share a recent highlight in your work?

Craig: On a Sunday afternoon, I was sitting with a church outside of town trying to explain how the word of God is living and active (Heb. 4:12). The concept was hard to explain. On Monday morning I was studying with a lady who, for a time, has been saying she wants to 'get right' before she considered baptism. I had her read Luke 5:31-21. She only got about halfway through before she broke into tears. The word of God was alive and active in her life. She, Elizabeth, was baptized the next day.

In May, your family will finish four years in Alotau. Can you reflect a little about that experience?

Craig: Sure. Missionary work is full of highs and also lows. It is a very intimate form of ministry where you find yourself in the midst of crisis and celebration, victory and defeat.

There is no doubt that this has been a time of significant growth for us as a family and in our own spiritual lives. God has blessed us tremendously.

This last year has also been especially taxing - both physically and emotionally. Struggling to find out exactly where God wants you to be is difficult. However, in the last few weeks we have once again started to feel a sense of peace and direction with our work here.

Anything else you want to say?

Craig: Yes. I just want to take this moment to thank everyone who has been a wonderful support for our 4 years in PNG.



Hannah and Caleb prepare pitpit Elizabeth is on the move!

Shelly and Maryanne

Devotional

By Craig

The Treasure Hunt

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. (Matthew 13:44 NIV)

I’ve been meditating on this verse for the good part of a month now. The verse reveals that there are some things that are worth sacrificing everything to get.

Interestingly, I use the word sacrificing and the Bible uses the word joy. Joy was the motivation, and it seems as though the reason for joy is the realization of the great reward.

Have I given up what is necessary in order to get the treasure? Is my single focus on Jesus Christ, or are other pursuits tainting the noble pursuit of Jesus Christ?

While I can question myself, only you can question yourself - have you found the treasure? Are you sacrificing with joy to get the treasure?



Reese girls say goodbye before furlough

Craig, Jeri, Hannah, Caleb, and Elizabeth Ford

PO Box 912
Alotau, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea

Phone:
011 (675) 7671-7788

Web Site:
www.pngfords.com

E-mail:
pngfords@gmail.com

