

Furlough & Future

UPDATE from the Bruners • MAY 2015



In the last letter we sent by mail (Sept. 2014), we had recently arrived back in the U.S. and were settling in Texas for our year of home assignment. As we are now preparing to return to Papua New Guinea (PNG) in July, it is encouraging to look back over the year and see how God has provided for us in so many ways. In this letter we want to give you a brief look at what has been happening with each of us this past year and share about some changes coming our way when we return to PNG.

JOHN: I had missed a number of family get-togethers while we were overseas so I have really enjoyed the times I have spent with family members this past year. I also enjoyed running, playing golf and tennis, and being a spectator at our boys numerous sporting events. I have continued to work on the Fataleka translation and in March I spent three weeks in the Solomon Islands working with the team. We were able to check six books and the Fataleka New Testament is now about 80% complete and the target date for completion is 2017.



John with the Fataleka team



Eating out has been fun!

BRENA: After five years overseas of cooking everything from scratch, this year has been a nice break for her in that regard. She hasn't spent a whole lot of time in the kitchen. She's also enjoyed hanging out with family members and old friends, watching movies and shows that aren't available overseas, watching the boys play the games they love, and frequenting the public library. Since living in a state of transition isn't something she finds easy, this year of rest has been just what she's needed.



GRANT has officially completed his freshman year at John Brown University in Arkansas. He has roomed with his good friend from PNG, Absalom (Absiez) Timothy, and the school has been a good fit for both of them. Grant has been taking courses in engineering this past semester and he thinks that will be the major he pursues. He has been playing on the JBU Ultimate Frisbee club team and they recently qualified for the Division III College National Championships. Grant will be spending the summer with my oldest brother Dave and his family in Charleston, SC. We are thankful to know he will be well taken care of!

Coffee with a friend and sister



Absiez and Grant

JOEY's main desire during this past year was to play lots of soccer and he was indeed able to do just that. He was on a local club team during the fall and then this spring he played on his high school's varsity team. He hasn't been exactly thrilled to be going to a school of nearly 4,000 students, but he did become good friends with a German exchange student, Jonas, and they have had lots of fun together this year. Joey is actually returning to PNG ahead of us (in mid-June) so he can see some of his friends graduate. Then in July he will start his senior year.



LUKE: Believe it or not, Luke likes sports too. He has played soccer and basketball and participated in cross country and track and field this year. He has also been growing like a weed and is about to pass me in height! Luke was also in the school band and that helped him make friends this year – an important thing in the life of Junior High student! He will be entering 9th grade when we return to PNG.



Luke is far left playing trumpet

THE SEED CO: Before we left PNG to return to the States, I had spent some of my time mentoring two Papua New Guineans (pictured to the right) who are training to become translation consultants. Both of these men (and a number of others) have internships that are sponsored by The Seed Company, an affiliate organization of Wycliffe Bible Translators. After we returned to the States I heard that The Seed Company was hoping to find an experienced consultant who could oversee these interns. Because it lines up well with my background and interests, I decided to accept the position when it was offered to me. I am looking forward to being able to invest my time in training and mentoring these interns so that they can be successful in the work they do in various Bible translation projects. In addition to overseeing these internships I will continue to do consultant checking for both the Fataleka translation project in Solomon Islands and other projects in PNG. Brena plans to continue working part time with the member care department – doing teas for ladies who work in villages and helping with community coffee nights – and keeping us boys well fed.

Even though we will be working with The Seed Company we are still officially with Wycliffe and things stay pretty much the same.



Steven Ttopoqogo



David Loea



Celebrating Christmas – The Peters cousins plus two new ones

WEBSITE: As we mentioned in our September 2014 letter, besides sending out one newsletter a year by regular mail, we are writing monthly updates that you can see on our website johnandbrena.com. So if you want to hear from us more often than once a year, please go to our website and on the home page enter your email address to receive our updates.

Praise:

- For the many ways God has provided for us during our year of furlough/home assignment.
- For a good first year for Grant at JBU and a place for him to stay and work this summer.
- For a good year in school for both Joey and Luke and that they were able to participate in sports.
- For good progress on the Fataleka New Testament.

Pray:

- For us as we have lots to do to prepare for our return to PNG in July.
- For us as we say our good-byes, travel back to PNG and then get settled in.
- For Joey as he travels back to PNG by himself (June 9th-12th).
- That Grant will find a good job in South Carolina this summer.

John & Brena Bruner Change of address effective immediately

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