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Dear Friends,

Praise the Lord! We are all doing fine and in good health! It's hard to believe that we have been in Papua New Guinea a whole year now. Time has just flown by! As we look back on all the exciting and interesting experiences we have had, we Praise God for his protection, provision, guidance, and direction. We feel we have learned so much in this past year too. Just yesterday, one of my Papua New Guinean friends remarked, 'Yu lainem Tok Pisin nau', which means, 'You've now learned to talk Pidgin'. Of course, I don't feel very competent at all, but she seemed to think I was communicating, so that was a real boost to me.

We had a very interesting Christmas this year - the first time that we went Christmas caroling carrying umbrellas, the first time that we had an outdoor picnic at the Church on 'Boxing Day' (December 26), and of course, the first time that our boys had an outdoor treasure hunt to find their Christmas presents. Although we never did really 'feel' like it was Christmas we did have an enjoyable time without too much homesickness!

As we look ahead to this coming year we realize that we will need to exercise even more faith than we have in this past year. We will be returning to the U.S. to study linguistics so that we can do translation work ourselves. Our plans are to leave here around the end of May and study during the summer at Grand Forks, North Dakota. After the summer session is completed we expect to go to Dallas, Texas for the fall semester. Our schedule will be very heavy with a lot of travel involved. Please pray with us that we will have the 'mind of Christ' and be able to absorb all the material in order to receive good grades. Also pray that we will be able to trust the Lord completely to meet all the financial needs for travel, living expenses, and tuition.

I'd like to tell you an experience that Paul and Elizabeth had a few years ago. Paul is a deacon at the Four Square church in Kainantu and works as a guard at the Provincial 'kalabus' (jail). They have two children and live in a 'kunai haus' (grass house). Five years ago when their oldest boy was a baby he died. Elizabeth was holding him in her arms and she prayed to God for the baby to live. All the doctors, nurses and their friends were making fun of them for believing God, but the baby came back to life right there in her arms. Elizabeth's face still radiates with joy from this answer to prayer. She says that whenever 'liklik' (little) troubles come her way now she has no worry or fear because she remembers what God did for them five years ago. Praise God for their testimony!

We are thankful for all our many friends back home who continue to remember us in prayer, with letters and cards, and also financially. We are thankful for this opportunity to serve the Lord in Papua New Guinea, but it would not be possible without friends like you. Thankyou! We also trust that God is blessing you for your faithfulness, because he 'careth for his own'.

In His Service,



Bob, Verna, Jason and
Jeremy Stutzman.

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