

To Every Tribe

Jesus is worth it

Dear Brethren, Family, and Friends,

December 16, 2009

Thank you for your support and kindness to us. We're really enjoying our visit to New England! The time with family and friends has been great. Each week we've attended different churches in order to spread the vision for unreached people groups around the world, particularly Papua New Guinea. We've had great fellowship at three churches in Massachusetts and we will be visiting a total of 6 or 7 churches in Maine. We've also been updating supporters about our plans and goals. We thought it was time to update you all as well.

Travel Update: We hope and pray that God will send us to Papua New Guinea in May as a family. To Every Tribe has organized a six-week trip beginning in May 2010 and our leaders have recently agreed that we could stay an additional four or five months. We would initially be with our friend, Kelly (male), whom Matt worked with on his 1st PNG trip, and live on Cham-bri Island in the remote East Sepik swamps. After that we'd likely live in the town of Wewak for a month with a family there, and then our whole family would be enrolled in a 14-week language and culture school. God has provided almost a thousand dollars for this trip so far from partners in New England. To give you an idea of the need, the cost of airfare to and from PNG alone is about \$18,000!!!! The 14-weeks in language school is a total of \$7,000. We'll see what God does with this opportunity!

Here are some highlights of our New England visit so far:

Last Saturday there was a fun teen Christmas party at the house where we're staying. During the first part of that day some of the teens, their parents, and me went door-to-door throughout most of the town of Sangerville, Maine to hand out invitations to a Christmas drama and share the gospel with whomever would listen. I left gospel tracts at most of the houses and several individuals allowed me to tell them about their need for forgiveness of sin and salvation through Jesus Christ. One man we visited has been a Jehovah's Witness for two years. After our conversation he seemed like he will now reinvestigate who Jesus is in a real Bible (not his J.W. translation). Some said they'd like us to come again to share our message, and of course we also got a bunch of doors slammed in our face, but that's okay. :) It was so interesting to see the wide variation of responses we got from people. Salvation is of the Lord and I depend on God to save them and not my words or methods. It's awesome that God may use us to do this, though!

Something special happened at a church this week. We were scheduled to share at New Hope Baptist Church in Dexter this past Sunday night, but the service was cancelled at the last second due to a snowstorm. I was already there when they decided to cancel, so I prayed with those who showed up and planned to go home after. As we prayed a dozen more people came and I was privileged to do a devotional with them from Scripture (Romans 15). People kept coming and we moved to a classroom and began the study again. God really showed Himself in this small group and we were all blessed. People participated in the lesson and asked lots of questions about missions and our ministry to PNG. Praise the Lord. When I finished they invited us to come back on Dec. 23rd to formally present our ministry to the church! We praise God that this and other churches who are partnering with us are participating in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Family Update: Our family is doing well. We definitely prefer the warm weather at this point since we're acclimated to southern Texas. We got a big snowstorm (12 inches) and we enjoyed seeing it. Seth is about 11 pounds now and is doing well. Little Tabitha has an injury to report. She fell while trying to play a piano on Dec. 4th and broke her right wrist. I suspected it was broken that same afternoon because she stopped using her right arm, so I brought her to the ER. The doc was surprised to confirm this with x-rays. Tabi hasn't cried about it and is adapting to doing everything with her left hand. I've had to re-do the splint they put on her because she keeps wiggling out of it--good missionary training. They said she'll be healed by the end of this week. God has already worked it out for good in that I was able to share the gospel with many people at the hospital and doctor's office. Julia seems to be enjoying the cold weather better than the rest of us. She doesn't like having a coat on and still doesn't sleep with blankets. We think God may have plans for her to minister to the Eskimos some day. :) Jacy, after experiencing the joy and attention of losing her first tooth, has worked most of the rest of her teeth loose. :) Leanne continues to recover from the birth and is doing very well. She and the baby have their own room here at the Wilhite house, and have enjoyed the quiet space to rest and recoup. We've been travelling to someone's house almost every day, but we all seem to be thriving on the hustle and bustle. The fellowship with our northern brethren has been wonderful!

We miss our friends in Texas and the rest of you whom we haven't seen in a long time. We hope this update finds you all well and encourage those of you in the area to feel free to visit with us. God bless you all!

Love in Christ,

Matt for the whole family

