



TO EVERY TRIBE

Ministries

February, 2009

Dear Brethren, Family, and Friends,

In just a few days I'll have first-hand experience with former headhunting cannibals turned Christians in the highlands and swampland of Papua New Guinea. For three years we've had this vision of reaching the unreached tribes in PNG with the gospel of Jesus Christ as long-term missionaries. This short-term trip (March 2-24) will be an introduction to the vastly different cultures and climate of PNG. The two tribes we'll be staying with are quite different and we'll learn much from them; the Bena Bena Tribe in the eternal spring-like highlands are a large tribe who are mostly Christians, and the much smaller Chambri Tribe are only about ten percent Christians now and they live on an island in a sweltering, remote swamp. It should be an exciting journey to get to these locations. When we get to Chambri Island we'll have already flown on eight planes, driven six hours by night through a jungle, and motored by canoe for a couple hours on the Sepik River! Given the short time-frame and frequent travel within PNG, Leanne and the girls will remain in Texas. This will be the longest we've ever been separated, but we trust God to work it out.

Our mission's founder and leader, David Sitton, will be leading us and translating for us. I hope to pick up enough Pidgin English to be able to do some basic communication. Each of the missionaries-in-training has planned Bible studies which we hope to teach the people. My responsibility is to teach a lesson on "faith" and another on "evangelism." The classes we've been taking at the Center for Pioneer Church Planting have been great. Courses have so far included Systematic Theology, Old Testament Orientation, Theology of missionary suffering and martyrdom, Principles of pioneer church planting, Contextualization, Biblical counseling, and Cultural studies. To Every Tribe Ministries supplements their staff by bringing in leading experts to teach us for a week at a time like Dr. David Sills, Dr. David Hesselgrave, Don Richardson, and others. We've had opportunities to have the teachers over for dinner and learn one-on-one from them as well! We're all growing spiritually as God stretches us and teaches us new things each day.

Our family is doing quite well here. We have lots of fellowship with the other students and their families. We love our church here, too. Our girls are growing up quickly and love it here.

Some trips to the beach and the zoo have been highlights from our family time. Tabitha is learning to walk and talk, Julia rides a scooter and plays well with friends, and Jacy is excelling in home-school and no longer needs training wheels on her bike. We're enjoying the Tex-Mex culture and food here. Our family missions trips to Mexico have been fruitful and fun, too.

Thank you so much to all that have prayed for us and for those who have supported us financially! We'll keep you up-to-date, especially about the PNG trip. God bless you!

Love in Christ,

Matt, Leanne, Jacy, Julia, and Tabitha Wilkinson

P.S. If you're not getting our "Wilkinson Weekly" reports via email please let us know and we'll include you. Contact us any time at mwilkinson@toeverytribe.com. Thank you!

