

J U L Y 2 0 0 7 E D I T I O N

the RIGGINS family

SERVING ON THE MELANESIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC FIELDS

Visa Update

Thank you for praying with us for the renewal of our work permits and visas (entry permits). We were able to have these renewed while we traveled.

Please continue to pray for the renewal of work permits and entry permits for many of the missionaries in Papua New Guinea. Four families are currently in the US and planning to return to the field this month; they will not be able to return until these permits are renewed.



✕ Fruit of the Gospel ✕

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. - Colossians 1:6b

PNG NATIONAL ELECTIONS UNDERWAY

For the last two months, we have endured the campaigning for the national elections in PNG. Since we live right on the edge of the local village, that has meant many sleepless nights for us while the villagers stay up all night to party. Even though campaigning officially ended on Friday, we still hear music and partying into the night. These sleepless nights help serve as a reminder to us to pray for a peaceful election process. Elections for this area will be held on our mission

station on Friday, July 6. Polls across the country will close on July 10. We are also continuing to pray for a peaceful counting process over the next month. We want to see the Lord exalted as Christians stand strong for the Truth.



LEARN MORE

about what is going on in Melanesia and the South Pacific and how you can become involved.

Fiji Boat Ministry www.fijiboat.org

Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in PNG

www.kudjipnazarenehospital.org

Open Hands, Open Hearts
Foundation

www.nazarenehospitalfoundation.org

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News from the Islands

Getting out of PNG to begin my trip turned into quite a challenge as I still did not have a work permit or visa. I managed to obtain a temporary visa that allowed me to leave the country without penalty, but I would not be allowed back in without a regular visa. This meant I would have to get my visa in Australia. I flew to Brisbane, where I would begin my journey.

Fiji

It was my second time to Fiji and my second time to see the highway that connects one end of the island to the other in the dark. When trying to visit all of the islands on both fields in a specific, short time frame, the result is a blur. Sadly, this beautiful island country was perhaps the biggest blur of the trip. I arrived on Sunday evening and we made the three-hour drive across the island. Monday was consumed by the audit, and we had to leave at 2 a.m. on Tuesday morning to make the three-hour drive back across the island to catch my next flight. I regret having to rush through like that, but flight connections are very difficult in the South Pacific, and sometimes you have to choose between a quick trip like I did or staying a full week, waiting for the next available flight. The audit went fine, and I enjoyed my time with colleagues, the Schmelzenbachs, as well as a quick visit with our Samoan brother, Peni Fakau, also serving in Fiji.

Please pray for Peni and his family as they continue to lead the Theological College program across the South Pacific Field and for the Schmelzenbachs who are now in the US on their Home Assignment. Also pray for the country of Fiji that is still a little shaky after the recent coup that took place in December.



In-Kwon and Ofa

Tonga

This was the first of two countries on my trip that I had never visited before, so I was very excited, while at the same time nervous about what to expect. Any fears quickly vanished after I was overwhelmed by the kindness and hospitality of the Kim family, who are new to Tonga themselves, arriving only a few months ago, and the Sarson

Family, volunteers for the Nazarene Church who have been in Tonga for over a year now. Both families made sure I was well taken care of during my stay, and I could see and feel their compassion and heart for this country. They have been overseeing the work of the Mango Tree Respite Centre, a ministry of the Church. It is a Centre for the many handicapped people of Tonga that had been ostracized for many years. The Centre was started by some Nazarene volunteers and maintained by more volunteers over the last several years. The Kim family will be the first non-volunteers (supported by their home churches in Korea, and in New Zealand where they attended Bible College). They have big dreams and visions for the Centre and for ministering to the people of Tonga. The audit went well, as did some training on a new book-keeping system that called for some long nights. However, we did finish in the three days that I was there, and I was thrilled when we even had a few hours to sight-see around Tonga. It is a beautiful island with beautiful people, and I look forward to working with them more.

Please pray for the Sarsons as they begin their journey back to Canada in August. What a tremendous blessing they have been to the work over this past year. Also pray for the Kim family as they begin their ministry at the Centre.

Samoa

This was the second of the two countries that I had not previously visited. After a quick hop from Tonga to American Samoa and then to Western Samoa, I landed the day before I left. Samoa and Tonga are very close, but they are on opposite sides of the International Dateline. So, I left Tonga on Friday afternoon and landed in Samoa on Thursday afternoon. This was a great way to make up time since I needed an extra day to get everything done that I wanted to accomplish. Here, I was visiting the campus of South Pacific Nazarene Theological College (SPNTC) and again enjoyed getting to know some fellow Nazarenes and seeing their ministries. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the principal of the College, the district superintendent, and the treasurer of the school. Like Tonga, we finished the audit and then had a time of training on a new system that again meant long nights for me. I was privileged though to be there for the district's youth sports day in which all the youth from all the Nazarene churches in Samoa gathered to participate in volleyball tournaments, and then concluded their weekend with a night of singing (and the Samoans' singing is impressive) and worshipping together. It was another nice stop on this audit tour and gave me the taste of McDonald's again. I don't usually eat there a lot when in the US, but it is amazing how those golden arches will draw you in when you haven't seen them in a long time.

Please pray for the churches in Samoa and for the Bible College as they continue to minister to the people of this beautiful island.



SPNTC campus

My flight from Samoa was like most flights in and out of these island countries. It left at 2 a.m. After sitting a long time in the airport so that no one would have to take me in the middle of the night, and reading the books I had brought for the trip, I finally was on my way again. There are no direct flights from Samoa to Vanuatu, so I flew to New Zealand. It was the opposite of what happened when crossing the dateline before, which you knew would have to happen eventually - I lost a complete day in the air. I left at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, but arrived at 5 a.m. Monday morning. I was there for two days and it was just the break in the action that I needed. (Thank you, Neville and Joyce, for the use of your house.) I had the pleasure of spending one of the days with Dr. and Mrs. Bob Brower (president of Point Loma Nazarene University). I had a great time visiting with them at the house where we all stayed, as well as enjoying a quick day tour of Auckland before both of us had to 'get back to work.'

mission house property



Vanuatu

This was my second trip to Vanuatu, and I always enjoy visiting this newest country on our field. The work was opened in 2003 by our former PNG colleagues, the Potters. Last year they were joined by the Isaacs, a PNG family. With all that has happened there in the last four years, it is exciting to see the progress from one visit to the next. Churches are being planted; Bible College classes are being started; pastors are being called; and people are being disciplined. It was refreshing to see the work that the two couples have managed to accomplish, but challenges still exist. Permanent housing for the missionary team is an immediate need because of the high cost of rent. Work and Witness teams are coming this year to start building the Potters' house. More teams are needed, but we have already seen the hand of the Lord on this project. When the container arrived recently from Australia with the materials for their house, the duty on the container was going to cost thousands of dollars. It seemed like there was no way around that; however, as prayers went up, the unthinkable happened when the duty was miraculously waived, baffling even the duty officers who issued the paperwork. The audit went smoothly as expected. Sylvia Potter and I have been working together on the finances of Vanuatu since day one of the work there, so our visits are usually comparable to a "well baby" visit to the doctor. (Not sure where that kind of analogy would come from these days.)

Please continue to pray for more teams to help with this project, for the ministry of the Potters and Isaacs, and for the people of this, yes, beautiful place.



Samoa Youth Night



New Zealand



Vanuatu



Wallaby in Brisbane

In order to have maximum time at my next stop, I couldn't wait for the twice a week flight to Solomon Islands from Vanuatu. So, I flew to Brisbane again and stayed at the Bible College. This allowed me to lose some of the cargo I had been hauling around, since I would be returning to Brisbane. I was also able to visit one of our LINKS churches in Redlands.

Solomon Islands

My last stop of the tour was the Solomon Islands, which I had visited twice before. After my flight was delayed four hours, I arrived to find that my bags did not make it. Amazingly, this was the first and only delay and baggage problem of the whole trip. In the Solomons, I joined a group of college students from Point Loma Nazarene University (San Diego, CA), which made my time there even more enjoyable as I had the chance to watch this group of students minister and to hear about their experiences over dinner. I enjoyed their company, as well as George and Nancy Miller's, with whom I stayed and worked. We were able to accomplish quite a bit in the short time that I was there. So much is happening in the Solomon Islands these days that it is hard to spend too much time talking about the finances. The Jesus Film continues to thrive as it is a valuable tool in reaching some of the most remote and untouched places in the hundreds of islands that make up the Solomon Islands. This has in turn brought many new believers to the Bible College classes. The recent tsunami has also created some opportunities in the way of relief work.

Pray for the Millers as they return to the US in August for their three-month Home Assignment. The Lord is moving, and the Millers and their team can use your prayers as they just try to keep up with all that is happening.

After the Solomon Islands, it was back to Brisbane where I would at last meet Jill and Aden after three weeks apart. What a sight for sore eyes! I found out that they had quite a journey and experience of their own in getting out of PNG. We had two days in Brisbane. One was spent trying to get our visas to be able to go back to PNG, as well as working on other business at the College and catching up with some former colleagues that were at the Bible College. The second day was a family outing to the Gold Coast, which by this time we all needed. After that, it was off to Cairns for my budget meetings and more holiday time before heading back to PNG.



*PNG friend Dorothy
in Brisbane*

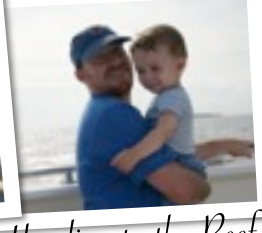
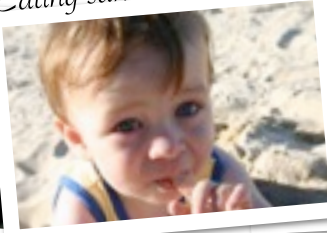
Family Reunion

Aden and I traveled to Port Moresby on a Tuesday, and spent most of the day on Wednesday trying to obtain clearance to leave the country on a temporary visa like Scot's. When all was said and done, by the time we had passports in hand, we had missed our flight to Brisbane and flew to Cairns instead. We found a place to stay for the night and took a flight to Brisbane from Cairns on Thursday, where we met Scot that evening. It was refreshing to be together as a family again!

Eating sand at the beach

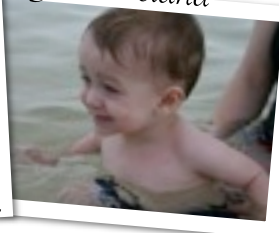


Palm Cove Picnic



Heading to the Reef

Green Island



Daddy's Little Helper

Family News

Vacation

Following the budget meetings in Cairns, we had about ten days of much-needed vacation time as a family. We enjoyed a picnic on the beach, playing in the ocean, a boat trip out to the Great Barrier Reef, shopping, hair cuts, and ordering pizza! Though Aden was not so sure of the ocean water at first, eventually he enjoyed it so much we missed a glass bottom boat ride we had scheduled one day. We did see quite a few fish from the pier, and even a shark! One evening we left Aden with James and Joy Johnson (our Field Strategy Coordinator and his wife) while we enjoyed a nice dinner out, the night markets, and a walk along the boardwalk. It was nice just to relax together and not to follow a schedule for a few days. Two days before we left, our passports arrived with renewed visas!

Name & Gender Game Results

Boy - 56%

Girl - 44%

We have not yet been able to find out the gender of the baby, and may not know for sure until the baby comes. There were no two identical names submitted in our newsletter poll, so the decision lies with us. We praise the Lord for Jill's continued healthy pregnancy, and for healthy reports on our baby each time we visit the doctor. (Or when our doctor/neighbor visits us in our home!) The baby is becoming more and more active, and it is exciting to feel the new life growing and developing inside.



25 Weeks Profile

Looking Ahead

We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of a **Work and Witness team** from Xenia, Ohio on July 23, especially since Jill's mom and her husband are on the team. They will be working for two weeks to expand our Bible College chapel and will be able to stay two extra weeks in August to spend some time with us (particularly Aden)! We may also be using some of that time to have their help with finishing touches on our new house before we move in.