



# Ford Family in PNG

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## Alotau News

By Craig



(Above: Christians gather for worship at our church camp)

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*The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

*Galatians 6:8-10 NIV*

Greetings from Alotau, Papua New Guinea!

I intentionally delayed sending this newsletter (should have been sent May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011) so that I could schedule it using high speed internet. Yes, we technically have high speed internet at home, but nothing like the beauty of true high speed internet of more modernized nations.

Our furlough plans are as follows:

1. May 18 - 26<sup>th</sup> Family vacation in Auckland, New Zealand
2. May 26<sup>th</sup> - June 25<sup>th</sup> Wyoming and Colorado
3. June 25<sup>th</sup> - July 22<sup>nd</sup> Ontario, Canada
4. July 22<sup>nd</sup> - August 22<sup>nd</sup> Houston, Texas
5. Trip back home

If you'll be near any of those destinations, let us know. We'd love to see you.

**Event Updates:**

#### Leadership Training

Marcus and I continue a leadership training class. Over the next two years the program plans to address some of the key topics Christians ought to know. Marcus will be teaching the classes in my absence.

#### Anger Class

We recently completed a men's anger class. Anger is a common vice here and has damaged many marriage and family relationships. We attempted to directly address the issue through a four week class. We had approximately 15 men in attendance for each class.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Church Camp

By Craig



Like all churches, we have customs and traditions that everyone enjoys. One of the annual traditions that everyone looks forward to is our church camp over the Easter weekend. This was the 8<sup>th</sup> such camp. Christians from Alotau and the surrounding villages came together for a weekend of singing, worship, and fellowship.

Our theme this year was, “Following Jesus to the Cross: What it Means to be a True Disciple of Jesus”. We had about 10 different men who prepared lessons anywhere from 5 minutes to 30 minutes in length.

### 5 Ways Our Camp Was Different than Any You’ve Been To

1. **Time is not of the essence.** PNG is not a time-oriented culture. Sessions typically run 30 minutes to an hour late. The faithful few who arrive at the start of a session sing to encourage others to join them.
2. **Sitting on a cement floor.** Let’s just say I was happy to have been given several opportunities to speak. I’m not sure my back could have managed many more 2 hour plus sessions.
3. **Rice roasting over an open fire.** The meals consisted of rice, vegetable, and a can of either tuna or pork. In the morning, the breakfast crew was up at 4:45 to start preparing for breakfast.
4. **No bedding.** A few fortunate ones brought a small mattress. The rest just lay down on the cement floor and slept where they could. I even saw two teenage boys sharing one blanket.
5. **Singing, singing, and more singing.** I think people love the singing most. After our first evening session (with over an hour of singing), a group of men stayed up from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. singing. The Energizer bunny has nothing on them.



## Family Perspective

By Jeri

We kept busy over the last couple of months planning and preparing for our annual church camp. Craig did much of the organizing and coordinating. I enjoyed organizing the children's program for the weekend. We had great attendance, especially from the small churches outside of town.

It's always an interesting experience camping here. We took our tent and were quite a spectacle as we pitched it. We had a crowd of local children staring at us as we put it up. Most children and babies here are quite adept at sleeping anywhere and everywhere. My children, however, did not know how to handle not being in the comfort of their own beds. Let's just say that tent camping was much more fun for Craig and me about six years ago. Other than the sleeping part, we had a great time.

Since we moved here nearly five years ago, I've been working on writing a children's curriculum that our teammates started before we came. It's a through-the-Bible curriculum that uses simple language and suggests easy activities that can be done here with limited resources. I'm thrilled to report that I just finished editing the entire curriculum and printing it out. Now it is available for the women to use during children's Bible class.

We're excited that Hannah has successfully completed kindergarten! She did a great job. We are both thankful for the summer break we get to enjoy.

Craig and I have been teaching the kids about North America in preparation for our furlough. They're excited about flying, and we're all ready for a change of pace. We hope to see many of you soon!



*I thank my God every time  
I remember you. In all my  
prayers for all of you, I  
always pray with joy  
because of your  
partnership in the gospel  
from the first day until  
now, being confident of  
this, that he who began a  
good work in you will  
carry it on to completion  
until the day of Christ  
Jesus.*

*Philippians 1:3-6 NIV*





Cooking at camp



Worship at camp



Food planning

## Devotional

By Craig

### Saved for Good Works

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)*

It's old news. We are not saved by works.

Yet, we must remember that works are important to God. In fact, God created us to do good works.

Good works are a response to our salvation - they are not a means of salvation.

Within each baptized believer is the presence of God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is leading us (Romans 8:1-7) and producing a righteous fruit within us (Gal 5:22-23). We are all God's work in progress.

We are holy, but we are also becoming holy.

May God work powerfully in us as He sanctifies us through his spirit so we can be busy doing the good works for which we have been created.



Above: Caleb enjoys his time at the Popova church.  
Below: Elizabeth learns to read (not really ☺).



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