



This is a picture of us with our “wasfamili” (host family). They helped move us into the culture and language of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

We have had many more “movings” since coming to Ukarumpa (our support center):

-On December 15th, we moved to a new house where we’ll be able to settle as a family while we seek which language/village God has prepared for us to work in.

-We were quite moved when a magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck on December 14th about 100 miles away! We praise God that there was no serious injury or damage on center. A number of people said it was the biggest they’ve felt in PNG.

-We think you will be moved (we were) after reading this account of a people group hearing the Christmas story in their own language for the first time: <http://www.thepostsinpng.com/2011/12/christmas-renewed/>.

-Most importantly: we have been moved multiple times this season as we remember Christ coming to live among us and make the way for us to spend an eternity with God. Some carolers came to our house the other night. They gave us a plate of Christmas cookies, and sang “O Little Town of Bethlehem”. One of the verses in “O Little Town of Bethlehem” says,

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

The last line really hit home: that’s what Christmas is all about, God coming to dwell with us.

Please pray:

-For our Sunday mornings (Saturday afternoon/evening in the US): they are our hardest times because church happens right around nap-time.

-For our crate to continue safely on its multi-leg transit. It still needs to go to Lae and then up to Ukarumpa.

-For an “unspoken” situation to be resolved by God’s grace.

-For our first Christmas away from home and family.

Praise:

-Mikayla weened herself from her bottle by herself. When she was sick, she would throw up after having just one drink, so she didn’t want it anymore.

-Before leaving the US, James found sandals that have worked out VERY well in PNG. He’s been wearing them almost exclusively for the 4 months we’ve been here.

-Our crate has cleared customs!

-We’ve been able to host a weekly tea and lunch with Papua New Guineans to continue our language/culture learning.

Merry CHRISTmas with love from,

James and Christina