

Danny & Becca DeLoach
HITTING
 the target
 FEBRUARY 2008

AIMING

to see God's Word hit its target in the hearts of the people of Papua New Guinea

Dear Friends,

Wow! It has been quite a while since our last newsletter. We have been able to see many of you in person recently, but we apologize to those of you who haven't heard from us in a while.

Reconnecting with Family and Supporters

The last several months have been a great time to renew family relationships. In August we had



Anna loves showing where PNG is on the map.

a wonderful opportunity to see many of Becca's family who gathered in Wisconsin for a family wedding. Then, we spent most of the fall living in south Georgia near Danny's family. Over the New Year's holiday we spent a week in Michigan with Becca's mother and two of her brother's families who are home from the mission field on furlough. What a precious gift the Lord gave us to have this time with family. It was wonderful to watch



Visiting supporters and sharing about PNG was a highlight of the fall.

Anna and Joshua bonding with their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. The fall was also a time to reconnect with ministry partners in south Georgia and all over the southeast. We spoke in over 30 different services or meetings. We received such an emotional and spiritual boost from the congregations, families and individuals we visited. You all are the backbone of this ministry. We cherished the opportunity to visit many of you this fall and we look forward to seeing more of you in other parts of the country later in our furlough.

School in Texas

Now we are in Dallas, Texas where we are preparing to make the final push to finish our Master's Degrees at Wycliffe's primary training school, the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL). This is the campus where we were taking classes when we met in 2000. Each of us only has a handful of courses to finish our degrees. Because we started our classes so long ago and since there is a time limit for finishing the study program, we have to finish the degrees this furlough or lose them entirely. Supervisors and colleagues in Papua New Guinea and professors at GIAL have encouraged us to complete our degrees. The content in the courses will strengthen our work on the field and the M.A. degrees could open bridges to further ministry opportunities down the road. Danny's degree concentration is in ethnology (the study of culture), while Becca has specialized in literacy. These two areas are central to an effective Scripture Use ministry. We are excited about all the new things we will learn, but we are also daunted because it has been six years since we were in the academic arena and we have never been full-time students while also being parents.



Anna and Joshua enjoy their first Autumn.

to write the theses and return to defend them in the U.S. within a year to 18 months after returning to PNG. However, now we are considering an alternative approach to writing theses. We can choose to take comprehensive exams at the end of our course work. The main advantage of this route is that it would allow us both to complete our degrees on this furlough. Then, we could return to PNG with our degrees behind us, allowing us to be more focused on our ministry goals there and to have a longer field term which would reduce future travel expenses. But, completing our degrees this year might

Furlough Schedule

Lately we have been considering how to arrange the rest of our furlough schedule. Originally we planned to take classes in the spring and fall and use the summer for a big road trip to visit many of our supporters we haven't seen yet in the Midwest and other states. Then, we would return to Papua New Guinea (PNG) in January 2009 to continue our ministry there and also do research for the necessary theses to complete our degrees. We would then need

require us to use the summer for taking classes and postpone our trip to visit many of our supporters until January—February 2009. Even then, we are not sure there is time for both of us to finish our degrees without being away from PNG too long. These are challenging decisions, but we know that God is good and that He is faithful. We trust Him to show us the right path to take and also to give us grace and strength for the journey. As our plans become more clear in the coming few months, we will keep you informed.

Prayer and Praises

- We praise God for all the wonderful times we had with family and ministry partners over the past several months. You all put the fuel in our tank that keeps us going!
- Please pray that we would be truly sensitive to God's leading as we plan our remaining furlough schedule.
- Please ask God to give us strength and grace as we balance a very heavy course load with the needs of our family.
- Please pray that God would continue to work in the hearts of the Wantoat people, inspiring them to take more leadership in the project while we are away. The longer we are on furlough, the more our hearts think of our Wantoat friends and long for them to experience more deeply the power of God's Word in their heart language.

Anna's first time in the snow.



E-Mail Options:

Between these printed prayer letters we also send out prayer updates via e-mail. Additionally, these printed prayer letters are available in digital format via e-mail. Let us know if you would like to receive either of these.

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