

IN THE GAP

A Monthly Prayer Guide

Praying for the Needs of the Somau Garia People of Papua New Guinea
and the Owen Family who Minister Among Them

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That collection of gurgles, burps, and coos named Josie has brought a change to our pace and routine. She has brought her father into that dreamy place between consciousness and unconsciousness where it is hard to distinguish dream from reality. She usually brings me there just before twilight each day.

This morning I was gazing into the sun-dried face of Patri Toroma, my guardian and neighbor in Uria. We were speaking both Garia and Tok Pisin together and he was smiling, proud that his “son” was making such good progress with the language. This morning I was walking the paths above Uria, gazing across the mountains, watching the morning mist and a pillar of smoke rise from the chimney of Amos’s place at the highway. This morning I was sitting outside Ezekiel’s house on the western slope of Mt. Somau, watching his children play and his wife hide just inside the shadows of the doorway. This morning I was working underneath my house, making my wife a shelf for her miniature houses to sit on.

I was in a faraway place dreaming of friendships and simple joys. The Lord is gracious and kind and merciful, for I had no idea that those dreams remained in my heart. I thought that those dreams had dried up and blown away in the winds of heartbreak and difficulty.

Our hearts and dreams are being renewed as the Lord pours soothing oil upon us and prepares us to return in six months or so. His tender mercies flow as we seek his face and put ourselves in his hands.

As I became fully awake, my heart erupted in a stream of prayer for my friends in Papua New Guinea. I prayed for the salvation of some, the maturing of others, for God’s kingdom to be advanced among those people.

Now, for your prayers . . .

- Pray specifically for the Somau Garia Translation Team: Ezekiel Panawa, Siramia Kauwaki, Kenny Maiya, Parakun Sarap. These are the guys who usually work full-time with us.
 - Ask God to protect them from spiritual opposition, to stand in the evil day.
 - Ask God to give them good courage and strength in the face of social opposition.
 - Ask God to give them clarity and creativity as they draft Luke’s account.
 - Ask God to bless their families with good health, spiritual prosperity, and commitment to stand behind their husbands/fathers in the work of God.
 - Ask God to enable them to turn their backs on the temptation to return to using demonic power rather than seeking God’s power and blessing for life.
- Pray for the Owen Family:
 - Ask God to continually renew their spirits and bring them into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
 - Ask God to provide the needed funds to replace their four-wheel drive and purchase airline tickets for return to PNG this summer (this will cost anywhere from \$20,000 to \$40,000).
 - Ask God to raise up faithful prayer partners and groups who will “stand in the gap” for the Owen family and the Somau Garia people these next many years.
 - Ask God to continually grant insight and wisdom to the Owen family as they seek God’s desires in reaching the Garia people with the Good News.
 - Enable the Owen family to grow in faith as they trust God to help them stand in the evil day, to bring God’s kingdom to the Garia people, and to bring encouragement to those Garia who name Christ as Lord and Savior.

Thank you, each one, for the blessing you have been to our family through your prayers and financial gifts. We leave you this month with a Levitical blessing for Israel found in Numbers 6:24-26: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you his peace.”

For the Lord’s renown,
Todd, Angela, Andrew, Samuel, Abigail, Hannah, and Josie