

# 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

U.S.A.: Todd and Angela Owen • Pioneer Bible Translators • P.O. Box 52 • Joplin, MO 64802  
Field: Todd and Angela Owen • Pioneer Bible Translators • P.O. Box 997 • Madang 511 • PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
toddown@pioneerbible.org.pg

July 2004

Dear Ones:

Good-byes are never easy. For our family these are frequent and sometimes forever. Turning from the tear-filled faces of family and walking down the jet way can feel like walking the plank, dragging our heavy hearts with us. By the time we have made it that far, we have packed what few belongings we have here, have traveled countless miles, and have perhaps looked in the faces of dear friends for the last time.

The simplest of things then becomes precious. A conversation over a cup of coffee. The smell of Dad's Old Spice on his neck. The feel of a cool breeze on my face. An old hymn sung just the way I used to sing it as a child.

The most valuable treasures are the memories, the shared experiences, the joined hearts that cannot be separated even by the thousands of miles that carry us to the end of the earth.

It is thus that you travel with us across the vastness of the Pacific—arriving amidst a people wandering in the mists of fear and distrust, walking mountain paths in prayer, sitting beside the smoky fire of an old man tired and dried up by life's tragedy.

We walk not as they do, though. May it never be. We bring our precious memories, but we also bring illumination, trust, and faith. We bring the gospel, which is the power of God for salvation. We bring the Word and its ability to set free the wandering ones.

Good-byes are never easy. Though our hearts are heavy, we know that it is **most** important to bring tidings of good news to those living in darkness and to do whatever it takes to give the wanderers an opportunity to find rest.

When you pray . . .

- Ask God to grant our hearts peace as we say good-bye once again.
- Ask God to give us good courage, strength, and heart for the tasks ahead—saying hello again to many friends, opening and cleaning our house after it has sat empty and boarded up for a year, re-commencing our translation efforts.
- Ask God especially to show much grace to our children who are now old enough to have forged real friendships and will have to say "farewell".
- Ask God to go before us and prepare the way both physically (our 4 x 4 trek, the road, our house, etc.) and in our relationships with both village folks and our PBT co-workers.
- Ask God to open many hearts to the gospel.
- Thank God that we have traveled many thousands of miles without being stranded or injured.
- Thank God for his faithfulness in this adventure of faith.

Please remember to be praying, especially on the dates of August 12, 13, 14, and 15. We leave for Papua New Guinea August 13 at 6:20 a.m. from Tulsa International Airport and are due to arrive in PNG at noon on Sunday (PNG time). Your prayers are crucial to our safe travel and arrival in PNG.

Blessings to each of you—I'll be writing the next monthly update from the other side of the Pacific (Lord willing). And, oh, by the way . . .

**Goodbye** from Todd, Angela, Andrew, Samuel, Abigail, Hannah, and Josie!



On the northern shore of Lake Michigan in the upper peninsula of Michigan.