

In The Gap

A Monthly Prayer Guide

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

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Travels

“On the road again, . . .” The old Willy Nelson song seems to be our anthem these days. Round and round we go, where will we end up when the music stops? This week it happens to be in Bruce, South Dakota, with friends and family at Preston Christian Church. I think we’ve traveled about a gazillion miles since last writing, but there has been much to praise God for.

We hooked all the stormy weather (an old Billie Holliday song, I think. . . “Stormy weather . . .”) to our trailer hitch and have been dragging it all over the mid-west. We started out by heading for Bethel, Missouri, where tornados hit several towns around Bethel, but not Bethel. Then, our last night in Bethel we decided to leave at 10:00 p.m. and drive all night to South Dakota (something we’ve never done before). We didn’t know why, we just decided to do it. Well, it turns out the Holy Spirit was at work leading us forward. After arriving in SD, severe weather hit, several tornados spun around the area of I-29 where we would have been had we waited until morning, and Sioux Falls received about 5 inches (or so) of rain. The area around Watertown, SD where we were staying had hail, some tornados, and yet, **nothing** where we were at. Off to Dallas, TX for a week of rain and severe weather, only to return, once again, to SD, for more tornado watches, warnings, etc. We actually spotted a tornado east of I-29, but, once again, not right where we were. Yikes!

Now, regarding our ‘83 Chevy diesel van—God has been at work! While in Bethel, MO (where Angela grew up), the controller for the glow plugs went out. A long time friend, Roger Bar-rack, was able to get us going and had us on the road just when we needed to be. When we arrived at Angela’s folks’ house in Watertown, SD, the water pump and fan clutch gave up the ghost, and once again, Angela’s dad, Ken Reed, and her eldest brother, Shawn, fixed the van in a very timely fashion and had us on the road again for our journey to Dallas. **Those parts could have gone out anywhere between Joplin and SD, but went out only when we had help and shelter.** *Thank the Father for his providence and his kindness!* Thanks also to Roger, Ken, and Shawn for being willing to sacrifice the time and effort to make the repairs.

Other Answers to Prayer and Concerns

- Josie’s Visa—Still no word from the Embassy of Papua New Guinea to the Americas. *Please continue to pray that someone at the Embassy will be troubled by the fact the Josie does not have permission to come to PNG yet. Ask God to wake them in the night, to be drawn to her paperwork, to be reminded time and again to approve her paperwork.*
- Vehicle Replacement—as of last accounting, our forwarding agents, David and Jennifer McMil-

lin, figure that we have about \$7,700 towards a vehicle. *Praise God for each person and churches' generosity and willingness to give toward this vital project.* In spite of the kind generosity of all who have shared in this need, we are still very short of what we need in order to be able to replace our vehicle. Our best estimation, even for a used vehicle (if we can find a suitable one) is \$15,000 to \$20,000. If we have to buy new—\$40,000 to \$45,000. *Ask God to continue to spur his givers toward this need. Ask God to use this as a blessing to those who are able and willing to give and to those folks that we minister to in Papua New Guinea.*

- Battery Replacement—the jury is still out on this one until we are able to check our account balance and decide what we can do. *Continue to pray that God will provide for this fundamental need to our village life.*
- Emotional/Physical/Spiritual Well-Being—*Please pray for our family as we are in transition and will be until about a month after landing in Papua New Guinea.* Without home, without hearth, as aliens and strangers, we wander the earth . . . Or so it seems. It is unsettling to be in a different home, different town, with a different group of people from week to week. Thank you to each one who has gone the extra mile to make us feel welcome and has invited us to “make ourselves at home”. Your kindness really helps make our transition time easier.
- Infrastructure in PNG—*Please ask God to motivate our Somau Garia friends to begin repairing our four-wheel-drive trek so that when we arrive in PNG, we will be able to get into the village with supplies and will have ready access.*
- Todd's Mom—Todd's mom, Ellen, will be returning to Papua New Guinea with us for a six-week visit. She is very much looking forward to the visit, but is unfamiliar with the sights, sounds, and smells of PNG. *Ask God to give Ellen peace and joy as she leaves America for a couple of months. Ask Him to give her special and memorable experiences while in PNG, especially of the Somau Garia people and their environment.*
- *Please thank God for a great week at Pioneer Missions Institute, where Todd taught a linguistics course and where both Todd and Angela spent most of everyday with people interested in becoming missionaries, people in the process of becoming missionaries, and veteran missionaries with whom they've served. We believe God used the week to encourage many people and to give direction to those seeking God's desires for their lives.*

I want to say a genuine and heartfelt “thank you” to each of you. Your month-to-month commitment to prayer and financial support is integral to the success of our ministry. Please don't misinterpret this “thank you” as a required part of a form letter. May it never be. We are deeply grateful for your generous hearts, your prayers offered in faith, your continual journey with us in ministry. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord shine his face upon you.

With Love and Respect,

Todd, Angela, Andrew, Samuel, Abigail, Hannah, and Josie