

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 • 417/625-1145
Field: Todd and Angela Owen • Pioneer Bible Translators • P.O. Box 997 • Madang 511 • PAPUA NEW GUINEA

toddowen@pioneerbible.org.pg

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Dear Partners in Ministry:

So often the missionary life is a collection of “hurry-up-and-wait” moments. On the field, because we are task-oriented and our Papua New Guinea friends are event-oriented, I hurry to get things done by a certain time only to have to wait, because my friends will do things when everyone gets there.

Well, here we go again. After Josie’s birth, we went through a flurry of “hurry, hurry, hurry” moments, getting this form filled, sending that paperwork, and finally sending all the stuff to the Embassy of Papua New Guinea via Express Mail, hoping against all hope, to have her visa in-hand before heading out to visit with many of you this summer. Angela called the Embassy (the person handling the paperwork in D.C. is a woman and tends to respond better to Angela than to me) and was told that we have done all we can do here, but that they were waiting to hear from the officials in Papua New Guinea. Our offices in Papua New Guinea had already made contact with those officials before our paperwork arrived in D.C. to get the ball rolling—so in an ideal world, we would already have the paperwork back. . . *Please pray for the officials in Papua New Guinea, that God would specifically prompt them to pay special attention to our paperwork, that he would bring it before their eyes morning, noon, and night, and that they would quickly and efficiently process her paperwork and notify the Embassy here in America.*

While hurrying up and waiting for Josie’s paperwork to come through, we have been making our lists and checking them twice, in preparation for two trips—the first being our itineration to see many of you, the second for our departure to Papua New Guinea. A couple of things that have come up on our list more than once and that are worthy of your prayers are a couple of physical needs. First, we received word that one of our deep cycle batteries used to store the electricity generated by our solar panels has gone bad and we need to replace our batteries. The type of battery we need is not sold in PNG, but **is** sold here in Joplin. *Please ask God to provide the funds needed to replace our deep cycle batteries and to ship them in a crate to PNG.* Second, as each of you already know, we need to replace our ageing 4 x 4. We have received a few hundred dollars more toward that project since last writing, but are still desperately short of what we need. Our plan is to drive our current vehicle until one of two things happens: 1. It falls apart and all the kings horses and all the kings men cannot put it back together again. 2. We have enough money on account to buy a replacement. *Please ask God raise up both the vehicle and the funding we need to replace our vehicle.* Though I feel a little hesitant to ask, I even would ask some of you, if you are lead by God, to add fasting to your prayers as you ask God to provide for this need.

Some of you we will see us before you read this letter (great!), but we ask each of you to *ask God to go before us and come behind us as our rear guard as we travel these next six weeks.* If all goes according to plan, we will travel about 5,000 miles (about 900 miles a week) and spend a minimum of about 81 hours in the van. Fortunately (also if everything goes according to plan), the kids (except for Josie) will be spared the trip from South Dakota to Dallas, Texas and back again as they will be staying with their grandparents for some special time before returning to Papua New Guinea.

We are very thankful for the contribution that each of you make to this ministry. Your prayers, your concern, your financial contributions are all a very important part of enabling us to share Jesus Christ with the Somau Garia people of Papua New Guinea.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

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