

# Johnson Journal

News and Prayer Requests from Ed and Valerie Johnson

July 2016

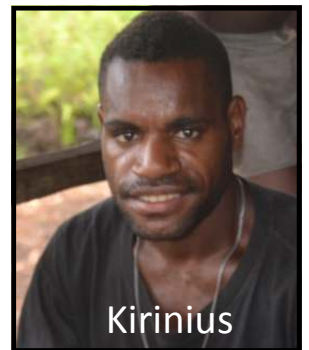
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Dear prayer partner,

We are sitting in **Obukain**, as this is written. It is a chilly morning, since it has been rainy for several days (all of 76 degrees F!) This morning, (though not a Sunday), those who wanted to gather to study the Bible and pray, were huddled on our porch. Last week we looked at Jonah 1. Today we looked at Romans 4 & 5. We discussed how God wants everyone to know Him, and to repent of their sins and to turn towards Him. We read how we cannot do anything to earn this relationship; rather, the Apostle Paul writes that we must trust in Jesus and His finished work on the cross. As humans, it seems so difficult for us to grasp that we cannot earn our way to heaven! However, the Bible says, just believe! The Diuwe on our porch nod their heads. Do they truly understand? As one goes through each day, it is not easy to live this out!

After most of the people left, Kirinius stayed to chat. When we were last here, in January, he introduced us to his pregnant wife. Kirinius holds a special spot in our hearts. He is about Elizabeth's age and was our boys' best friend, growing up. He is the younger brother of our best language helper and good friend, Petrus (who went to be with the Lord quite a few years back).



**Kirinius told us a moving story that occurred in February.** *One day he went fishing with his wife. That evening she began to shiver violently, She shivered through the week. Kirinius would wrap her up in a new blanket, heat up water in which she could*

*bathe, keep the fire stoked – nothing seemed to help. By the end of the week, when she seemed to be well enough to move, they began a trip south (mostly by canoe), to where her tribe lives. They didn't quite make it. She gave birth to a stillborn son. And then on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month (what we call "Valentine's Day"), she lay down by the fire and stopped breathing. Kirinius says he prayed for her all week, but also explained to her that he is not God, so cannot do anything in his own power. He told us that he did not try to revenge her*

death (as is the Diuwe custom), because he must rest in the will of God. Yet, he wonders about the significance of his wife apparently seeing the spirit of a big fish that day they went fishing. He spent the last year paying for his bride, the amount which might be comparable to half a year's wage of a full-time laborer. Now he has neither wife nor child. Nor does he have his older brother to advise him. He wants to follow Jesus, but he wonders how he should do this, daily.

**Please continue to pray for the Diuwe** as they navigate through their understanding of Scripture, recall their deep-rooted fears and beliefs, and become distracted by all the influences and temptations of modern civilization. Also, we are treating two burn victims – one 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, the other has 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns. Both will need to continue treatment after we leave. **Please pray for healing.**



### **Mini-conference:**

In April, we met with most of our World Team Papua colleagues for a time of reconnecting, strategizing, and building each other up. We were all sad when our good friends Kevin and Allyson Martin had to leave quickly due to some unexplained, intense pain that Kevin had. We

praise God that with time and some treatment, the pain has subsided. **Please pray for the Martins, and the other four families who are reconnecting with their prayer partners in their home countries. Please pray** they would be refreshed and would see God's clear hand of guidance for their tomorrows. **Also, please pray for Sue Trenier**, whom we saw off to UK in June, possibly for the last time. We are confident God is still using her there, but we feel a hole here. And as our colleagues return to Papua, each will experience a renewal of loss. **And, please pray, that as a team, we will be obedient** to the work God wants us to do here.

### **Isaiah and Emily Johnson:**

After the mini-conference in early April, we (Ed, Valerie and twins) headed to Florida, where we visited for 3 ½ weeks. We had a super blessed time with each of our older children, Valerie's parents and Emily's family, leading up to their special day, and afterwards. We were sad that we couldn't visit with so many other loved ones, but were very glad for the blessings we did receive. As of April 30, 2016, Emily Roedding became Mrs. Isaiah Johnson !!



## Featured colleagues:

Recently, a younger and not-so-long-on-the-field missionary (of a different organization) expressed a sense of disappointment that she and her colleagues do not have the benefit of more experienced colleagues to help them walk through the challenges of ministry and raising children away from their relatives. We, on the other hand, have been richly blessed!! **Art and Carol Clark** have informally mentored us throughout our 20+ years in Papua, via their stories, their example, their obedience, their love. They spent 20+ years in Lolat, one of the central villages of one portion of the Yali tribe. They witnessed much demonic activity, helped lead many to changed lives, raised three Godly sons (one who married another MK, began a family, and now also serves in Papua as a pilot), and have disciplined a couple of generations of Yali believers. It has not been an easy road to travel, but their responses to the challenges have been a teaching tool for us. Then when God had them move to Wamena, where they have served for 15 or so years, they have continued to pour their lives into Papuan seminary students (from many different tribes), into their neighbors who migrated from other Indonesian islands, and into the Yalis who moved to the “city” for work, education, or other opportunities. Art and Carol are of “retirement” age, perhaps, but they seek to continue to obey God and serve Him where He wants them to be. When they return from furlough, they plan to transition back to living in Lolat, for a few months of each year. The Yalis, are looking forward to future teaching and discipling. **Please uphold this special couple in your prayers**, that they will continue to have the health and strength to be faithful and obedient, and will have the wisdom that only God can give as they make several necessary decisions in coming months.



## Family update:

Last week, **Hannah** and Ashten went camping to celebrate the completion of their first year of marriage. We are thankful for the additions to our family, whom God has provided!! **Elizabeth** has been enthralled with all that God is doing in Greece. In our last letter, we mentioned that she was praying about a ministry opportunity there. Well, she left in mid May and is almost done with her 2 ½ month stint serving with Hellenic Ministries, in particular, with their annual thrust called Operation Joshua. She has kept a blog of her summer at <https://elizabethcandace.wordpress.com> She seeks wisdom in processing what she has learned and discernment regarding how this might affect her future. **Isaiah** reports that he and **Emily** have enjoyed being a married couple, and look forward to what God would have them do in coming months. Emily is working in addition to finishing her undergraduate studies, on-line. Isaiah is also working, while he awaits his training at the Sheriff's Academy, which should begin in mid-August. **Josiah** is spending the summer in Minnesota, with one set of grandparents, while working as an intern at an Engineering company. He is excited with what God has for him in the coming year. He has been accepted by the ROTC and will begin further training with the Army while completing his Engineering degree. **Marissa and Moriah** are super excited about beginning Kindergarten at Hillcrest International School. While they are in class, **Valerie** will be teaching two classes of World History and two periods of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts. She has been thankful for these months of being able to prepare for these classes. She has been heard to say that she feels “a bit like a VHS tape trying to fit into a DVD player.” **Please pray for our family** as we transition into a different schedule with these new responsibilities. School begins on August 15! And, **Valerie asks prayer that she might be used to disciple the 50+ students with whom she will have contact.**

## Update on newbies coming to the field:

We wrote to you about our opportunity to host Alex, Nick and Kristine in March. They were 3 of a 5 member team hoping to find clear direction regarding joining our World Team group in Papua. We enthusiastically invited them to be a part of us. Sadly, Alex and his wife have since left the team, due to him having some questions about the inerrancy of the Old Testament. **Please pray for them as they seek God's truth. Please pray for Kristine, Nick and Liisa (and their two boys)** as they continue to prepare for their move next month. They are still finding their



prayer partners, finishing up present responsibilities, gathering supplies, packing, and saying "see you later's". They will begin language school in Makassar at the end of August, if all documentation is processed in time.

**Please also pray for Rens.** He will be coming from the Netherlands, to teach at HIS, after several months of Indonesian language school in Jogjakarta. He, too, hopes to begin language classes in August.

**Pray, too, that Ed would know how to help make this a good transition** to life and ministry in Indonesia, for these new families.

**Thank you for your partnership!**

*Ed and Valerie*



**And you?** Are you asking God if He wants you to come to serve as a teacher, tech expert, discipler, or in some other capacity? **Contact us!**

Ed and Valerie Johnson  
Kotak Pos 222  
Sentani, 99352, Papua,  
INDONESIA

[ed.johnson@worldteam.org](mailto:ed.johnson@worldteam.org)

To invest, contact the address or web site below and mention us.

World Team  
1431 Stuckert Rd.  
Warrington, PA 18976

[www.worldteam.org](http://www.worldteam.org)  
[www.worldteampapua.org](http://www.worldteampapua.org)