

Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: ... 2 Corinthians 5:16



Rick, Darla, Ashley Nicole, Richard Leon, Annette Joy, Alisa Irene, Lawrence Paul Eldon, and Marshall Ray

Rick & Darla + 6, Your missionaries to Papua New Guinea

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*"I thank my God upon
every remembrance of
you," Philippians 1:3*

*Rec'd
1/2*

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Dear Church and Friends,

Precious prayer partners, we trust you have not grown bored of praying for all the things we left you with in our last letter. I know I should have written you a Christmas letter. We did have a good Christmas with a very well attended Christmas Eve service. We have seen at least 35 saved since our last letter and have enjoyed seeing our two oldest children take vital roles in the ministry. Richard (III) is now the man the other pastor's call directly when they want to show a gospel film. Ashley has an 8 am Sunday School class and then travels out with us to one of the two main works which I oversee. Annette has been such a blessing as she has stepped up to take more responsibility in the home and often bakes treats for her sister's class. In general we are so pleased to see God's Word bear fruit in the lives of our children.

The mission work on ~~Buka~~ received a boost this month as my associate, the recently ordained Rev. ~~Godwin~~ traveled there and held a week of meetings. He was bathed in much prayer and Simpson Harbor Baptist Church was pleased to receive a report of 21 saved and several Christians redouble their zeal for the Lord. It was a personal blessing to me to see this young man, in whom we had invested so much, go forth in the power of the Spirit of the Lord. He has grown in wisdom and I am sure will be taking his own pastorate soon. We have seen many saved and baptized at the North Coast Bible Baptist Mission and I believe God would have us organize them into a church very soon.

SHBC, where I have pastored and led our church planting efforts from, has grown and remained strong even with all the families that were split off to start the NCBBM. We have seen spiritual growth too in the lives of the Lord's people and are glad to report that many of the folks we have told you of in letters dating back to 2005 remain faithful to this day. Now some of them have teenage children who are becoming active in the church. That also marks a ministry victory for the emphasis we put on BIBLICAL child rearing from the beginning. The parents that listened are reaping the reward. To God be the glory! We rejoice with them, the Bible works every time! I only wish I was more consistent in the application of it. Praise the Lord for His grace and His mercy as well. Ashley is 19 and excited about whatever God has planned for her. Richard is 17 and is faithful in serving and in walking humbly before his father. Annette is sweet and receptive to instruction as she grows in grace. We pray we become better parents in all things for all their sakes, and the younger one's as well.

My grandpa, Rev. Paul Mohler, who handles the mission letters at Faith Baptist Church, Spokane, MO, was complaining it had been too long between letters. His complaint is valid. I told him I was having a hard time writing it because I didn't want to write a negative letter. While souls are being saved all around, and churches are growing, my personal pressures and the things our family still face with Darla's dramatic event are very heavy, making my heart sad. I have no doubt of God's love and provision, but until these trials pass, I must confess a continual heavy heart before the Lord. "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts 20:32. We return to the States this year, sometime around March/April, to report to the churches and try to raise the funds we need that we be not chargeable to them that are without. We love you. Rom. 16:4

Sincerely yours,

Rick Crofts II