



# Brian and Helen's News & Views

Eastern Highlands Province

May, 2009

## The Month of Too Many Medical Evacuations



**Crowds on the Highway:** While caring for the injured after a terrible auto accident, clinic staff have to push away the crowds while working.

### While You Were Sleeping

Did you know that we are approximately 14 hours ahead of the East Coast, USA time zone. This means that as we finish a hard day's work, that most of you (in the States that is) are only starting off your day? Makes for some interesting phone calls back home.

### Pray For:

- Brian as he travels to Port Moresby soon to represent SIL at a recently called meeting of the OLPC group, plus associated other aid agencies in the Pacific.
- Helen, who is normally a blur, would appreciate less medevac work (see below). Praise the Lord for endurance and strength during these trips.
- David has left his EMT work in Seattle, but he seeks direction on where to go next. He has no shortage of doors before him, by which to open and pass through.
- Hannah Paris with husband Brian would like to finish their graduate studies well in Dallas, Texas before heading to the field.

### The Flying Doctors

In a country with little infra-structure, Health Services are a Big Thing!

"Emergency! Dr. Helen... we need you right away! Dr. Jeff too. No time to explain, a helicopter is waiting..."

We were in the middle of our Biennial Branch Conference, a rare large meeting where all our people have gathered together to plan our future in this country. This was a Saturday and various fun activities were planned for us to enjoy together. As we were home enjoying the company of friends, Dr.

Jeff called Helen from the house to meet him at the clinic, gather supplies and catch the helicopter. Doctors, nurses, and other clinic staff were called out of their activities to answer the call. A church group from the USA had sent over volunteer workers to minister to our teens while their parents attended the Conference. This group along with two missionary couples were in a large van heading to Goroka for a day to see another part of PNG. On the Highlands Highway, just outside of Kainantu, and while going up a hill near Raipinka, a rather large truck appeared rounding a bend.... but on the wrong side of the road!



The Highlands Highway, totally shut down for the airlift

The driver swerved but to no avail. The van was totaled, and all thirteen passengers were injured, some very seriously. And hence, started the most strenuous and arduous series of

medevacs that our PNG Branch has ever known. The primary four had to fly immediately to Cairns to receive treatments, and each one has had at least one surgery. Some have had multiple trips to the Operating Room. One of the passengers had a head injury and at one point we were not sure they would make the journey... but Praise to our Lord... everyone made it! And this person was the first out of the hospital.

Just one aspect of health care services for Dr. Helen and Dr. Jeff Stout, as we continue to man and maintain our little clinic nestled in the Highlands of PNG in our Aiyura valley. There are no suitable hospitals in this country for the kinds of injuries that our people needed at that time. When we have but one single medevac it is estimated that 20 SIL people are involved. The clinic staff, the aviation department staff and Administration are tied up for hours. Countless phone calls must be made and with preparations to leave the country well, plus gain the necessary immigration waivers to Australia. It's an enormous undertaking. Our



team is often totally overwhelmed and totally exhausted.

So we thank you for your prayers and gifts that make it possible for us to live in PNG and serve the other missionaries around us. Without adequate health care services many outside visitors and workers would not be able to stay and work here, so we count it a great privilege to be present and sustain the work; behind the scenes so to speak. We hope you will join us in prayer for continued safety while traveling in this country... the "land of the unexpected."

### **JAARS Aviation Saves the Day**

Part of our government contract to stay in Papua New Guinea is the continued training of PNG citizens with various trades and skills. An example would be training in aviation mechanical maintenance and helping others pass the rigorous examinations and testing required by the Government.



Dr. Helen and Dr. Jeff & three patients in very cramped quarters (King Air aircraft)

We are pleased that we have such an excellent group of aviators, plus national and expatriate mechanics. This year we are celebrating 10 years of continuous safe flying in this country and we continue to thank the Lord for such excellent service and watch care.

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## *Staying Connected*

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