



NEWSLETTER

AXELSON UPDATE

APRIL 2011

CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT

You may already be aware that we have accepted a change of assignment in Papua New Guinea. Jim is no longer working in aviation but is now the Port Moresby Regional Center Manager. Beginning in June, we will also share the public relations role, sharing about the work of Bible translation with the government, non-government organizations, and churches in PNG. Michele will still continue part-time in her work with international project funding. Jim has already moved to the capital, Port Moresby and Michele will join him once her commitments as Executive Committee Secretary for the branch's biennial conference are finished.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Jim & Michele Axelson
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PORT MORESBY CENTER

Port Moresby is the capital and largest city of Papua New Guinea (PNG). The city which lies on the shores of the Gulf of Papua, is home to a growing population of about 300,000. Moresby, as



it is commonly known, got its name from Captain John Moresby who arrived in 1873 as the first European visitor. Port Moresby is the main point of entry into Papua New Guinea for air-traffic and most of the boat-

traffic.

The Port Moresby Regional Center provides logistical support for missionaries and those who work with our organization when they arrive or depart from the country. The center exists in three parts: the office that we share with the Bible Translation Association of PNG (the national Bible translation organization); the Centre property of five houses of which we live in one; and the aviation hangar at the airport. In addition to assisting with work permits, visas, police



clearance certificates, and passport renewals, we will also be involved in running the small guest house which is available for short term visitors.

AXELSON UPDATE

PNG BRANCH CONFERENCE 2011

March marked our branch biennial conference. The purpose of conference is vision development, spiritual growth, deepening fellowship, and accomplishing branch business. This conference began with a two day Spiritual retreat where we spent time focusing on Hebrews 12. It was a wonderful time to stop and examine our lives and to focus on returning to our first love, removing idols from our hearts, humbling ourselves, putting away pride, and restoring our broken relationships. This was an important time before heading into our 6 days of branch conference where we elected our leaders next two years (Michele was elected to our Executive Committee as a senior member.) We also heard reports of what God has been doing throughout PNG the last two years. Michele, being our branch Executive Committee Secretary, was extremely busy with helping to plan the conference and assisting the Executive Committee Chairman during the conference. She also was still working on her primary assignment of international funding. Many international guests attend the conference, so there were many face to face meetings with them discussing funding and other issues. This conference was exciting as our leaders laid out the branch's path for the next two years. Michele and I are very enthusiastic about the possibilities that God is opening in areas of training Papua New Guineans to translate the Bible into their languages, partnering with the local universities, and encouraging the PNG church to become more involved in the Bible translation work. With over 300 languages in PNG not having any Scriptures in their language the PNG Church needs to champion the task. Please pray that these vital partnerships will continue to mature so God's Word will make a greater impact in PNG.



FAMILY NEWS

Jim — has moved to Port Moresby to take up the position of Regional Center manager .

Michele — continues her work in the international project office and as the Executive Committee Secretary. She will join Jim in Port Moresby in early May after her responsibilities as EC Secretary are completed.

David - is in his final classes at GIAL and should earn his Master's degree in linguistics in June.

Rachel— is in her junior year at Carson-Newman and will be attending Army training in Fort Lewis, WA, and Germany this summer. In May she will be in Haiti on a short term missions trip where she will be able to use her nurses training in a ministry setting.

Michele's Parents and brother— Michele's mom has faced severe health challenges following a fall. She is also experiencing some early signs of Alzheimer's, which has been difficult for both of her parents. Her brother, Dan, is also facing serious health issues. We are seeking God's mercy and healing for them.

PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS



Praises

- For God's direction in our life.
- For God's strength in the midst of a very busy season in our service in PNG.
- God's provisions to meet our needs and the needs of our children.

Prayer Requests

- For us as we begin our new responsibilities in Port Moresby and for our physical safety.
- Michele's new roll on the branch's Executive Committee
- Direction for David as he finishes his Masters program.
- Completion of Rachel 's junior year in college and her summer activities.

HEBREWS 12:1-3

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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(On a separate paper note:
For the ministry of
Jim & Michele Axelson)