



PNG traditional dance and clothing

Papua New Guinea

A Nation in Need

As YWAM Reef to Outback, we send teams to dozens of nations each year. Recently, God has begun to stir our hearts for the nation of Papua New Guinea, located just off the northeastern tip of Australia.

Though it's closer to Townsville than Sydney, it's a world of difference. It's a struggling, third world nation that is in desperate need of health care, education and the gospel.

Mike and Jess Murray, two of our very close friends, recently went to PNG this past July to learn more about the people and their needs. They have shared some incredible stories with us and we wanted to share one with you.

Mike's story:

"This experience took place in the medical ward at Goroka Hospital where those suffering from HIV and TB are treated. Jessica and I had come to visit the patients – to meet them, smile with them, shake their hands, learn their names and pray for them. I had just finished playing a handful of songs to the patients as Jess went around to pray with them. Just as we were about to leave, I

went and introduced myself to 'Gary,' a young man lying in the hospital bed closest to me. Gary didn't look well. He was emaciated and obviously very sick. He was a young man of maybe only 30, and I can imagine, if well, he would've been strong and full of life. Gary and I exchanged handshakes, names and smiles. I then put my hand on his shoulder and prayed for him. After that, I moved on and said hello to another patient and then prepared to leave the ward. As I was leaving, I heard Gary call out to me.

"Mike," he said softly.

"Yes Gary?" I replied.

"I am coming with you."

"What?" I asked, taken aback.

Again he said, "I am coming with you."

Unsure of whether or not he was kidding, I smiled

and said, "Gary, you better stay here where the doctors and nurses can look after you."

"No," he said. "I'll follow you. I don't want to stay here. I'll follow you."

Those words pierced my heart and haven't left me since that moment.

But I couldn't take Gary with me.

Now I'm home. He's still there, aching to get well

and hoping that he someday will.

To me, Gary is one man

that touched my life. He is one man I so badly want to help. He is one man that to me, represents so many others in the nation of PNG who are afflicted with health issues, struggling to find adequate health care, and suffering, wishing more than anything, that they could have the strength to get well."

“No,” he said. “I’ll follow you. I don’t want to stay here.”

Touring around America

Mike's story is one of thousands of stories coming from a nation that desperately needs our help. As westerners, we sometimes fail to realize just how rich and blessed we are. In PNG, there are 60 still born births for every 1,000. In America, the number of still borns per 1000 births is just 7. That's a staggering statistic. But we as Americans, Canadians and Australians have easy access to health care, physicians, eye care and pharmacies. In Papua New Guinea, access is either extremely limited or not available at all.

In Mark 12:31, Jesus tells us that there is no greater commandment than to love God and to "love your neighbor as yourself."



While in Sydney we had the opportunity to check out Hillsong Church. If you're ever near Hillsong make the effort to check it out. It was really amazing.

Thanks Again!

There is truly no place like North America. We could make a list of all the things that we love about it, but it would take up this whole page. Suffice it to say that we were blessed to the utmost when we came back to the States and Canada earlier this summer.

In June, we had the most amazing time seeing our friends and family! Thank you to all that we saw this summer in California, Georgia, Winnipeg and New York! We had so much fun at weddings, family barbecues, hanging out with friends and all the rest! I don't think we stopped eating (which we love) and giggling the whole time.

We were also really encouraged by our home churches, First Baptist of Greenport and Seraph Church in Winnipeg. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement, standing behind Nick and myself. Without

PNG, closer to Townsville than Sydney, is most definitely a neighbor. Do they not deserve the same opportunities as ourselves?

Because we see a need, we are going to try and fill it. We are coming to North America in September to do what we can to help the people of PNG. They need your help, your support, your prayers and your awareness. We feel God is leading us to champion this nation's cause in America, a nation where hearts are always willing to help and serve. Would you like to be a part of changing the situation in PNG? Check out:

ywamships.org

We hope to see you soon!



Sara and Jess have formed a duo called 'Saving Sparrow'. They will be touring in the US with 'Five Star Streets' this September. Hear some of their songs at: savingsparrow.com

amazing church families and leadership, we would not be able to do the things we do. Pastor Tom and Jeanette - you are an inspiring couple who challenges us to stay in the Word and explore our own faith. Pastor Loren and Brenda - thank you for your friendship and believing in us as young people.

We left North America after only a few short weeks to travel Australia with the Hashagens. Having been in ministry in Australia, we rarely get to see it as tourists. We were so blessed by our family to do the things we've always wanted to do down under! Thanks mom and dad, for the most amazing trip ever!

Thanks to all our friends and family who never stop believing in us and who sacrifice a lot to see us in missions. Your time, efforts and love never goes unnoticed. THANKS!



Contact Us

Email:

nickv@ywamrto.org

sarav@ywamrto.org

Mail:

PO Box 6221

Townsville, QLD

4810

Australia

Phone:

+61 403 902 058

1-631-676-1233

(this # will ring us in Aus. You only have to pay long distance to USA)

Skype:

greatwitenorth

sarajane5182

Flickr:

[flickr.com/photos/nickv/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nickv/)

Web:

nickandsarajane.com

savingsparrow.com

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