



## Rick & Vi Brooks

missionaries serving missionaries

### Czech This Out...Twins!



Just in case you didn't hear the shout of joy from the Czech Republic announcing the newest grandkids born to the Brooks' Bunch, here it is now: Please join us in saying "Happy Birthday" to Luke Benjamin and Henry Luis born to Julie around 10AM (their time) on March 19th. Their birthing only took about 5 mins once the doctor was ready, as a C-section was used to rudely awaken

them from their cozy cocoon in mommy's tummy. Marek says they came into the world loudly crying their objection to the bright lights of the birthing room. But, they are healthy and so is Julie. What a way to lose over 12#'s of "baby fat" in one day!!

Vi traveled (via free air miles) to the Czech Republic on April 1st...no Joke! She'll be there for at least 7 weeks to help Julie with 3 kids, ages 2 and under. Maybe Julie didn't have to go through an exhausting labor, but she'll probably be exhausted for next 5 years, at the least! ...and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...Rom 8:28

### South Pacific Ministry Trip, Jan 16 – Mar 12

Just this morning I was asked "What was the purpose of the trip?" First of all it was not a vacation. In fact, we never even visited the ocean beaches of any the three countries. Our purpose in visiting our staff was primarily to see what God was doing in and through them and to enter into what God was doing in their countries. Doing this took us to:

**Australia**—While there, Vi and I were speaking to our staff in a conference designed to encourage and motivate them in their ministry to youth "Down Under." My Bible studies focused on the Parables of Jesus with practical application to living them out in today's world. I also spent

a week working alongside them on a 5 year strategic plan for WOL Australia, which includes the process of passing the director's baton from Dan Keegan, our faithful leader of 20 years into the capable hands of Martin Garcia. During our individual times with this staff we laughed, cried and prayed with them as they dealt with the joys and challenges of life and ministry. We felt ministered to as much as we ministered in spending some precious times with Jim and Lynda Dugan as they dealt with major health issues. She had major reconstructive surgery to repair a herniated port for her stoma while we were there. Please keep her health in your prayers. Space doesn't allow for so much more that could be shared on so much of what God is doing to impact "Aussies" though our staff.



**New Zealand**—We participated in two exciting weekend leadership conferences to youth leaders in Hamilton and Wellington. These super events were directed by Tom McIvor and his very capable staff. The excitement and motivation was easily felt as youth leaders from all over the north island responded to the combination of wor-



# Prayer Prompter

Spring 2010

*"Pray without ceasing."  
1 Thes. 4:17*

**Sunday** - Pray for Rick speaking in churches and mission conferences.

**Monday** - Pray for Vi's travel and care for Julie's family in the Czech Republic .

**Tuesday** - Pray for my mother Doris, who lives in assisted living in MI, as she adjusts to life without my father.

**Wednesday** – Praise that Robin is making incremental progress, but continue to pray for complete restoration of her health.

**Thursday** - Pray for additionally individuals to join our monthly support team & rejoice with us over the faithful teammates we currently have.

**Friday** – Praise God for over 500 Sportsmen hearing the Gospel and 45 making salvation decisions at our church's Adirondack Sportsmen's Dinner in March.

**Saturday** - Pray for \$5000 funding for the South Pacific staff conference.

shipful music and practical seminar material. During the week, I also shared in office devos with our staff, as well as Vi and I having meaningful individual time with them. Each Sunday there I had the privilege of speaking in churches where God was at work as evidenced in people's responses to messages. One of those churches was Hamilton Bible Church where our daughter Robin had been a part of the staff. So many told us of her effective ministry in their lives! It was obvious that she is missed. I shared in that church's WOL teen Bible Club which was so well run; it could be a model for any church wanting an impactful ministry to their teens!

**Papua New Guinea**—There were many times when we had a very real sense of God's work being done around and before us while there, as guardian angels were just one step ahead of us. This is the least developed country in which WOL works in the S. Pacific. Even National Geographic Magazine has called this island "The World's Last Frontier!"

Our messages were very well received, with all of the missionaries responding to an invitation of recommitment to God's Call to ministry. Some of these dear brothers only earn the average of \$8 per month. They mostly live off of their gardens and from the "food offerings" of their congregations. Their homes have thatched walls and roofs and are without electricity, water or inside toilets. Their call to ministry is a sacrifice of which we here in North America no nothing...yet God is doing His work thru these men!

On the day before we left, our director and some of his team arrived to pick us up for our ministry board meeting, looking visibly shaken. They showed me their ministry van which had large dents in it, a cracked windshield and a shattered driver's outside mirror with a bullet hole in it. Would-be robbers had attempted to stop them on their way into town. Our missionaries decided to "put the pedal to the metal" driving through the roadblock and avoiding a robbery or worse. Reminiscent of days from the "Wild West!"

It was very obvious that God's people were praying for us as we felt empowered by God's Spirit while we were ministering and protected by His ministering angels while we traveling throughout this 7 week-long trip! Yes, there were people saved in some of our meetings, but the emphasis on this trip was to minister into the individual lives of leaders. These personal times are often the most encouraging times to our fellow missionaries, some of whom have grown weary in the work of Lord, but not weary of the work of the Lord! One can never underestimate the power of an encouraging word said at the right time and with the right heart attitude.

## Thank You Ministry Partners!

You who pray and give are actually ministering through us to the needs of the S. Pacific. We can't thank you enough for allowing us the privilege to minister God's



Word and God's Love on your behalf to people of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea who are doing God's work.

Thank you too for your prayers for my dad, Walter Brooks, who has suffered for some time with advanced Alzheimer's disease. While on this trip, my sister emailed saying that dad, who was on Hospice care, had two weeks or less to live. We started scrambling looking for the best way to get home. But, shortly after that he rallied and my mother told us to just stay there doing God's work! However, on April 2nd (Good Friday afternoon) my father struggled free from his cocoon of confusion and entered into his Heavenly Home! Good Friday became the best day of his life! It's a bit late for flowers, but for those who would like to make a memorial gift, please consider a gift toward assisting some of our S. Pacific missionaries in attending September's staff conference (see the explanation below). Thank you again for your prayers for our family during this time.

## Support Report

Our account is in the black right now, but here's what has happened recently. I mentioned in our last letter that one faithful supporter of \$200 per month had passed away. Since then, one church in financial distress has had to drop \$400 per month, 3 individuals have said the same thing and last week another faithful 81 yr old supporter in California passed away. Yes, we have seen some new pledged support during that time, but our current monthly need to make up for these losses stands at \$1,000 to cover our budgeted operating expenses. Please pray God will raise up new supporters to help keep our ministry moving forward! God has been so faithful to supply our ministry needs for 40+ years now, so we continue to trust Him.

Special Project – Our next trip to the S. Pacific will be in September to Australia and Papua New Guinea. The main purpose of that trip is to bring all of our staff in that region along with those in Thailand and the Philippines to a conference in Australia for the express purpose to minister to their souls. Vi and I, along with our WOL directors, Don Lough and Kris Stout, plan to minister a lot of love and encouragement. There will also be some motivation and vision casting done as well. But, here's the project: \$5,000 is needed to cover the expense of travel and housing to attend this conference for those from our poorest countries. The need is for our director John Airi, his wife Philo and staff member Stanley Kone who will come from PNG along with Charles and Tina Mareu, directing our work in Fiji. None of these team members have sufficient support to fully cover their living and ministry expenses within their own countries and don't have the extra funds to attend this conference, but they really need to be there! Can you help and would you pray that others would join you and me in getting them there? The enclosed form will help you in making that possible. Thank you for giving this project prayerful consideration!

Rejoicing in Christ,



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