



THE RAYS



MY MOM AND I WITH SIERRA AND MY NEPHEW JAEDON ON OUR DRIVE TO DENVER.

A view from above of where we are staying!

Our family made it to Papua New Guinea on Friday the 20th. We will be living at the Lapilo center for the next 6 weeks as we start our field orientation and language study. The picture above is a view of Lapilo. This is where our girls will also travel daily to attend

school. We are set to move out to our home at (ITF) Interface in the first week of March. Then we will spend the next 4 to 6 months learning just language and culture from the surrounding village folk. The weather here is very pleasant. It gets warm

during the day to around maybe 80 or so and then by 3 in the afternoon the rains roll in and cool things down. Sleeping at night is great and we awake to the sounds of many birds and parrots greeting the morning sun. The mountains are very beautiful.



PNG AIRPORT



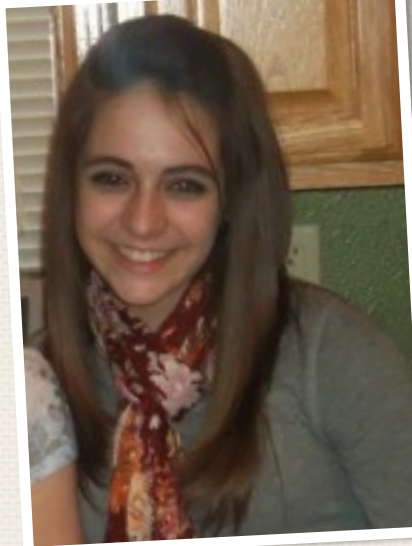
FIRST VILLAGE EXPOSURE



JUST ARRIVED IN PNG!

What do we think of our first week in PNG?

It has been an eye opening experience to say the least. Honestly its quite hard living here. Everything is very expensive. For now we don't get outside the gate much due to not knowing the language or culture. Also renting a mission vehicle runs about \$20 a trip to travel just a few miles into town. Taking the girls into town is very stressful as I feel like I have to keep my eye on everyone around. After saying all that I will tell you I still don't doubt that this is where God wants us. I know a lot of our fears is just culture shock and we will learn the language and culture. It is true that Satan is present here in PNG and all most every person living here lives in darkness. Jesus Christ is also living here and is at work with many of these people. Today we were reading through Romans 8 and was awakened with the reminder that we are adopted into the family of God. Made me ponder "I said to myself "Travis if you truly are an adopted child of God into his family then what do I have to fear?" I know the Lord has given me every spiritual blessing I need to live and function in this country." Who or what do I have to fear. I know my family is in the Lords will and there is no better place for us to be. You see I wonder how often we sing a song or read a scripture and truly believe what we say. For me one of the first of many lessons to be learned is this: Gods word is TRUTH and I am HIS Child. I have nothing to fear. I know my family is safe in His arms and no matter how much we might struggle if we turn to the Lord He will make us victorious. Romans 8:15 "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him "Abba, Father" (meaning Daddy) like a child with no doubts.



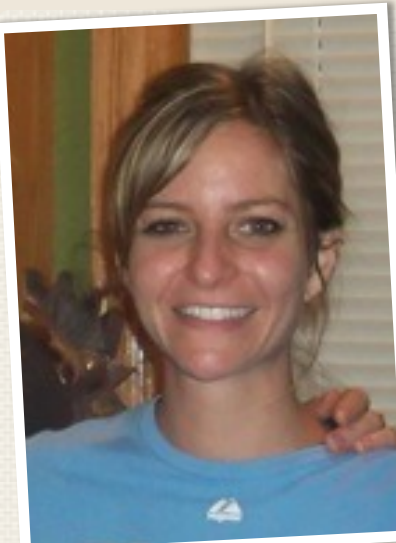
SIERRA

WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED I THOUGHT THAT MY MOM AND DAD WERE CRAZY FOR BRINGING US HERE BECAUSE IT WAS DIRTY AND SMELLY, NOW I AM MORE APPRECIATE FOR ALL THE THINGS WE HAVE IN THE STATES AND SEEING HOW LITTLE THEY HAVE. I MISS MY FRIENDS A LOT!



BROOKE

WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN PNG, IT FELT A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE BECAUSE WE WERE THE MINORITY AND EVERYONE WOULD STARE AT US. NOW I FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IN WHAT AND WHAT NOT TO DO.



NIKKI

WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED IN PNG I FELT EXCITEMENT AS THINGS LOOKED FAMILIAR TO ME BUT AS TIME WENT ON, THE FEARS I ONCE HAD STARTED TO RESURFACE. GOD HAS BEEN SO GOOD TO SHOW ME THAT WE ARE NOT TO FEAR MAN BUT THE ONE WHO IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING.