



# Ford Family in PNG

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PNG Fords, PO Box 912, Alotau, Papua New Guinea  
[www.pngfords.com](http://www.pngfords.com) [pngfords@gmail.com](mailto:pngfords@gmail.com) or [pngfords@kulamail.net](mailto:pngfords@kulamail.net)

## 2009 Year in Review

By Craig

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 2009 Year in Review
- 2 2009 Year in Review cont.
- 3 Family Perspective
- 3 Blogging Ministry: Full Disclosure
- 4 Devotional and Pictures

*He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-29 NIV)*



*The view of Alotau from across the bay.*

Can you believe that another year has already been archived into the books of history?

When years end and years begin, my philosophical introspective self wants a platform to speak. So, like any good philosopher, the completion of another year demands some good retrospection.

### MINISTRY 2009 Year in Review

Entering into 2009 I decided to structure my ministry around three words - simplify, equip, and diversify. As we look to the future **it is our goal to have a sustainable church life, passion, and organization in place.** This requires that the church activities be simple to maintain, leaders are equipped, and the responsibility for the church is moved away from missionaries to local leaders.

Like any ministry, 2009 came complete with some of the highest highs touching the clouds and some of the lowest lows crashing to the depths of the ocean.

2009 has been a year of planning. 2010 will involve a lot of weeding, watering, and nurturing. Within the last month, there have been a half dozen baptisms at the town church. Our focus is now to help those new babes in Christ to grow and mature.

As for 2010 goals, well, as of yet I haven't set any and honestly I'm not sure if I will. The work here in PNG is so fluid that my goal is simply to be attentive to God's leadership and obedient to his call. If that can be done 2010 will be a success.

Continued on page 2



*The Lord Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand. (Isaiah 14:24 NIV)*

*For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back? (Isaiah 14:27 NIV)*

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)*

## 2009 Review Continued

*By Craig*

### MINISTRY OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS

I guess I should highlight some of the ministry events from the last two months as that is the point of this newsletter ...

In addition to my work at the town church, I have also recently committed **to attending the Popova church every other Sunday**. The Popova church is located about 20 minutes west of town. It is a small group (4-8) with many new Christians.

I am continuing to have weekly studies with two families and also a couple of individuals. As usual, people and schedules are very fluid so my appointments always seem to be changing.

The church here is looking forward to **hosting the 2010 PNG national church gathering**. We expect at least a few hundred (up to 1,000) visitors. Church members are busy planting gardens to get ready to host the group. I am one of the key coordinators so I've focused some of my time on planning this event.

In November we had a **campaign group from Westover Hills**. The group worked hard at distributing World Bible School material and hosted several evening sessions. It was a very successful campaign. Thanks to Scott Ferguson, Chuck and Bobbye Wilson, and John and Beth Reese for visiting Alotau.

### FAMILY 2009 Year in Review

Of course, the most significant event of 2009 was the birth of our third child - **Elizabeth Ruby Ford**. Elizabeth was a name we liked and Hannah's name suggestion. Ruby is my mother's name. Little did we know, but Ruby is coming back in style. We know three more people in the last six months who named a daughter Ruby.

Jeri put together a great post that introduces you to all of the key events in 2009. You can [read that post here](#).



## Family Perspective

By Jeri

November was a busy, yet fruitful month. At the beginning of the month, a small World Bible School campaign group came for about 10 days. We enjoyed hosting Scott Ferguson in our home. It was a blessing getting to know yet another Texan.

We had fun teaching our kids about Thanksgiving (a holiday that isn't celebrated here, obviously). We read books and told stories about American Thanksgiving. Sharing a Thanksgiving meal complete with pumpkin pie but no turkey with our teammates and some other Americans in town was a blessing.

In December we were able to get away for two nights to a guesthouse located in a beautiful, secluded location. We enjoyed relaxing, hiking, swimming, and snorkeling. Making Christmas cookies with Hannah and Caleb was a fun experience, as was teaching them all kinds of Christmas songs. Caleb's favorite is "Frosty" and Hannah really likes "Jingle Bells". I wish you could hear Caleb sing, "fa la la la" - it's just too cute! Christmas Day was especially exciting as we watched the kids' eyes light up when they saw their gifts. We spoiled ourselves with a ham for Christmas dinner, a special treat here, for sure. Elizabeth continues to grow and develop. She seems so happy, especially spending time with her big brother and sister. We are blessed with very happy, healthy children. It's so nice to end the year with wonderful memories to keep forever.



*Jeri and the kids at Waga Waga beach.*

*Rejoice in the Lord  
always. I will say it  
again: Rejoice!  
(Philippians 4:4 NIV)*

## Blogging Ministry: Full Disclosure

By Craig

[www.moneyhelpforchristians.com](http://www.moneyhelpforchristians.com) (MH4C) is my blog that I maintain as a side ministry and small business.

**MH4C is officially a ministry.** Through email interaction with my readers, many people have thanked me for my 'dual ministry' in PNG and with the blog. I've had a chance to respond to emails about giving and debt, corresponded with a lady going through a financial marriage crisis, and offered my thoughts on what the Bible has to say about an investment property. I have had multiple email conversations with people in the States, Canada, Dubai, Singapore, Australia, and several African countries.

Each day my articles are now sent to over 400 people and I have about 1,500 visitors per week who on average read 2,300 of my articles each week.

**MH4C is officially a side business.** In addition, my blog is also becoming a small business. Through different advertising opportunities, I have been able to supplement my income (in a small way) through the blog.

Perhaps one day, like Paul, I will be a self sustaining church worker.

Since returning to PNG after furlough, I spend early mornings, late nights, and/or Saturdays working with the blog. I spend an average of 15 hours per week working on the blog. I'm doing my best to keep these two forms of ministry separated due to sponsorship and integrity issues.

**Why am I telling you all this?** For full disclosure. Because many of you sponsor me to do mission work I want you to know about the blog, its time requirement, and to let you know I do now have a secondary source of (minimal) income. *Please email me if you have any questions or concerns.*



## Devotional

By Craig

### What's Your Greatest Desire?

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33 NIV)*

We've probably all seen a cartoon with a person sitting on a horse or donkey dangling a carrot in front of the animal to move. As long as the carrot is in front of the mule it keeps moving.

All this makes me wonder - what is your desire? Satan is (unfortunately) skillfully deceptive when it comes to substituting carrots. **While God wants our desire to be for his kingdom, Satan wants us to desire what is evil.**

God's kingdom and his righteousness should motivate us as spiritual people. **If we chase after the wrong carrot, there will be a lingering bitter taste.** If, however we chase after God's kingdom, we can taste and know that the Lord is good.

*Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. (Psalm 34:8 NIV)*

**Craig, Jeri, Hannah, Caleb, and Elizabeth Ford**

PO Box 912  
Alotau, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea

Phone:  
011 (675) 7671-7788

Web Site:  
[www.pngfords.com](http://www.pngfords.com)

E-mail:  
pngfords@kulamail.net

