

Living and working with the Onobasulu in Papua New Guinea.

Answering your frequently asked questions.

January 2011

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Dear Family and Friends,

When I decided to stay another year in PNG, my family asked me to return to California for the holidays. This gave me the opportunity to reconnect with friends and supporters as well as have a break from the challenges of life and work in PNG.



It was great to be a part of the typical holiday festivities. The highlights this year included seeing my cousin who is pregnant (it will be a boy!), seeing the Nutcracker ballet in San Francisco and having Christmas with both sides of the family. My family is pictured above in our Christmas hats, a requirement to come to Christmas dinner at Grandmas. I loved having the chance to spend quality time with the whole family.



Being home for 6 weeks also gave me the opportunity to see many of my supporters. I went down to Santa Barbara twice and had a great time with my church family. I am so thankful for their love and support. It was also really nice to see my best friend Jenny again. We lived it up, enjoying all sides of Santa Barbara. Here we are pictured on the pier.

I also had a chance to speak at the church in Fair Oaks where I grew up. I was so blessed by everyone who braved the rain to come and hear me present my work. It was encouraging to share with such a supportive and attentive audience.

Thanks as well to the many other people I was able to reconnect with, I am so thankful for each and everyone of you. Unfortunately six weeks was not long enough to see everyone and I apologize to those I was unable to spend time with. Please keep in touch and I look forward to seeing you the next time I am in California. Of course if that is too long to wait, there are many short-term opportunities available to serve in here at the Ukarumpa center. Visitors are always welcome.

While I was home many people asked me lots of different questions. These opened doors to share about the various aspects of life in PNG. Here and on the back page you will find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

Why are you staying another year?

The simple answer is found in the faces of **the people** I am working with and serving.

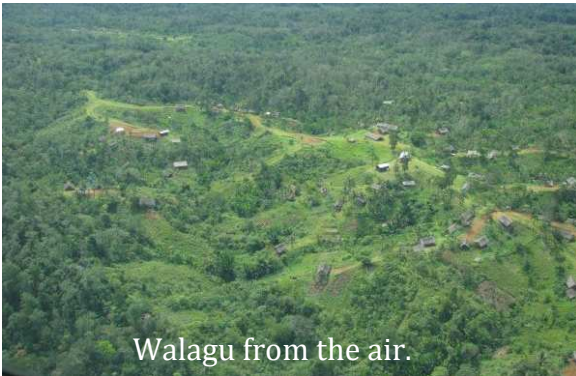


Where do you live?

I spend most of my time in **Ukarumpa** which is a linguistics center in the Eastern Highlands Province. It is located just off of the highlands highway between Kainantu and Goroka. This center supports training and translation throughout PNG. This year I will be participating in, as well as teaching at, literacy courses in addition to my work with the Onobasulu.



My Ukarumpa Home- I live on the right side.



Walagu from the air.

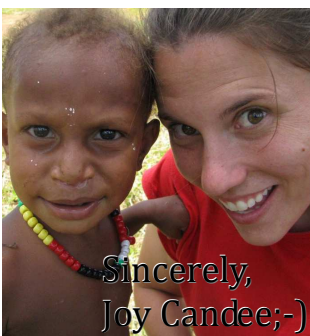
The other part of my time I spend in **Walagu**, the main Onobasulu village in the Southern Highlands Province. It is very remote and only accessible on foot or by plane. The closest road is a two day walk. My next village stay will be from February 15th until March 10th. I will be working more with the Onobasulu teachers as well as facilitating a curriculum translation workshop for two of the neighboring languages.

What is your job?

The government education office has asked each language group to develop their own Elementary curriculum. This is obviously an enormous task. The Onobasulu teachers asked me to stay to help them create a standardized Onobasulu curriculum. My official title is language program intern. And **my main focus is the Onobasulu literacy program, specifically supporting and facilitating the completion of the Onobasulu Elementary curriculum.** My ongoing work includes but is not limited to computer support and basic training, administrative support, material acquisition and book production.

What do you eat?

I eat normal **food**. The only difference is the lack of convenience foods so almost everything needs to be made from scratch. The Ukarumpa store imports food from Australia and California so I can even buy some Sunny Select products. The typical PNG diet is different. They eat a lot of **green leafy vegetables**, roots such as **sweet potato** and **yam** as well as other starches like sago and rice. When I am in the village I enjoy eating PNG food. I am a sweet potato fan and the leafy vegetables are very good for you.



Sincerely,
Joy Candee;-)

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