



# Josh and Rebecca Florence

Church Planting Missionaries to  
Papua New Guinea

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**Thank you** for taking the time to look at our packet of information. I pray that your heart will be touched with the great need in the jungles of Papua New Guinea.

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ThatTheyMayKnow.com  
PreachingChristInPNG.com

**THE FLORENCE FAMILY**  
**MISSIONARIES to the unreached people groups in**  
**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**Papua New Guinea** is an Island chain with over 6 million people in it. It is estimated that there are still 300 unreached people groups in the remote areas of New Guinea. God has called my family to go to the remote and undeveloped areas of PNG where there has been extremely little gospel outreach done. On our two-month survey trip, the Lord led us to the Gulf Province to work with the Allen family. There are at multiple language groups that qualify as “unreached” in this area. They do not have a fundamental missionary, a Bible in their heart language, or any established Bible preaching churches that we know of. God has called us to go to one of these groups to plant churches.

### **Our Calling:**

Plant churches that become: self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating in PNG.

### **Our Sending Church:**

Our sending church, Resurrection Baptist Church, is providing the oversight, accountability and stateside support that we need. Pastor Fox (850-457-3440) - [www.RBCPensacola.com](http://www.RBCPensacola.com)

### **Our Team:**

We will be partnering with a team of experienced, independent missionaries while on the field – [www.ThatTheyMayKnow.com](http://www.ThatTheyMayKnow.com)

**We already have 70% of our support raised and are praying that the rest comes in quickly.**

*Josh, Rebecca & Abigail Florence*



**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord Phil. 2:21**

# Family

Rebecca and I met while we were at Bible College. We were both extremely busy between working, studying and ministry. When she wasn't in the library or in hospitals earning her clinical hours, I was able to see Rebecca. We went to mission prayer band, dinner, evangelistic outreaches and special events together. However, it wasn't until God led us individually to go on the same mission trip to the Ivory Coast, West Africa that I realized it was God's will to pursue a deeper relationship. Two years later, in August of 2011, we were married at Resurrection Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. We now have a beautiful 2-year-old daughter and we are expecting our second child in September of this year.



## Testimony & Call

### Rebecca Florence

I grew up within a Christian home where I was taught about Christ daily. God led my family to a fundamental, Bible-believing church where the man of God loved souls and the Word of God. Under these circumstances, I was convicted that I was a sinner at an early age and that it wasn't enough to have a head knowledge that Jesus died for me. At the age of five I confessed my sins, according to Romans 10:13, personally believing that Jesus took my punishment when He died on the cross, and accepted Him as my Saviour.

As I grew older, there developed within me an unrelenting desire to serve God on the foreign mission field, using the tool of nursing to assist in church planting. My family faced multiple difficulties while I was in high school as my father went through heart surgery, was physically crushed within 2 years, and we lost my grandmother in a car accident. God performed some amazing things on our behalf during those years, teaching me that the most important thing in my life was my relationship with the Lord. Our faith grew as we trusted Christ to meet our needs, and my burden for nursing, missions and telling others about our powerful God increased as well.



In 2004 God led me to Pensacola Christian College, where I studied Nursing with a minor in Missions. During three consecutive summers God provided for me to go on medical missions trips. It was in Papua New Guinea that God's still small voice moved in my heart. It was also here that the Lord taught me a fuller meaning of following Christ, that a work is only a fulfilling ministry when God is in it, whether on or off the

foreign mission field. It was here in the rainforest, among a forgotten people who live in grass huts and have gardens on the side of a mountain that God impressed a relentless burden for His work in mission nursing, church planting, and Bible translation.

Just after I returned from Papua New Guinea the Lord led Josh to ask me to marry him. I knew at that time that God had called me to follow my husband wherever that might be. While Josh finished Seminary, I worked as a nurse and we served together in our local church.

It was after our two-month trip to PNG that God confirmed His call on our lives for the mission field. We greatly anticipate the work He has called us to do as we serve on deputation and prepare for the field. Our desire is as Paul wrote in Philippians, "Yea doubtless, and I count all thing but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him..." May Christ find us faithful as we seek to serve Him.

## Josh Florence

Through the goodness and grace of God, I was adopted into a Christian home at the age of six. I grew up at Youth Baptist Church and attended Youth Christian School. I received Christ at the age of fourteen. After hearing a powerful message on sin, I understood that I was guilty before a holy, just God. Furthermore, I understood that I deserved to be punished for my sins. I knew that Christ had died for my sins and was willing to forgive me if I would repent of my sins and ask Christ to save me. I called on Christ to forgive me and save me that night.

As I grew in the Lord He placed a desire to preach His word in my heart. After much prayer, specific direction from God's word (Jer. 7:2) and counsel from my pastor, I announced my calling to preach at the age of seventeen. I believe that all Christians are called to serve

Christ “full time.” However, I believe that I am called specifically to preach the gospel and to live of the gospel.

Shortly thereafter, the Lord directed me to Pensacola Christian College where I obtained a Bachelor’s in Bible with an emphasis on evangelism. My desire is to see the whole world come to know Christ!

Through many circumstances, including my wife’s own testimony of the work that God was doing in PNG, our survey trip and much prayer and fasting the Lord confirmed in our hearts that He wanted us to go to Papua New Guinea.



Many ideas exist concerning the work of the missionary. Many Christians think of missionaries as ‘super-Christians’ or ‘more surrendered-Christians.’ I do not hold to these ideas. I believe that a missionary’s main goal is to be like Christ – just as all Christians are commanded. However, in the course of reaching this goal, God directs their hearts to embrace a people that need to hear the gospel in a specific location. Any “sacrifices” are privileges to be borne for the One who has borne our sin. God has given my wife and I a wonderful mission field. There are many unreached people groups in Papua New Guinea. Many thousands of people live in New Guinea without any opportunity to hear the gospel through reading the Bible, listening to the radio or television or internet. Their only opportunity to hear the gospel will be if someone takes it to them directly. By God’s grace we have committed our lives to this task.

## Education

### Josh

- Bachelors of Bible (Pensacola Christian College)
- Master of Divinity (Pensacola Theological Seminary)
- Linguistics Certificate (Baptist Bible Translators Institute)

### Rebecca

- Bachelors of Science in Nursing (Pensacola Christian College)
- Linguistics Certificate (Baptist Bible Translators Institute)

# Experience

## Josh

I believe that character training is invaluable in the ministry. I am thankful for the godly men who have invested in me during the course of my life. Among those would be my grandfather, Moses Florence. He has been pastoring now for 45 years at Youth Baptist Church in Powder Springs, GA.

- I worked every summer with my father doing all varieties of construction work. This will prove invaluable in PNG as I will be building my own home from the ground up.
- **'05-'09** Internship under Pastor Robert Evans at Berean Baptist Church in Elberta, Alabama. While at Berean I was involved in the bus ministry, the teen ministry and also taught junior church.
- **'04** Counselor at the Bill Rice Ranch
- **'06-'07** Traveled for two summers as a youth evangelist. I praise God that I was able to see over 100 children and teens come to Christ both summers!
- **('07) ('10)** Through my missions trip the Ivory Coast, West Africa as well as my survey trip to Papua New Guinea I learned much about mission work.
- **'11-'12** After returning from PNG and better comprehending the nature of the work, Rebecca and I attended Baptist Bible Translator's Institute in Bowie, TX. They provided advanced linguistic training as well as cultural adaptation training specifically tailored to mission work.

## Rebecca

- I was involved in the bus ministry at my home church in Rochester, Pennsylvania at Sylvania Hills Baptist Church.
- **'04-'08** While in college I participated in Women's door to door as well as children's clubs.
- **'09-'12** I was able to practice nursing at Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, FL for three years.
- I have done medical missions work in Honduras (**'05**), the Ivory Coast, West Africa (**'06**) and Papua New Guinea (**'08**)

## Pastoral Recommendations:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Brother Josh Florence who has answered the call to go to Papua New Guinea. God has burdened Josh's heart for reaching these people with the gospel.

I have known Josh since he was six years old. He was saved at and attended Youth Baptist Church where I pastor. He also graduated from our Christian school. He has always been a faithful Christian and a witness for our Lord. He has always had a burden to win the lost around him.

Please consider having him come and present his burden to your church.

Pastor Moses Florence  
Youth Baptist Church

In a world where hearts are hardened and laborers are few, it is encouraging to find a servant with a sensitive spirit and a sincere desire to follow the Lord. These are exactly the traits I see in the Florence's. Their testimony, their commitment to soul winning, and their desire to disciple new believers in accordance with Scripture will no doubt make them a blessing in the mission field to which God has called them. We are thankful for the opportunity to be their sending church, and our prayer is that others would pray for and support them in their calling.

Pastor Joe Fox  
Resurrection Baptist Church

*Will you consider scheduling us?*

# Strategy for Church Planting in PNG

My understanding is that my primary work is to spread the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ (Mk 16:15). I am also required by the Lord's command in Matthew 18 to baptize and thoroughly disciple those converts (Matt 18:20).

We plan to accomplish this task by:

- Winning Souls (Through personal evangelism, preaching in open markets, witnessing to those who come to the medical clinic, etc...)
- Initiating thorough discipleship courses among the converts (various methods will be used - most likely this will be individuals and in small groups throughout the week)
- Training Christian leaders in a Bible Institute (see the [Team Brochure](#) for facts on the current Bible School) It is currently a 3-year intensive ministry training school out of Kotidanga Baptist Church.
- Organizing local churches among the believers. This will be accomplished by helping those called by God to preach and pastor. I will likely initiate this and lead until they are ready to take over.
- Encouraging the national leaders of those churches as they proceed to win souls, disciple and plant churches themselves
  - This final step is often overlooked. However, until the national churches are reproducing themselves - my work is not finished.

## Our long-term ministry goal:

For every unreached people group in Papua New Guinea to have one Biblical reproducing church. We will be starting with the 19 tribes that are still unreached in the Gulf Province.

*Will you pray for others to be called to help us?*



# About That They May Know (TTMK)

*Let me encourage you to look at the website of our team: That They May Know ([ThatTheyMayKnow.com](http://ThatTheyMayKnow.com)). This will be our sponsoring organization within the country. There are many years of combined ministry experience already on the team. Because they will actually be on the field we will have the added encouragement, shared resources, and ministry advice that they can give.*



That They May Know is a local church ministry empowering local church missionaries to reach the world with the word of God. TTMK is subject to the authority of its sending church, Landmark Independent Baptist Church of Louisville, Kentucky.

The TTMK Executive Leadership Team consists of:

Pastor Matthew Anders, President

Matt Allen, Executive Director

Alan O'Brien, Treasurer

John Allen, Secretary

## Doctrinal Stand

I believe. . .

- in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Old and New Testaments.
- in the preservation of God's Word through the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus
- that the King James Translation is God's preserved, inerrant word in English
- in God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- that God created the world in six literal twenty-four hour days
- that all mankind is sinful, in need of salvation, and unable to save himself

- that Christ died for the sins of all mankind and that salvation is by grace, through faith alone, based upon the finished work of Christ on the cross.
- in the bodily resurrection of Christ and His bodily ascension into heaven, where He now intercedes for believers.
- in the reality of Heaven and Hell.
- that man was created as a responsible being and as such, he may choose to accept or resist the grace of God.
- in the eternal security of the believer.
- that the local church is God's institution to carry out the Great Commission.
- that the two ordinances of the local church are baptism by immersion for believers only and the Lord's Supper as a memorial.
- in the pretribulational rapture of all believers.
- in the premillennial return and millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- in the judgment of believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ and the judgment of unbelievers at the Great White Throne.
- in the obligation of every believer to live a holy life and to witness to the lost of the saving power of Christ.
- that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts, and that the gifts of evangelists and pastor-teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints for today.
- that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established.
- that the extremes of Calvinism and Arminianism are both unbiblical.
- that all forms of compromise with liberalism, ecumenicism, neo-evangelicalism, or the charismatic movement should be avoided by those who wish to live in obedience to God

# Contact Information

## Personal

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## Sending Church

Resurrection Baptist Church  
1041 N. Blue Angel Pkwy.  
Pensacola, FL 32506  
church number?  
Pastor Joe Fox  
cell: 850-712-4767  
www.RBCpensacola.com

## Support

Make checks payable to  
Resurrection Baptist Missions and  
mail to:  
Resurrection Baptist Missions  
PO Box 3617  
Pensacola, FL 32516  
(also send correspondence to this  
address)

## Team Contact Info

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