

# Peter and Pam Van Der Decker

## Missionary Moment Biography

Peter and Pam Van Der Decker were both born into Christian homes, and at young ages, they realized their need of Jesus as their Savior. They met each other in 10th grade. After graduating from Liberty University in 1988, Peter taught math and Bible in Christian schools for 5 years. In 1993, he and his wife and their two boys at that time, went to Papua New Guinea (PNG) on a short term missions program called Interface, a part of New Tribes Mission (NTM). After returning, they went through the training with NTM, and then in 1997 they returned to PNG and since 1998, they have been located in the Kaulong tribe on the island of New Britain there in PNG. Peter and his wife are 45 years old, and they have 4 sons ages 21, 19, 17, 16, and an 8 year old daughter.

For centuries the Kaulong people among whom Peter and his family work had been steeped in their animistic culture. Fear gripped their lives. Then in 2001, after Peter and Pam had learned the Kaulong language and culture, they, along with their partners, were able to present to the Kaulong the redemption story. They began in Genesis with who God is and what He is like as is also revealed in the creation around us. They also taught them about Satan, man, sin, and God's desire and plan to bring man back into right relationship with Himself. They taught through some of the main stories of the Old Testament leading up to the birth of the promised Redeemer, who (as we know) turned out to be none other than God the Son Himself. They taught on the life of Christ up through His death, burial, and resurrection. There was an average of 80 to 100 people that came faithfully to the 3 months of teaching, 5 days a week. Some of these people were hiking an hour to an hour and a half each direction each day. After presenting the gospel, the Lord was pleased to save over 50 people!

In 2003, God enabled the missionary team to develop an alphabet and to teach literacy to the believers. Then in 2005 the Lord helped them to develop a Bible teacher training course for the newly literate believers. In 2007 the Bible teachers were able to take the Gospel to two other villages, and in 2009 on to four more villages. In each of these villages, the Kaulong believers have been the ones to do the teaching, and then to teach the new believers literacy, and then train new Bible teachers. Two of these villages in 2010 have taken the Gospel on to yet two more villages. Today there are over 550 professing believers.

The Van Der Deckers have seen the gospel make tremendous changes in the lives of these people. There is no longer the fear of the spirit world as there had been. There is no longer the fear of death. Their animistic practices are being changed by the power of God. It is an incredible experience for the Van Der Deckers being a part of the work that God is doing there!

