



# Libby Russell

Assisting Church Planters in Papua New Guinea

January 2026

## Updates from December:

**Isaiah 43:19** *“Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”*

I’m thankful for the gift of a new year to learn and grow and serve the Lord! The year 2025 was full of “new things” I had never done before, like traveling on deputation to share my calling with churches around the United States. As I prepare to leave for the field soon (Lord willing), I know many more “firsts” are in store for me in the coming months.

Since December 6th, when my parents returned to their mission field, I have been back at my home church in Long Beach, CA. It’s been so good to reconnect with my friends and church family after eleven months of traveling! I’ve returned to ministries like bus route, nursery, and choir, and I’m looking forward to working in Patch the Pirate Club when it restarts this month. Our annual Teen Winter Camp happened last week, and I enjoyed serving as a counselor. On the last night of camp, a girl approached me about doubting her salvation, and it was a privilege to answer her questions and lead her in praying to receive Christ as her Savior! I’m so blessed to be part of a thriving local church that is making a difference in the next generation.

Missionary John Gray, who handles our visa applications to the Papua New Guinea government, says I will be waiting some months yet for approval of my paperwork. **Please help me pray for speedy visa results!** If all is in order, I plan to leave in late March, after my sister Ruth’s wedding. Until then, I plan to serve in my home church, travel to more meetings, volunteer in the Christian school and church office, and prepare for my mission field.

Thank you for faithfully praying and giving so that I can go to the other side of the world with the gospel! I’m excited to soon arrive on the field and serve alongside the Pangia Ministry Team to reach the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea for Christ.

God bless you!

~ Libby Russell — Assisting Church Planters in Papua New Guinea



*Goodbye to Parents*



*California Christmas*



*Teen Winter Camp*