

December 2012

Taylor Tidings

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with the Nukna people
of Papua New Guinea

Glory to God in the Highest!

Christmas is our favorite time of the year. Not only are there the colorful lights and decorations, the delicious tastes and smells of the annual holiday baking, getting to listen to Christmas music, and special times spent with friends and family, but most importantly, we look forward to spending Christmas focusing on Christ himself and the wondrous night when the King of Kings was born in a lowly stable. Isn't it an incredible story?!

This Christmas, the Nukna people will hear the story of Jesus' birth in their own language for the first time! We recently revised the Nukna translation of Luke 1-8 with the help of our co-translators, Muransi, Simendi and Emson. When we completed chapter 2, they said, "We want to print out copies of the Christmas story to take back and read to the people during the Christmas Day church service!" They are planning to not only read it in their home villages, but they will also send copies to some of the farther-flung Nukna villages so they can read it too. Please pray that as they hear the Christmas story in their own language for the first time, God would bring to them a greater appreciation of the wonder and glory of Emmanuel, God with us. May God be glorified, as the angels sang on that first Christmas night!

Verse 11 of Luke chapter 2 (see below) illustrates some of the challenges of Bible translation. As you can see, the Nukna translation is significantly longer than the English. Nukna does not have single words for "Savior" or "Christ." Instead, we have translated their meanings using extended phrases. There is no word meaning "save" in Nukna, so for "Savior" they say, "the one who will help you." And for "Christ," the Nukna people say, "the one who will get back his people."

The verse in its entirety reads: "Today in the village of David a woman gave birth to a child, and later this child will give help to all of you, and he is the Big-one, the one who comes to get back his people."



Merry Christmas, from our family to yours!



Christy & Elijah cross a jungle river on a bamboo bridge.

*"Kula Devit tán it káin náráwa káman dá nangge táek,
iná nangge watá wu máriya sán kámuk háláng sáminek,
wawu Táwi, ámna náráwa ná son iháháya háek."*

Today in the town of David a Savior has
been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

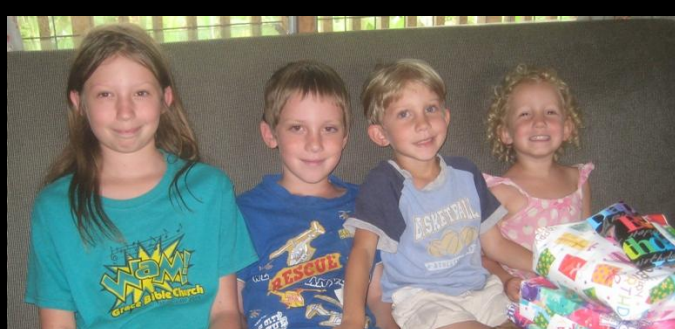
Luke 2:11

Muransi, Emson,
Simendi and Matt,
shortly after trans-
lating Luke ch. 2





left: Hanging out with Nukna friends at a creek near Hamelengan village



right: We celebrated 3 birthdays in the village in October. Here, Justin turns 6!

We spent most of September and October living in Hamelengan village among the Nukna people. For those of you who were supporting us in prayer, thank you! We had another productive and relatively healthy village stay. We had two main goals for this time in the village: to continue working on the revision of Mark and for Matt to complete his Nukna grammar description. Praise the Lord that both of these goals were realized. The revision of the book of Mark has now been completed. This is the first completed New Testament book in the Nukna language! We will now do some further testing of Mark with the Nukna people and then have a translation consultant check it for exegetical accuracy. Matt was also able to complete the Nukna Grammar Essentials, a 170-page description of the ins and outs of Nukna grammatical structure.



Did you know...?

- Nukna has 37 words for banana?
- Nukna has a special verb tense, called an evidential, which is used to describe something that you hear or smell, but don't actually see? For example, this verb tense is used to describe a tree falling when you only hear the sound of it falling, but don't see it, or for food cooking when you smell it but don't see it.
- The verb 'give' is used to describe many types of sensory experiences? For example...

"I am hungry" in Nukna would be "It gives me hunger."

"I forget" would be "It gives me forgetfulness."

"I am cold" would be "It gives me cold."

"I have the hiccups" would be "It gives me hiccups."

Giving

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top to bottom:

- 1) Nukna women dressed up for a traditional sing-sing
- 2) #1 village pastime – playing in the mud!
- 3) Elijah turned one and began walking while we were in the village
- 4) Waiting for the helicopter to take us back to Ukarumpa
- 5) Kaitlyn and Christy