

Taylor Tidings

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*partners in Bible translation
 with the Nukna people
 of Papua New Guinea*

As the Christmas season begins, we are amazed at how quickly another year has flown by. When we think back on 2013, we are thankful to God for all he has done in our lives and in the Nukna Bible translation program!

In June our co-translator Simendi came to the Ukarumpa translation center where he spent several weeks translating parts of Genesis into Nukna. Simendi would often get so absorbed in translating God's word that he would lose track of time, often translating into the wee hours of the morning. During these weeks of intense translation work, he inexplicably began to feel more and more discouraged. One night he had a dream that he woke up and was being pinned to his bed by an evil spirit. In the dream, he struggled but was unable to move, and so he prayed to God to deliver him. Finally, the spirit released him and left. When he woke up from the dream, he realized that the enemy was hoping to discourage him from translating more of Genesis. But rather than give in to it, Simendi asked God to confound the evil one's plans by giving him the strength to work even harder on the translation! Added to several chapters of Genesis that had been previously translated, the new portions that Simendi translated mean that we now have a draft of Genesis chapters 1-27.

Since our last newsletter, Matt has taken on a new role as the Scripture Publication Coordinator for the SIL PNG branch. It's his job to help translation teams navigate through the process of having their New Testaments and Scripture portions typeset and printed. One of his responsibilities is organizing "checking parties" where a group of people get together and do detailed layout and formatting checks to ensure that the translated Scripture is ready for the final printing.

In mid-September we flew out to Hamelengan for a 6-week village stay. It was a very productive time of translation work. Matt and our co-translators finished revising Luke through chapter 21. Just three more chapters to go!

At the beginning of our stay, progress was slow. Of our two main co-translators, Muransi was out of the village, while Simendi was suffering



top to bottom: 1) ready to board the helicopter for the flight to Hamelengan
 2) Simendi holding Julianne and Elijah
 3) traditional Nukna celebratory sing-sing
left to right: 1) Emson, Matt, Tángiliong, Bonas, Eddie and Simendi after a translation session
 2) Christy checking the Waskia New Testament at a "checking party"

from a series of painful boils that rendered him unable to sit down. At first he tried to soldier on, standing up hour after hour in the translation office while we worked on Luke. Finally, it became too much and we had to cancel translation work for quite a few days. Shortly after he recovered from the boils, he badly injured his foot when he slipped in the jungle and landed on a sharp rock. It was a deep cut and quite painful. But while Matt was dressing the wound and expressing his sympathy, Simendi just smiled and said, "It's okay! With this injured foot, I won't be able to hike to my gardens or go hunting in the jungle, which means I can stay here in the village and work with you every day! We'll get lots of translation done now!"

During our time in the village, we were visited by a leadership team from JAARS, including their president (JAARS is a partner organization of Wycliffe, and among other things they are a big supporter of mission aviation). Since Hamelengan village is in such a remote location, we almost never have visitors, so it was quite exciting for us (and for the Nukna people) when the helicopter landed in the middle of the village and five Americans got off! The leadership team had come to PNG to find how they at JAARS could better support mission aviation in PNG. Our family was able to share with them about our ministry and how vital mission aviation is to making Bible translation for the Nukna people possible. Read more of the story [here](#) at Christy's blog.

The last week of our stay coincided with the annual grade 8 exams held at the local school. Students must pass these week-long exams or they aren't allowed to go on to grade 9. Since the exams are so important to the students' future, their families came to Hamelengan from their far-flung home villages in order to support them. During that week, several village and church leaders from remote Nukna villages got to experience translation work for the first time. Matt had up to nine men sitting in on translation sessions each day. For more of the story, visit Christy's blog [here](#).

We arrived back in Ukarumpa on November 6th and barely had time to catch our breaths before two Nukna men, Muransi and Kuyiong, flew up to join us. They spent the next two weeks working with Matt doing audio recordings of the books of Mark and Ruth in the Nukna language (see photo at right). Next year, when we go out for our final village stay before furlough, we will take out both the printed versions of these two books, as well as audio players with the recordings. Since the Nukna culture is primarily an oral culture, we are excited to see the impact that these recordings of God's word will have among the Nukna people!



Giving

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