

August 2019

# Taylor Tidings

**Matt & Christy Taylor**

Kaitlyn, Nathan, Justin,  
Julianne & Elijah

Partners in Bible translation  
with the Nukna people  
of Papua New Guinea

## Nukna Bible study course

Matt and four others recently led a nine-day Bible Backgrounds course for the Nukna people, with 40 official course participants and around 120 additional observers. God worked powerfully through the teaching, and many Nukna people were impacted. People were being convicted by God's Word and confessing their sins.

One village group came to us, wanting to publicly repent for listening to dreams that were telling them to sacrifice animals in order to appease their ancestors. Through studying the Old Testament sacrificial system, and then hearing what it says in Hebrews, that Christ's death was the final sacrifice, once for all, they realized that these dreams and sacrifices they were making were not of God.

The course also increased people's hunger for God's Word, and we sold a good number of Scripture portions and audio players. People told us they had never realized that the Old and New Testaments were actually one connected story, and that God's plan to send Jesus to save us from our sins was in motion from the very beginning.

*"I'm so happy about this course, because something like this has never happened before in my life. I believe that this course will change my life and my community."*

- Okep Fifu



*"What I've learned in this course has grabbed my heart. And I can't just keep it to myself, I've got to share it with my community, so that it can change them too!"*

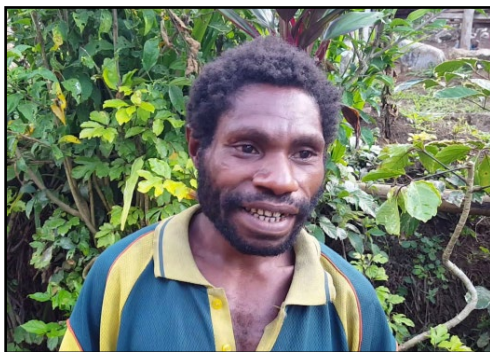
- Ogat Iring

*"I learned that it's only through belief that God will call me righteous, there's no other way."*

- Anita Etine







*"I'm a church leader, and I've never had enough training to be a good preacher, but now this course has equipped me to do good work in my church."  
- Koplik Ombu*



*"In my church, I've never heard teaching like this before, only surface-level teaching. But now I understand deep in my heart everything that God has done, from the beginning in Genesis to when Jesus came. And this has changed my life."  
-Tawo Bubugao*



## Change of plans

Our whole family was planning to spend two weeks in the Nukna area, in our home village of Hamelengan, just prior to the Bible study course, but in a dramatic turn of events, Mt. Ulawun on New Britain island began erupting the day before our flight. Even though this volcano is about 300 miles away from the Nukna area, its smoke plume was blowing in our direction. However, the pilots thought the chances were good that we could still fly out there the next morning, so we proceeded with our plans. Traveling by helicopter, we were about 80% of the way there when we flew through a mountain pass and saw an unusual dark haze filling many of the valleys ahead of us. The pilots



*Mt. Ulawun erupting (Photo: AFP / Niugini Helicopters / Craig Powell)*

had to turn around and head back to Ukarumpa, because it is very dangerous to fly aircraft into volcanic ash. We were quite disappointed to get so close and have to turn back! We realized that in our sixteen years here, this was the first time we haven't been able to get out

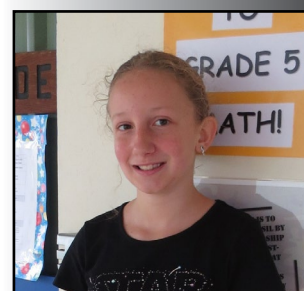
to our village, even though we know many other translation teams that have been turned back on multiple occasions by bad weather, flooding rivers, poor road conditions, or security situations. So we are grateful that this was only our first time. (And of course the effect on us pales in comparison to the difficulties faced by the 13,000 people living near the volcano who were displaced from their homes.) We had planned for this to be Kaitlyn's last visit to our village before she graduates from high school next year, and since we still want her to have the chance to visit one last time and say her goodbyes, we are planning for our family to visit for two weeks in March, during the kids' school break. This change of plans was a big surprise to us, but we know it wasn't a surprise to God, and we are trusting in his sovereignty, even over volcanoes!



*Getting out of the chopper after being turned back by the volcano*



*Nathan and Justin at the percussion recital*



*Elijah's first day of 2nd grade and Julianne's first day of 5th*



## Banquet

Each year here at the Ukarumpa center, the parents put on a special banquet for the 11th and 12th graders, kind of like prom. This was our first year being involved, as Kaitlyn was an 11th grader. The theme this year was "Time Travel", and the banquet night included a fancy dinner, an area decorated like the Old West (including wood branding and a BB gun shooting gallery), and a giant slide. It's always amazing to see how creative people can be, especially when living here in PNG means that options are quite limited. Kaitlyn and her friends had a wonderful time and made many special memories. In addition to helping with all the decorating, Christy prepared drinks and appetizers, and Matt waited on tables during the dinner.



## Other family news

Kaitlyn just began her senior year (where has the time gone?!) and has joined the Ukarumpa Pony Club, where she cares for and rides horses each Saturday morning. Nathan and Justin were part of the track team at school, with Christy as one of their coaches! Justin also performed in his first percussion recital, with Nathan accompanying him on the piano. Elijah just started in 2nd grade, and Julianne in 5th grade. She's joined the beginning band and is learning to play the baritone. Christy continues to volunteer as clinic receptionist, 1st grade teacher's assistant and 12th grade youth group leader. Matt has become a youth group leader for the 6th and 7th grade boys.



## Translation update

We recently completed the team check of Matthew chapters 13-21, and are planning to complete the last 7 chapters later this month when three Nukna men come up to Ukarumpa. Matt is also working on the exegetical check of the translation of John, while Muransi is drafting 1 Corinthians. In an answer to prayer, we have found a consultant to check the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. A Papua New Guinean consultant named Yauko will be doing these checks with us in September. And we were also recently able to complete the final consultant checks of the books of Titus and Philemon. Our consultant for Titus, John Bruner (see photo at right), was the teacher's assistant for one of Matt's linguistics classes at Biola University way back in 1996!



## New email address

Please update your address books to  
**[matt\\_taylor@sil.org](mailto:matt_taylor@sil.org) and [christy\\_taylor@sil.org](mailto:christy_taylor@sil.org).**

(Both addresses go to the same inbox, so you can reach us both with either address). Our old address ([m-c.taylor@sil.org.pg](mailto:m-c.taylor@sil.org.pg)) will stop working at the end of this month.



## Giving

**By Mail:** Make a check payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators, with a separate note indicating "preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Matt and Christy Taylor." Mail to Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200.

**Online:** Go to <https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/taylor> Please note: 2.7% of gifts made by credit or debit card will be charged to us as a transaction fee.



## Contact Us

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## top to bottom:

- 1 & 2) Kaitlyn (and Matt) dressed up for Banquet
- 3) Kaitlyn at the Pony Club
- 4) Christy with athletes and other coaches at the Eastern Highlands track meet (our school won!)
- 5) Consultant check of Titus