

Taylor Tidings

Matt & Christy Taylor
 Kaitlyn, Nathan, Justin,
 Julianne & Elijah

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

“Now we are living in the light!”

The power of God’s Spirit can, and does, change hearts and lives. On Easter Sunday, the Nukna people held a big celebration of thanksgiving to God. We’ve never seen so many Nukna people gathered in one place! The singing and dancing (known as “sing-sing”) went on for hours, and people brought offerings of garden produce and money to support our translation and literacy work.

During the celebration, the people of Apalap village approached and asked to speak with Matt. For several years they had been performing sing-sings that had been revealed to them in a dream by bush spirits. These sing-sings were not honoring to God, and through the teaching at the Bible Backgrounds course in 2019, and through the translated Scripture portions now available to them, the people of Apalap had recently repented of performing these sing-sings and had written new ones that give the praise to Jesus instead (see photo at middle right).

As they shared with Matt, one of the village leaders said, **“God used to be hidden from us, but through the work you’ve been doing, he has appeared clearly to us, and now we are living in the light!”** What a special moment, and we give all the praise to God as he moves in the lives of the Nukna people! And we are also keenly aware that this ministry would not be possible without the support of many others, including you, our prayer and financial partners. Thank you for standing with us through the years. Let’s rejoice together at what God is doing among the Nukna people!

***Want to see and hear these Nukna sing-sings for yourself?
 We’ve put together a short video - just click [this link!](#)***



Nukna youth dressed up for a traditional sing-sing



The people of Apalap sang a special song to us as a thank you



Young men from Hamelengan village painted themselves with mud and formed a marching band



Nukna women ready to sing-sing



Nukna literacy training course

In April, we held a three-week course, named Vernacular Creative Phonics, to train Nukna men and women to become literacy teachers. The course focused on training them to teach Nukna children how to read and write in their own language, though the principles will also be applied in the area of adult literacy. Twenty-nine Nukna students graduated under the teaching of national trainers Abu (far left in above photo) and Samuel (far right, back row), who flew to the Nukna area with Matt. Excitement was running high, as the Nukna people know that education is the key to a better future. People are also wanting to learn to read better in their own language, Nukna, which will give them more access to God's Word. Interest was so high that on many days we had 30-50 additional observers in the classroom. The graduates said they can't wait to take what they've learned and put it into practice in the local classrooms. Many of the graduates already hold teaching positions in the early grades (preschool through second grade) of schools in the Nukna area.



Three above photos: Students (and one young observer) in the Vernacular Creative Phonics course

Translation news

Matt and the Nukna translation team met in Ukarumpa in January and February, working on revisions to the Nukna draft of the book of John, chapters 1-14. It was the first time we'd been with the Nukna people since the Covid pandemic began in March 2020. During the literacy course in April, we also worked on translation during the weekends, doing the village check of John chapters 1-6. It's great to be moving forward again with the translation of the Nukna New Testament. One of our main co-translators, Muransi, recently completed the draft of Hebrews and is now working on James.



Together again! Muransi, Matt, Emson, and Septenu revised John 1-14

Scripture celebration!

In March, our mission community celebrated the Bible translation progress made in PNG over the last few years. How encouraging it was to see that, despite the challenges of the last two years amid the Covid pandemic, God has continued to bless his work in PNG! Pictured to the right are all the New Testaments, Scripture portions, Jesus videos and audio Scriptures completed in the last three years. Nukna was represented as well - the Nukna 10 Epistles is the light blue cover in the front, far left. The map behind the table has a dot showing the location of each language represented.





Julianne (far right) and friends at Sports Day. In February she became our fourth teenager!

Nathan says goodbye to Papua New Guinea

Nathan was born in Cairns, Australia, spent much of his early childhood in a remote PNG village (see photo above left), flew on a helicopter multiple times before he learned to walk or talk, and for years only wore shoes when he had to! In just a few weeks, he'll be graduating from high school and saying goodbye to his home for the last 18 years. Please pray for Nathan as he transitions to life in the United States and attends Liberty University, where he plans to study computer science.

Family news

Life has been full, as always. Our kids have been involved in band and choir concerts, music recitals, school plays, and school sports. Julianne played soccer and volleyball. Justin played basketball and touch rugby, and Nathan played touch rugby. Elijah is enjoying learning to play the piano.

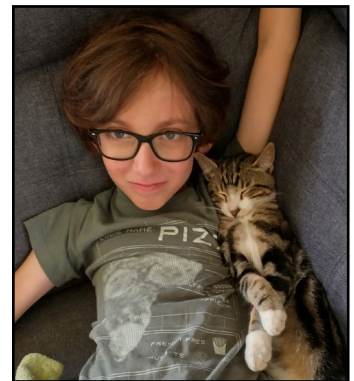
Christy continues to fill a vital volunteer role as the registrar and guidance counselor at Ukarumpa International School, where our kids attend. We're also working hard with the other upperclassmen parents to put on the 11/12 grade banquet (similar to prom). Recently, Christy and some of the other parents dressed up in Western gear and did a fun line dance as part of giving out the official banquet invitations to the students (see photo at lower right).

Kaitlyn is coming to see us in PNG! She's taking her first year college final exams this week and then hopping on a plane the next day. We can't wait to see her!

Matt will be traveling back to the United States for June and July to help settle Nathan into college and life in the States. Justin will be coming as well, to take care of some orthodontics. Christy will be staying with Elijah and Julianne in PNG. While Matt's trip is short, he's hoping there will be opportunities to visit with some of you!



Nathan played the part of the prince in the recent high school play



Elijah with our new cat, Tornado



Justin (center front) and friends at the 9th grade formal dinner



Nathan (second from right) begins a race at the annual Sports Day



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

PNG address:
Matt and Christy Taylor
SIL Box 1 (28)
Ukarumpa, EHP 444
Papua New Guinea

matt_taylor@sil.org
christy_taylor@sil.org
<http://taylortidings.org/>