

Taylor Tidings

Matt and Christy Taylor, Kaitlyn and Nathan

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Partners in Bible translation in Papua New Guinea

Let's Go to the Village!

We just got back from five weeks living in Hamelengan village. A big thank you to all of you who prayed for us during this time – we had a (mostly) wonderful stay! Our health was good and Christy with the baby inside her were able to negotiate the steep, slippery trails without mishap. Kaitlyn and Nathan really warmed up to life in the village, making lots of new friends. Kaitlyn even began learning some of the Nukna language – her first full sentence was “It gáin gunin,” which means “Let’s go to the village.”



Our house's new window

Even living in the bush house went better than expected. Part of the reason was no doubt the new window the village men put in, which more than doubled the light inside the house. But we also believe that God answered our prayers and gave us the extra grace we needed.



Translation Committee

The Nukna Translation Committee met for the first time in July. The committee's purpose is to oversee all translation and related work and to make all the important decisions that come up.

The committee's first decision was to confirm two Nukna men, Esonu and Eti as co-translators (Esonu was spotlighted in our last newsletter; more about Eti later in this newsletter). We praise God for raising up these men to work with us in the Bible translation task. Please pray for them as they take the first steps in this very long journey. Pray also that they and their families would be protected and provided for.

Other important decisions were made regarding the sale and distribution of the books we produce, and the handling of finances within the translation program. We also made plans for the future of the Bible translation work and for an adult literacy program in the Nukna area. Please pray with us that the decisions made and the plans laid are in accordance with God's will



The first Nukna Translation Committee meeting. Esonu (lower left) and Eti (front row, 2nd from left) were confirmed as co-translators.

A Tale of Two Books

We traveled back to Ukarumpa on July 19th with three Nukna men – Simenti, Esonu and Eti. During their stay in Ukarumpa, we worked on two new Nukna books.

The first is a *Nukna Story Book*, which has 18 stories written in the Nukna language. We tried to include stories from all over the Nukna area, so that all the Nukna people will want to read this book, and so these stories represent 16 different story tellers from nine villages and four dialects.

We hope that this story book will encourage people to read in their own language and improve their reading skills, so they will be able to read and understand the Bible when we translate it into the Nukna language.

The second book is an AIDS informational book. AIDS is becoming a problem in Papua New Guinea, so we hope this book will help educate and protect the Nukna people from this disease. Matt plans to return to the Nukna area in early September to help distribute these two books, as well as to tie up some loose ends before we leave for furlough. It was decided to postpone the Nukna song book until after our furlough, so that we can do a more thorough job.



The Cutting Edge

Thanks to the generosity of another SIL translator who has lent us his chainsaw, we are finally making progress on cutting timber for our village house! A team of Nukna men has spent several weeks in the jungle, felling trees and cutting boards to specified lengths and sizes, using the chainsaw along with an adjustable guide bar. The work was done in a remote area, high up on the mountain. Matt enjoyed hiking up each morning to assist with the work and spend time building relationships with the Nukna men. There is still a lot of timber yet



Eti Gusing joined our team as an artist (one of his drawings for the story book is at left), but discovered that he also has an interest in translation work.



Three weeks before he came with us to Ukarumpa, he found out that he was getting married that next Sunday (marriages sometimes work a little different in PNG)! Eti lives in Komutu village, over the mountain from where we live in Hamelengan.

to be cut, but we are so thankful for what has already been done. We are also grateful for the Nukna people who have given so much of their time and effort to help cut wood for our new home. We hope to build our village house sometime in 2008, after we return from our furlough in the U.S.



The whole village pitched in to carry the sawn timber the 45 minutes' hike down the mountain to the village



Many days, the men would work from dawn to dusk, then sleep in a shelter in the jungle so they could get an early start again the next day.



Two Birthday Celebrations

While we were in the village, we both got to celebrate our birthdays! Nathan turned 2 on June 30th and I (Kaitlyn) turned 4 on July 4th. Mommy made us our own cakes, but the night after Nathan's birthday, mice ate most of the wax candles, so I only got to have one candle on my cake, even though I am four years old! Mommy and Daddy could only bring one present each for us, because there wasn't room on the helicopter for more, so we got to open more presents when we got back to Ukarumpa. Having two birthdays is fun!

Now that we're back in Ukarumpa, I am going to 4-year-old preschool. Our class is called the "kapuls" which means "tree kangaroo" in Tok Pisin. Nathan really likes noisy things like chainsaws, airplanes and motorcycles. The other day he said, "I get big, I ride motorcycle, go fast fast!" Mommy and Daddy aren't too sure about that though!

Praise God...

- ◆ That we had a safe, healthy and productive village stay.
- ◆ That He is raising up Nukna people to join us in the task of Bible translation.
- ◆ That some of the wood for our village house has been cut.
- ◆ That we were able to produce two more books in the Nukna language.

Pray...

- ◆ That Matt's trip to the village in early September goes well.
- ◆ That the new Nukna books will help the people to read in their own language.
- ◆ For those who have been called to help with the translation work, especially Eti, Esonu and Simenti, that God would encourage and protect them and their families.
- ◆ For the health of Christy and our new baby, due in late October.

Baby and Furlough

It's hard to believe that our first term here in Papua New Guinea is almost over! On September 21st we will be leaving PNG and flying to Cairns, Australia, where we will spend 2 ½ months awaiting the arrival of Baby. You might remember from the time when Nathan was born (also in Cairns) that our doctors here in PNG require us to travel outside of the country for the birth of our baby. And because health costs in Australia are much lower than in the U.S., we decided it would be best to have our third baby in Cairns.

Our time in Cairns will also be a chance for us to work on the many reports and projects related to our work with the Nukna people that we haven't had time for yet. It will also be special as Grandma and Grandpa Nilson will be coming to visit us for about a month around the time Baby is due.

Once Baby is born and we have his or her birth certificate and U.S. passport, we will be clear to fly home to the U.S. We plan to spend most of our time in the U.S. living in Arroyo Grande, CA, but we also plan to hit the road and visit as many of you, our friends and partners, as we can. Stay tuned – our next newsletter will have more details about our furlough time.

In Christ,

Matt and Christy

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