

March 2011

Taylor Tidings

Matt & Christy Taylor
Kaitlyn, Nathan, Justin and Julianne

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

Ruthless Revision

As Matt was revising the Nukna translation of the book of Ruth with our co-translators, Simendi and Muransi, they came across this passage in Ruth 1:9: “Then she [Naomi] kissed them [Ruth and Orpah], and they wept aloud.” The question was, who did the weeping? Was it just Ruth and Orpah, or all three of them? The original Hebrew is ambiguous – it just says “they”. Commentaries and translation helps were divided, and many suggested leaving it ambiguous, as Hebrew and English do. But the Nukna language has a single/dual/plural verb system, meaning that each and every verb must be marked for single (“he/she/it”), dual (“they two”), or plural (“they more-than-two”). We simply had to decide whether all three wept, or just Ruth and Orpah wept. Should we translate it as “táumálák” or “táuráng”? After lots of research and discussion, we finally decided to say that all three wept. We had a hard time imagining the two girls weeping while Naomi stood by, unmoved and dry-eyed. They were getting ready to leave each other, probably forever, and we thought that was a situation that would make all three of them a little misty-eyed. When we translate into Nukna, each and every time we come across a pronoun like “they”, we have to decide if it is “they-two” or “they-plural”. Fortunately, most of these cases aren’t as tricky as this example in Ruth 1:9!

Hamelengan Highlights

Some of the highlights of our recent time in Hamelengan village:

Michael Wright, who led the team that built our village house in 2009, came back to our village for two weeks to help Matt finish up many of the building projects that didn’t get completed in 2009. From finishing up the walls in the living room and bathroom, to building us a large table for our translation office (see photo), Michael was a big blessing to us. Now that these projects are out of the way, we can spend more time on our Bible translation work.

Christy joined the ladies’ Sunday afternoon basketball games. It was a great opportunity to build relationships and pick up a little of the Nukna language.

We completed the revision of the book of Ruth. It is now in the hands of Simendi and Muransi, who will read it aloud around the Nukna villages and get more feedback which will be incorporated into future revisions.

(continued)



- 1) villagers look on as Michael cuts boards
- 2) Julianne is two!
- 3) Christy ‘Hoops’ Taylor
- 4) Taylor kids – Justin, Julianne, Kaitlyn & Nathan

Julianne had her second birthday on February 24th. She has turned into a chatterbox, and also loves singing. Her two current favorites are “Happy Birthday” and “Itsy-bitsy Spider”.

A group from the U.S. military has come to Hamelengan to identify and recover the remains of U.S. airmen who died during World War II when their aircraft crashed into a mountain near our village. They have hired every able-bodied Nukna man to provide manual labor during the recovery operation. The last few days before we left the village, Hamelengan was a beehive of activity as helicopters flew in and out of our village ferrying supplies for the recovery to a clearing near the crash site. It was hard for Matt to get any translation work done, as all the Nukna men were gone all day, building a camp up on the mountain. Matt, Muransi and Simendi finally decided to finish the revision of the book of Ruth at night. They completed the last verse at 11:45 pm, one day before we were to fly back to Ukarumpa.

Great Expectations!

The Taylor family will be adding a new member later this year. Yes, we are expecting our fifth child, due in October! When she was pregnant with Kaitlyn and Julianne, Christy’s pregnancy sickness wasn’t too bad. But with Nathan and Justin, it was very much the opposite. Based on that pattern, we expect we will be having another boy! But we are still going to wait and be surprised, so you never know. Please pray for Christy who has been suffering from all-day morning sickness, and for the rest of us who are trying to pick up the

slack. Christy is very grateful that we are now back in Ukarumpa, where the kids can attend the school here. While in the village, Christy was often sick and homeschooling them from bed.

What’s Next?

Over the next few weeks, we will be attending language meetings, regional strategy meetings, and then the SIL-PNG branch conference. At these meetings we’ll be wrestling with strategic planning and how to ‘reinvent’ our organization to meet the changing needs of Bible translation in PNG. Pray that we all leave Conference with a



Nukna school girls dance in traditional grass skirts

united vision of how God wants us to move forward.

After this, the Nukna translation team will travel to Ukarumpa to attend the six-week-long Translator’s Training Course 2, where they will receive additional training that will equip them to be better translators. Simendi and Muransi are planning to attend, but we could use your prayers for our other co-translator, Eddie. He lives over the mountain from Hamelengan in a different village, and we haven’t seen or heard from him for quite some time. We have sent word to him, but our messages have remained unanswered. We don’t know if he is still committed to the Bible translation work or not, and if he should come to Ukarumpa for TTC 2 or not. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would guide him and us as we work through these issues.

Giving

By Mail: Make a check payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators, and include a separate note indicating it’s for us (account #283707). Mail to Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200.

Online: Go to <http://wycliffe.org/Donate/MissionaryMinistries.aspx>. Please note: 2.7% of gifts made by credit or debit card will be charged to our account as a transaction fee.



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- 1) Christy picks coffee in Simendi’s coffee garden
- 2) Sisters
- 3) Nukna men help us lay cement
- 4) Justin colors during homeschooling
- 5) Thanks, Michael, for all your help!
- 6) Nathan during the kids Valentine’s Day show