

November 2011

Taylor Tidings

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

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

It's been a while since we've updated you on what's been going on in our lives. We arrived back in Ukarumpa after a six-week stay in Hamelengan village, and then, because it was just six more weeks before we would be heading to Cairns, Australia to await the birth of our baby, we decided to hold off and include the news from both events in one newsletter!

In Hamelengan Village

We were in Hamelengan village for six weeks from late-June to early-August. A lot of good things happened during our stay, and our family enjoyed the best health we've ever had during a village stay (thank you, God!).

It was also an unusual time, because our village was hosting a large church conference which included several of the surrounding Lutheran parishes. Our remote, sleepy little village was transformed into a beehive of activity. Everyone – men, women and children - was constantly busy for weeks ahead of time, preparing for the arrival of over 300 guests.

During the first three weeks of our village stay, the men built many guest houses out of bamboo and banana leaves. They also built a large "mess hall" where the meals would be cooked and served, as well as a meeting house. These were also built out of bamboo and banana leaves. As the big day approached, gathering enough food to feed so many people became the main focus. The people bought pigs from neighboring villages (some a six-hour one-way hike away), and men carried the pigs hanging from poles to our village. The women gathered seemingly endless amounts of vegetables from their gardens, such as taro, sweet potato and yams, and then began preparations for feeding all the guests who would be staying with them for eight days.

Finally came the week of the conference! With 300 guests in the village who had never seen our family of Americans before, we got quite a lot of attention and shook a lot of hands! There were meetings every morning, afternoon and evening. Matt was asked to be the main devotional speaker during each morning's worship service. He preached for an hour or more (in Tok Pisin, the trade language) for six straight days. His voice was pretty hoarse by the end!

About half of the conference guests were people from the neighboring Timbe language, who had a New Testament translation done in their language about 30 years ago. However,
(continued)



During the conference, Julianne made lots of friends among the women.



Matt preached for six days on the theme of stewardship.



It's a Boy!!

Elijah Matthew Taylor

Born October 23, 2011, 7:17 pm

Cairns, Australia

7 lbs. 4 ½ oz. 21.7 inches

We are currently staying at a missionary guest house in Cairns, Australia. We'll be here a few more weeks as we work to get Elijah's passport and Papua New Guinea visa. Once we have those, our family will fly back to PNG.

(continued from previous page)

the translation was done in a different dialect than that belonging to the Timbe people who came to the conference, so they have trouble reading it. During the conference, Matt was given the opportunity to share about the Bible translation work we are doing with the Nukna people. When he was finished sharing, the Timbe people asked him how they could get the Timbe New Testament translated into their own dialect, so they can read and understand it. It was very exciting to see the desire of these Timbe men and women to have God's Word in their own heart language (and dialect too!). Perhaps one day we will be able to work with the Timbe people in addition to working with the Nukna people, or perhaps God will raise up someone else to work with the Timbe. We realized that this church conference, which at first seemed like a distraction from our translation work, was perhaps God's way of planting a seed that will one day bear fruit in the lives of the Timbe people. Our God is great, and we know He has a plan. It will be exciting to see how it unfolds!

For the final days of the conference, Matt opened up the time to questions, and he received a lot of really tough questions about what the Bible teaches, and how God's Word applies to the everyday lives of the Nukna and Timbe peoples. Some questions really stretched Matt, and he had to go do further study before he could adequately answer them. It was really encouraging to see how the people have a hunger to understand the Bible

(continued)



Traditional sing-sing at the church conference.



Hanging out with the conference crowds.

Prayer

- ▶ for our family as we continue adjusting to life with five(!) kids
- ▶ for good progress on translation work when we return to PNG next month
- ▶ for the Timbe people and their desire to have God's Word in their own dialect

Praise

- ▶ for a healthy, productive village stay
- ▶ for the birth of our son, Elijah Matthew
- ▶ for the adaptation of Genesis 12-22 into the Komutu dialect
- ▶ for the new literacy books for the Apalap preschool

(continued from previous page)

and God's truths more. At the end of the week, the church leaders asked Matt if he would be their main speaker at their next church conference, sometime next year! While we aren't sure if it will work out for him to travel there (it's not in our village), it was an honor to be invited.

Bible Translation Progress

Things sure were busy with the big church conference going on, so it was hard for us to get a lot of language/translation work done during our village stay. But there was time for a bit:

- Muransi, Simendi and Matt were able to revise a couple chapters of Mark, the first Scripture portion from the New Testament that we have translated.

- A group of men from another Nukna village (Apalap) worked with us to put together a large number of literacy books for the Nukna preschool in Apalap.

- Matt and Eddie worked together to adapt the already-translated chapters of Genesis into the other main Nukna dialect (Komutu dialect). By using new Bible translation software recently made available, they were able to adapt it in just a few days. It left us all very encouraged that we will eventually be able to print Bible portions in both dialects, so that all the Nukna people can read God's message in their very own language and dialect!



Nukna schoolgirls with their new reading books.



Kaitlyn and Nathan with some of their Nukna friends.



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.



Contact Us

Matt and Christy Taylor
SIL Box 1 (288)
Ukarumpa EHP 444
Papua New Guinea

m-c.taylor@sil.org.pg
matt_taylor@sil.org
www.taylormissions.com

- 1) Conference crowd
- 2) Justin's first day of preschool at Ukarumpa
- 3) Making literacy books
- 4) Julianne and friends
- 5) Row of hanging cooking pots with dinner for conference guests
- 6) Kaitlyn climbing a tree with friends