

# STE GEMA<sup>P</sup> N<sup>G</sup> NEWSLETTER

UKARUMPA

February, 2012

*Hepi Niu Yia!*

(say this as if it were Spanish, to receive our wish for you!)

Traditionally, the Ukarumpa Center starts the New Year with service to the greater community by organizing and holding a Vacation Bible School (Holide Baibel Skul). It is summer here, remember, and national children are on school holiday from before Christmas until February. This year's theme was "Kamap Nupela" (becoming a new creation in Christ Jesus). There was an average attendance of 540 children per day from 10 different villages. 145 people served in some way at VBS; 55 of them were students from the International School where Dee teaches, and about 20 were church workers from 13 different churches in the surrounding valley. You can imagine this is quite an endeavor! We know of about 150 children who prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior, but there could have been more. God is so worth knowing and living for! **Pray that these children** will share Jesus' love in their homes and villages!



## *Bible Translation Now and in the Future*

**Praise God that there were six people groups in PNG who received the New Testament in their own language last year and six more are planned for this year. However...**

...there are over 800 languages in PNG, 300 of which have no Bible translation project at all yet. People are longing for God's Word in their heart language, but there are not enough qualified people to do the work. Sadly, fewer and fewer Westerners are interested in investing their lives to go overseas in missions. This has precipitated a worldwide movement in the field of Bible Translation to equip national people to take charge of the remaining language programs. 57 translation projects are currently headed by nationals here in PNG. **Pray with us** that more people who love God in PNG would choose to take ownership and leadership of Bible translation and literacy work through the many

opportunities for training that are continually offered here at the Ukarumpa center and regional centers throughout the country.

From 11-28 January, Ray was involved in one such training. He taught local translators how to make a dictionary for the language in which they work using the computer program WeSay, designed by SIL personnel for those without extensive computer abilities. Believe it or not, the existence of a dictionary in a language plays a big role in how well that language continues to be used and esteemed. There were 7 different language projects represented at the workshop, and when it was over, all the participants left with the technical and analytical skills necessary to make a dictionary AND a simple picture dictionary for schools and literacy projects.



### *SKYPE - in Jawalla!*

New Year's Eve marked a historic moment for us in our communication with the Akawaio. A young woman from Jawalla village now has a computer and modem to use the internet by satellite. This is an entrepreneurial endeavor for her. Since there is no telephone or cell service in the area, she is offering Skype as a type of telephone system. Of course, the internet is also available for use, but there is not much interest in that, yet. Sooo, we Skyped with Rita Hunter and others on their New Year's Eve day. We have no camera in our computer, but we were able to see them and talk to them with only a very slight delay! We couldn't have imagined this to be possible when we left there 2 ½ years ago.

On 12 January we Skyped with them again, on the 1-year anniversary of the dedication of the Akawaio New Testament. We learned that there had been an anniversary gathering of people from many villages – a service, time of prayer, feasting and a spelling bee – in Akawaio, of course! **Pray that God's Word** will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it (Is. 55:11). By the way, our Skype name is ray.stegeman – look for us!

### *On a More Personal Note*

#### **Hepi Basde Tu Yu!**

2012 is a big year for birthdays for our family. On 26 January, Ray celebrated 50 years, and on 18 March, Hannah will turn 18. (She now holds a valid PNG Driver's License!) The most remarkable one is that on 3 February my mother, Marjorie Sloan, celebrated 90 years of life and love. She continues to live at Juniper Village, about 15 minutes from my sister Betsy and family in Boulder, Colorado. Although her memory is not what it used to be, she enjoys whatever or whomever occupies her at the moment and is a blessing to everyone she meets. I have had some great Skype sessions with her recently; it is so good to see her smile as well as hear her voice!

## Jacksonville University, here she comes!

Hannah has been accepted to Jacksonville University, a private university of about 3,500 students in Jacksonville, Florida to study Nursing. This is her first choice of the 5 universities she applied to. Additionally, she has been given the Navy ROTC scholarship she applied for, which will cover the cost of her tuition and room and board. She is thrilled, of course, and has experienced first-hand God's promise to give her the desires of her heart as she delights in Him (Ps. 37:4). She has a cousin that lives in Jacksonville, aunts, uncles and cousins in Gainesville and Bradenton, and grandparents who winter in Bradenton as well, so we feel that Jacksonville is a good place for her to call home for awhile.

## Brisbane?

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that Hannah's high school band had been given the opportunity to go to Brisbane, Australia as Goodwill Ambassadors for PNG. This opportunity is still open if the students can each raise the remaining \$500 to pay for their trip. If you are interested in helping Hannah meet these costs, please contact us and we will give you the details.

## "Elementary, my dear Watson!"

Luke spent his school holiday doing odd jobs for people here on center: caring for pets, building fences, rat-proofing roofs, laying stones for driveways, locking up the school grounds at the end of the day, etc. He also works at the Teen Center when school is in session. He is excited to be playing the role of Dr. Watson in the high school play, "Sherlock Holmes and the Plumstead Marshes". **Pray that both Luke and Hannah** would continue to seek God's will for their lives.



## Is God calling you?

There is a great need for more workers here at the Ukarumpa Center. Currently, many of us are in positions or take on extra assignments for which we are not really qualified because there is no one here who IS qualified. Translators, administrators, accountants, computer technicians and programmers, office managers and teachers are in great need. Construction workers, mechanics and maintenance workers are also wanted. Have you prayed recently about whether God might be nudging you to use your skills, here or elsewhere, in the world of missions? Whether it be on a short term or a long term basis, if you would like to know more, go to <http://www.wycliffe.org/Go/searchserviceopportunities.aspx> or contact us.

As we have said many times, we love our work, and it wouldn't be possible for us to do it if you weren't behind us encouraging, praying and giving. It was wonderful to hear from so many of you over Christmas. Please know that we absolutely depend on your prayers (James 5:16b). We are so grateful for your partnership in getting God's Word into the hands and hearts of the Akawaio of Guyana and now of the people of Papua New Guinea.



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