

Hays Horizons

The newsletter of Darrell & Kerttu Hays and Niko, Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea

Return to Papua New Guinea

After having been away for 18 months, we arrived back in Papua New Guinea on January 14. We've settled in well—it's been nice to see old friends and work colleagues again, and it's been good to get back into the life and work here. During the past couple of months, we've received some extra training by attending several different workshops. We've also gotten back into the Odoodee translation project, mainly by revising parts of the Gospel of Matthew and by doing exegetical research in preparation for drafting the Gospel of John.

We have been in touch with Martin, one of the Odoodee co-translators, via two-way radio. By the tone of his voice, we can tell that he's happy that we are back and is looking forward to seeing us and working with us again soon.

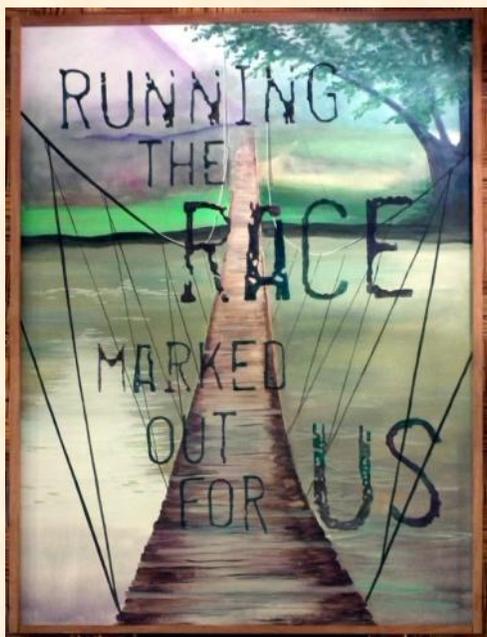
Conference Meetings...(March 14—April 5)

Every two years, Wycliffe members, who work throughout PNG, gather together in Ukarumpa (our main support and linguistic center) for a series of different meetings—a total of about three weeks. Here's a brief summary of what happened this year.

Interact: (March 14-18) —These meetings were for language workers. Presentations on innovative approaches to translation, literacy, and Scripture use were given. Updates on all of the language-related work throughout the country were also presented.

Regional Conferences: (March 21-23)—The language work in PNG is divided into eight different administrative regions. For the regional conferences, language teams gathered together in their respective regions. We are a part of the Southwest Region, which is composed of 12 teams currently in PNG (11 married couples and one team composed of two single women) and several other teams who are either on furlough or are working remotely from their home countries. We did discuss various work-related topics, but the highlight of our time together was sharing our joys and difficulties and praying for each other.

Branch Conference: (March 25-April 5)—We enjoyed having a spiritual retreat the first two days. The theme for the entire conference was Hebrews 12:1-3—"Running the Race Marked Out for Us". During the rest of conference, we elected new leaders and discussed business (e.g. future leadership and governance models, partnering with churches and other organizations, etc). On the last day, we prayed for the 300 language groups in PNG which are still waiting to have God's Word in their own languages.



Praise & Prayer

- Praise for Kerttu's good health, which has allowed us to return to PNG
- Praise for all of you who support us with your prayers and financial gifts
- Pray that Niko's stay in the children's home will be a positive experience for him
- Pray that our PNG visas will be granted in time for our trip to Australia (June 23-July 8)

Trip to Kalamo village

Kerttu and I (Darrell) will be in Kalamo village from April 12 through May 3. It has been two years since the last time we were there. Nobody has been living in our village house, but it seems that some rats have once again taken up residence there. According to our co-translator Martin, rats have made a mess of the place, though no major damage has been done. Martin has killed lots of baby rats, but apparently the mama rats managed to escape unharmed! Pray that we can get the house in good living order again and not have to share it with unwanted guests!

While we are in the village, our main goals are: get reacquainted with the people, begin drafting the Gospel of John, continue to find new words for the dictionary, and encourage the vernacular elementary school teachers.

We have a new high-frequency (HF) two-way radio, modem, and antenna setup which should enable us to send and receive e-mails while we are in the village (no internet access though). Please pray that it will function properly so that we can stay in touch with "the outside world" a bit better than before.

A couple days after we return to Ukarumpa, two of the Odoodee co-translators will also come and stay in Ukarumpa for four weeks. During those weeks, our goals will be to finish revising the Gospel of Matthew and continue drafting the Gospel of John.

Kerttu's health—an update

We are thankful for Kerttu's good health, even though her energy level is not what it used to be. A doctor in our clinic performed a routine check-up in February, and all was normal. Kerttu is required to have another routine check-up in July which will involve blood tests and an ultrasound. Since these tests cannot be performed in PNG, she will have them done in Cairns, Australia. Our plans are to go as a family to Cairns at that time and make a two-week vacation out of the trip.

In order for this trip to be possible, our PNG visas need to be granted by then. These resident visas allow us to live in PNG, as well as travel to and from PNG.

Niko's corner

Niko has settled back into life here quite well and enjoys being with his friends again. We're happy about how well he is doing in school, particularly since the international school here seems more demanding academically than public schools in the USA (at least according to how I remember my freshman year in high school 36 years ago!).

While Kerttu and I are in the village, Niko will be boarding in one of the children's homes and continue attending high school. About 10 other high school students will be in the same home. The house parents were involved in youth ministries for a number of years in the States before coming to PNG. So, they love teenagers and are well qualified for this role. This will be Niko's first stay in such a setting, so pray that he adjusts well, enjoys the other members of his "new family", and keeps up with all of his school work.

In God's hands,
Darrell, Kerttu & Niko

Find us on Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com/darrell.hays>

Contact information

Darrell & Kerttu Hays
PO Box 1 (178)
Ukarumpa, EHP 444
Papua New Guinea

Phone: +675-537-4692
Email: d-k.hays@sil.org.pg



Wycliffe Home Offices:
Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200
USA

www.wycliffe.org

(Wycliffe Finland)
Wycliffe Raamatunkääntäjät
Yliopistonkatu 58 B5. krs
33100 Tampere, Finland

Contributions

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