
Hays Horizons

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

Kalamo village—Oct 16 - Nov 20

Repairing our Village House

Our first few days in the village were spent doing plumbing work and fixing the floor of our house. In order to have running water in our house, we pump rainwater from a large water tank to a small header tank, and from there it is piped into our kitchen and washing room. The pipe leading from the lower to upper tank had been broken, and almost all the water had drained out onto the ground. We installed a new pipe and secured it so that nobody's machete or feet could damage it. This job also involved fastening the pipe carrying the water from the main tank to the header tank to the outside wall of the house.



Several months ago, our neighbor had replaced some of the termite-eaten timbers which support the floor. However, we found out that there were several more pieces of wood which termites had eaten. I (Darrell) "tested" all the timbers with a hammer, and inside many of them was just dust. More than 10 of those long pieces of wood were replaced. We had a number of the village men working to get this done. Our house was built years ago in the traditional village manner, so we didn't have to pull out too many nails. The new timbers were carried from the jungle nearby, and a group of strong men pushed them under the black palm floor.

Back to the translation table

After all that, we were able to get on with the language work. I worked with Martin and Terence translating Hebrews. The translation went well, and we were able to complete the first draft in only two and a half weeks. On that Wednesday morning when we had translated the final verse of Hebrews, we rejoiced, knowing that the entire New Testament had now been translated into the Odoodee language! This, of course, didn't mean the end of the translation work, but it was a reason for celebration – we served a large meal to our co-translators and their families. All the people in the village also rejoiced with us, though we had to explain to them thoroughly why it would still be a long time before "The Book" (NT) would be in their hands. We have printed a few copies of the unchecked Scriptures for the local churches to use. For instance, our translator Terence, who is also a lay pastor, is preaching from them.

Literacy classes

While we were in the village this time, Kerttu held three weekly classes for women: basic, Bible reading, and a transfer course, which was held for young women who had learned to read in English at school. It has been encouraging to see the women's eagerness to attend these classes.



Perseverance—something we all need

Bible translation demands perseverance. More than 50% of the Odoodee New Testament has been consultant-checked, but a few of the books we had completed earlier need some revision. Each book of the New Testament goes through at least these stages: 1) exegetical preparation, 2) translating, 3) exegetical/literal checking & corrections, 4) village checking & corrections, 5) "back-translation" into English for a consultant – we also find things that need correcting during this stage, 6) consultant-checking & corrections. On top of this, we check the spelling, and make sure that all the key terms and the parallel passages of the Gospels are consistent. After all the books of the New Testament have gone through all of these stages, we can prepare for typesetting, which is also a big process. So, our work will certainly continue for several more years. Our prayer is that we would have strength, wisdom, and perseverance in our work, which also involves literacy, Scripture use, dictionary work, and writing academic papers. In the midst of this workload, we know it is important for us to live out the Gospel in our everyday lives.

The Baby in the Manger

While we were in the village, Terence's wife gave birth to a tiny baby girl. When we looked at the baby sleeping in a string bag which her mother had woven, we thought about Jesus being born into this world. May this Christmas be especially blessed and meaningful for you as you reflect upon Jesus – Immanuel – God with us.



Praise & Prayer

- Praise that we were healthy while we were in the village.
- Praise that the entire New Testament has been translated into the Odoodee language.
- Praise that Niko is doing well in school.
- Pray that we can get some needed rest during the Christmas holidays.
- Pray as we make preparations for our next village stay (Feb. 5—Mar.5) - literacy materials, back-translation of John.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance as we make detailed plans related to the Odoodee language program for 2013.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Darrell, Kerttu & Niko

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