

# Hays Horizons

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



## A man – just waiting...

He looked like a ghost. He had no hair on his head; no eyebrows either. The skin over his entire body had become like white, crusty scales. Flies swarmed around him. He only ventured out of his rustic bush house to go to the toilet; too ashamed to face the staring eyes of the other villagers. Apparently he had been like this for months.

Earlier in the year, when he first started having sores on his body, he went to the nearby clinic for treatment. For a number of weeks, he was given various kinds of medicines, but they did nothing to ease his suffering. Instead, his condition grew worse. So, using a two-way radio, the health worker at the clinic contacted a doctor at the nearest mission hospital, which is 120 miles away. His recommendation: have him flown to the hospital for further tests and treatment. Now it was up to the patient and his family to raise enough money to pay for the airfare. Once they had the money in hand, they were to contact the local health worker, who would make sure all of the necessary arrangements would be made for his trip.

Fast-forward a couple of months – the end of October – Kerttu and I entered the scene when we arrived in Kalamo village. We were told about this young man's appalling condition. He normally did not welcome visitors, but he wanted me to come and see him. I was distraught as I looked upon him. I could not imagine the pain and anguish he must have been in, both mentally and physically. After he told me the sad story about his illness, I prayed for him, and promised to help him however I could.

Later, as Kerttu and I discussed this problem, we were sad and troubled. How was it possible that this man was in such a dreadful condition for months? What was hindering him from getting the health care he needed? Was it money, or what? We needed more answers and understanding in order for us to offer appropriate help. We knew it was not our place (nor culturally appropriate) to come in and "run the show" (paternalism). It was not our place to step in as outsiders, take control of the situation, and order people around – this would only reinforce their own worldview, that their lives are essentially controlled by outside forces, and they have no power (fatalism).

We spoke about our concerns to our three Odoodee co-translators, knowing that they are leaders in the community and church. If this situation was ever going to change, it would be through their input. We stressed the need to take initiative – don't always wait for someone else to make the first move, especially when it comes to your own life and health.

Well, these guys must have been an inspiration to the community! Soon a flight was arranged to take the patient and his family to the mission hospital (yes, they had enough money for the airfare). On the morning the flight was supposed to happen, one of our co-translators exercised his responsibility as a deacon, and went throughout the village collecting an offering to help pay for some of the food that the family would need at the hospital.

When we left the village in early December, that family was still waiting for the plane to come. We have not heard what has happened. Please continue to pray for the man, his wife, and four small children, as well as for what God desires to teach through this whole situation.

## Extra Financial Support Needed

It is never easy to write about financial need, especially in these difficult economic times when so many others are struggling to make ends meet. We also find it hard to ask, knowing that so many of you already support us financially and cannot afford to give extra. However, we also know that this kind of ministry is not possible without the continual investment of kingdom partners.

Each year we meet with an accountant in our finance department to estimate how much financial support we need for the upcoming year (support quota). We are thankful that in 2011, we received 100% of our required quota. But that quota was set far too low, because we ended up spending everything that came in just on our work expenses and everyday living. As a result, our quota for 2012 has been increased dramatically – our support needs to increase by \$900 per month. The main reasons:

- the Euro has lost 10% of its value against the US dollar (so we don't get as much money from Finland after the Euros are converted to dollars)
- the US dollar has lost 25% of its value against the local PNG currency
- inflation in PNG is around 10% (so the price of everything is going up)
- we have extra work expenses (e.g. paying wages to our co-translators)

What does our financial support cover? As a family, our needs may be divided into three categories: basic living costs, ministry expenses, and supplementary living expenses. **Basic living costs** include food and supplies, housing and utilities, clothing, medical care and insurance, retirement, Niko's school tuition and boarding fees, vacation, evacuation insurance, and income taxes.

**Ministry expenses** are similar to business expenses normally funded by a company. However, we pay for these with the gifts you send us. These expenses include:

- travel – flights to and from PNG, as well as to and from Kalamo village where we work (even though we use our organization's airplane)
- expenses for the Odoodee co-translators (wages, flights, food and lodging when they are working in Ukarumpa)
- computers, printers, printing supplies and materials
- e-mail, internet, and communication with our financial and prayer partners

**Supplemental living expenses** include extra housing costs (e.g. a new water tank), life insurance, retirement savings in addition to Social Security, and unusual medical expenses (e.g. some of Kerttu's post-cancer medicines and annual medical checks—which cannot be done in PNG).

If you are not yet a ministry partner with us, would you pray about joining our support team and participating in the essential work of Bible translation? You could give monthly, quarterly, or annually. If you already invest in this ministry, would you prayerfully consider increasing your financial support? Every gift, no matter what the size, helps us fulfill our mission. For more information, contact us by e-mail, regular mail, or contact the Wycliffe office in Orlando (see the contact information at the bottom of the page).

## Praise & Prayer

- Praise for 20 years of ministry—it was in January 1992 that Darrell first came to PNG!
- Praise that we were able to complete the first draft of John and start on 1 Peter.
- Praise that some of the Odoodee women have an interest in reading the Bible and doing basic literacy with Kerttu.
- Praise that a translation consultant has been arranged—we will have Matthew checked in mid-March.
- Pray for a productive and healthy stay in Kalamo village (Feb. 10 to Mar. 9) - Niko will remain in Ukarumpa again.

In God's hands,  
Darrell, Kerttu & Niko

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

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### Contributions

*Checks should be made out to Wycliffe Bible Translators with a separate note saying "for the ministry of Darrell & Kerttu Hays" and mailed to the Wycliffe office in Orlando.*