

Hays Horizons

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

Our co-workers Martin, Francis, and Terence (an interview by Kerttu)

On September 8th, one of our mission airplanes brought our co-workers Martin and Francis from Kalamo village to Ukarumpa to continue translation work. Terence had responsibilities at the Lake Campbell Local Church, and so he stayed at home. I asked Martin and Francis some questions related to the Odoodee translation program, knowing there is a lot of work yet to be done, even though many of the Bible books have already been translated.



Martin

Why do you want to continue the translation work?

Martin: So that our people can read the Bible in their own language, and to understand and grow to know God better. They don't understand preaching in English or Kamula; they are not satisfied hearing a foreign language. (The Kamula people live close to Kalamo village; they already have the New Testament in their language, and combined church services held once a month are conducted in Kamula.)

Francis: The people should understand what they are reading or listening to. When some of the older men of our village were checking Matthew with us, they were happy to hear the Word read in Odoodee. They gave many good comments. They understood it. They told us not to quit and leave the work in the middle of it.



Francis

What responsibilities do you have in the church on top of the translation work?

Martin: I am the treasurer of Kalamo Local Church and the vice-treasurer of the Wawoi Falls Church District. I am the chairman of Kalamo Youth, and I give lessons in Religious Studies in Kalamo Elementary School two times a week.

Francis: I am a deacon. The deacons' responsibilities are to take care that people collect and prepare enough food for the bigger church events. We take care of the communion service preparations, ask people to carry food and firewood for the pastor, and we give counseling and advice to people. I am also the Youth leader.



Terence

(Both men have a lot of responsibilities, as does Terence, who is a lay pastor at Lake Campbell. Martin and Francis are leading church services every now and then, and preaching if needed. They also translate sermons into Odoodee, so that their people can understand the message.)

There are Odoodee people in three local churches: Kalamo, Hesalibi, and Lake Campbell. How can our friends in America and Finland pray for the Odoodee churches?

Francis: We are building a new church in Kalamo. We have been collecting materials from the bush. At this moment we are having the services in people's houses, because we don't have the church building yet. Many men are working for the Oil Company, which makes it harder to build the church.

Martin: Pray that the people would learn to know God closely. In Hesalibi they are putting a new roof on the church, and the people are having the services in a private house, too.

(Terence helps look after the Lake Campbell Odoodee speaking people. In their local church there are people from three different language groups. Pray for him, too. In the evenings, he normally goes to different houses to read the Scriptures in Odoodee.)

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What personal prayer items do you have?

Francis: I have a difficult situation with my brother – a land issue. Pray that I would have God’s peace in my heart. Also, some years ago my small boy hurt his hip when I was working in Ukarumpa. He has been limping since then. Pray that my family would keep healthy and that nothing bad would happen to them when I am away. Pray that I would have God’s peace when I work here, since I am thinking about them a lot.

Martin: Every time when I am at work here in Ukarumpa, I am concerned about my wife and children. Pray that they would keep healthy and no accidents would happen. They are in my mind all the time.

(Both Martin’s wife Kolosu and Francis’ wife Hopukome support their husbands in the translation work and don’t complain about the head of the family being away. Terence’s wife Sebele is the same way. When we started working among the Odoodee people in 1996, our co-translators were young, newly married men who had their first-born during the first year we were there. Now they have several children, some of them already going to school, some still staying at home. I would like you to also remember the translators’ wives in your prayers. When the men are in Ukarumpa, it is not possible for them to have direct contact with their wives in the village. However, it is likely that the Odoodee language area will have cell phone coverage starting sometime next year!)

Upcoming village visit

Kerttu and I (Darrell) will be in Kalamo village from October 21st until December 2nd. During our stay, we hope to make the final revisions to the Gospel of Matthew in preparation for having it consultant checked sometime early next year. Kerttu will continue working on the Odoodee dictionary (collecting more words and making corrections) as well as doing some literacy work, primarily among some of the local women. I will also work with our co-translators as we continue drafting the Gospel of John. I need to make a few minor repairs to our village house and outhouse as well.

We are praying that our HF-radio e-mail system will continue working properly. It is such a blessing. Send us an e-mail sometime! We’d love to hear from you—even if they are only short messages.

Niko will remain in Ukarumpa for these six weeks, staying in one of the children’s hostels and continuing in 10th grade. Thanks for remembering him in your prayers, too.



Praise & Prayer

- Praise for all the work we were able to accomplish while Martin and Francis were in Ukarumpa.
- Pray that some of the Odoodee women will have an interest in doing literacy with Kerttu.
- Pray that we can find a translation consultant so that we can get Matthew checked during the first half of 2012.
- Pray for strength and health during our village stay—this is the hottest time of the year.
- Pray for Niko during our time apart, that he will enjoy his time in the hostel, and that he will keep up with a heavy work load at school.

Thank you so much for your prayers and continued financial support.

In God’s hands,
Darrell, Kerttu & Niko

Find us on Facebook at:

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