

Hays Horizons

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

Darrell's upcoming trip to Papua New Guinea

God's plans, purposes, and timing do not always match up with our own. But we do know that God is sovereign, and He is working out His purposes in our lives, as well as in the lives of the Odoodee people in Papua New Guinea. As you may remember, our original plan was to finish the New Testament in the Odoodee language and have it published within the next three or four years. But the timing of those plans has been thwarted, at least for now.

However a window of opportunity has just opened for me (Darrell) to return to PNG for six weeks, while Kerttu is in reasonably stable health and should be able to manage by herself while I am away. My trip will be from September 21 through November 1.



Preparations for my arrival

My immediate supervisor (Andy) in PNG hopes to spend a couple of days in Kalamo village, starting on September 20, in order to help pave the way for my arrival there in early October. Since our village house has not been lived in since early 2014, he will assess its condition, especially as it relates to termite damage. Andy will also meet with the Odoodee translation team and church leaders in order to get input from them regarding the future of the translation program (e.g. what things are a priority in their opinion as far as completion of the entire New Testament, Scripture use and literacy, Scripture audio recordings, extra training of the translators so they can work more independently, etc.). Please pray that flights can be arranged so that Andy can make the trip and that his discussions with the Odoodee people will be beneficial.

I hope to be in Kalamo village October 4-28 (flights for those dates have not been confirmed though). Preparing for those weeks will involve buying food and other needed supplies for our village house. Food and supplies need to be bought from the various departments in Ukarumpa (our support and linguistic center in the PNG highlands), such as from the Radio/Computer Department, Construction Department, and the grocery store. However, there is one big possible hiccup - these departments are usually closed for "end of fiscal year inventory checking" for days at a time towards the end of September and beginning of October—just when I will be in Ukarumpa and need to buy those things. Dates for the closures have not been confirmed yet. If these departments will be closed while I am in Ukarumpa, then arrangements will need to be made so that things can be bought before I arrive.

Plans for my time in Kalamo village

While I am in the village, I hope to make needed repairs to our village house, as well as install a new rainwater header tank (provides gravity-fed running water in the house), a new solar panel and battery, and a new radio antenna. I would also like to complete the consultant check of Romans and possibly revise other Scripture passages as time allows. Of course I plan on continuing the discussion about the future of the translation program with the Odoodee co-translators and church leaders.



Need for a translation program facilitator

Since we cannot live full time in PNG, nor can I make frequent trips there, the future of the translation program hinges on being able to have some sort of facilitator in PNG who could work directly with me and with the Odoodee team, allowing me to have ongoing communication with the translation team while I am living in Finland. Pray that progress can be made in finding a facilitator as I continue dialoguing with my supervisors in PNG about this. Also pray that God would lead someone to take on this vital role.



Extra funds needed for this trip

Extra funds are needed for my upcoming trip to PNG (e.g. to pay for international and domestic flights, village-related expenses). Would you prayerfully consider giving towards this trip? Many of you already support us financially. Thank you! We appreciate your generosity and faithfulness in supporting us as we try to find a way to continue the work without being able to live and work in PNG.

Update on Kerttu

We are thankful that Kerttu's most recent CT scan in early August revealed that the tumors are continuing to respond to the current chemotherapy regimen. The existing tumors have either remained the same size or have shrunk by as much as 10% in the past three months. There are no new tumors in any other part of Kerttu's body either.

It will not be easy for Kerttu and me to be apart for the six weeks I will be away on the trip. Pray that she will remain in stable health and that there will be people to help her with practical everyday things (e.g. errands, computer-related things).

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Niko's visit to Finland

Niko was here for three weeks in August. It was really great to spend time with him again. It had been a year since we last saw him. He has now begun his third year of study at Taylor University in Indiana.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support,

Darrell & Kerttu

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