

Hays Horizons

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

Greetings from Finland!

Our previous newsletter was written just as winter was getting underway, and now it will soon be summer. Our time on furlough in Lahti, Finland, has been good overall. We have met friends and relatives, as well as members of Kerttu's home church. I (Darrell) have continued working on the Odoodee New Testament translation, mainly exegetically checking previously translated Epistles. Kerttu has been involved in her home church and has especially enjoyed taking part in the weekly staff meetings.

Niko has just completed his first year of study at Taylor University in Indiana. In June and July, he will attend an internship at OneWay Ministries in Aurora, Illinois. He will help produce ministry-related videos and also be involved in discipleship training. Niko will come to Finland to visit with us for two weeks in August before he starts his second year in college.

Earlier this year, Kerttu had a variety of physical examinations in order to obtain a work permit and visa for Papua New Guinea. Those things are now in order. In March, we received sad news after her annual cancer screening. A recurrence of breast cancer was found in the area where the mastectomy was done five years ago. She had surgery in mid-April to remove that tumor, and then immediately afterwards had a CT scan taken. The scan showed that the cancer has spread to the lung area and underneath the breastbone. Kerttu started chemotherapy on May 26. Treatments will last until mid-September if all goes well. Further checks and evaluation will be done at that point.

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We had plans to leave Finland at the end of June, be in the USA for the summer, and then return to Papua New Guinea. Our intention was to be in PNG for another four-year term and complete the final stages of the Odoodee New Testament. However, our future is now uncertain. I can continue language work in Finland for the immediate future. We are thankful that we have received approval to have the book of Romans consultant checked via email and that a consultant has been arranged. As for Kerttu, she will be on sick leave until the end of November.

Pray that Kerttu would be able to endure all of the treatments. Pray for healing. Pray for the Odoodee people who anxiously await our return. Above all, pray that the will of God is accomplished in our lives, and that our whole family would experience His peace and comforting presence.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support.

Darrell & Kerttu

