Pioneer
Bible Translators

January 2011

Greetings from Papua New Guinea,

I bring you very warm greetings from Madang, Papua New Guinea (PNG). When I landed on Jan 23 it was partly sunny with temperatures in the mid-80's. I had successful flights from the USA to PNG via Tokyo, Japan. I was very busy packing and moving my last few days in Alaska. It was very cold and my last week there my water froze coming from the well. I did not have running water for my last three days. This made it difficult to clean and do last minute preparations. I figured it was another hit that it was my time to leave the frozen arctic for the topical climate of PNG.

When I arrived Madang on Jan 23, I was greeted at the airport by 6 of the Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT) staff by which 4 of the 6 faces were familiar. I had the opportunity in June this past year to attend a recruitment event in Dallas, TX. At this event, I had a chance to meet the four missionaries that were recruiting for PNG. Later on the day, the missionaries had planned a welcome / BBQ party for me. After flying across the international dateline I had to prepare myself for an introduction to the team. The food was American style and good as always. The team was glad I made it safely and they are eager for me to learn so I can jump in and help.

Pacific Rim
East Africa
North Africa
West Africa
South Asia
South East Asia
North Eurasia

My first week here has been full of daily meetings. This week is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the branch here in PNG. The members of the branch have a chance to present a review of 2010 and look forward to the year ahead, 2011. 2010 was a very trying and faith testing year. The branch lost it's director due to unforeseen event and this event really put the branch in a very tight pinch. This forced the branch into positions that they have never been faced before. Some translators were forced off the field and pulled into the office so the branch could function. The last few months have been difficult. As the members strive to look ahead and plan, the future looks bright through cloudy glasses. The unknown answers for the many questions are yet to be supplied.

Following the AGM, I will be headed to the Pacific Orientation Course (POC) for 14 weeks. I will be learning culture, anthropology, language, customs, and gaining spiritual vitality. The course is held at a retreat center that resides on a side of a hill with a beautiful view of the ocean bay along with a cooler climate. I will spend 8 weeks at the retreat camp learning and another 5 weeks living in a village where I will put to practice the skills that I just learned. I look forward to this imperative learning time and pray that God will send his calm spirit.

Thank you for your prayers and support. The need for translators, scripture impact, and literacy workers is high. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray that God will rise up harvest workers for the fields here in Papua New Guinea.

Together in Christ,

Tyler Hewitt

PS - For weekly updates, please follow my blog at TylerHewitt.com

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