Pioneer Bible Translators

May 2011

Greetings from the village of Karadou,

Sanap Kristens (Stand-up Christians). Every Sunday I went to a Lutheran Church in the community. In the late 1800's Lutheran missionaries came to Madang and planted many churches in the providence. During my five week stay, I visited three village Lutheran Churches (Twaguma, Wakuma, and Sihan). The church here in Papua New Guinea (PNG) follows a very straight forward liturgy set by the governing Lutheran Church. The bigman or church leader would ask all Christians to stand-up before prayer and then ask all Christians to sit down.

This made me internalize, am I really standing up for Christ or am I wavering to one side or the other? Christ calls his servants to stand firm and rooted in Him. For He is the chief cornerstone and we come like living stones. "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be disappointed." Isa 28:16 When I stand on the Rock, do I fully put my trust in Him? "In God I trust, I will not be afraid." Ps 56:4 If we put our trust anywhere else but in God we will fail, fall corrupt to man. As the Psalmist wrote, "In God I trust."

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

Bible translation in the vernacular (heart language) allows the Spirit to transform lives. The vision statement for PBT is 'Transform lives through God's Word in every language.' The Bible is a transformation tool. When people can hear or read God's love, grace, forgiveness, and mercy their lives are changed. Bible translation is a very hard task and can require a lifetime commitment. The past five weeks of village living have opened my eyes to the depth and challenging task of Bible translation. Within a short 1.5 hour walk there is a village that is struggling to come up with the vernacular words for Savior and Kingdom. Key words like these are the everyday challenges that face translators. Remember to pray for these servant heros as they bring the Word of God to life in the heart language.

I apologize for not writing the month of April. For five weeks I was without electricity, computer, internet, and phone as I was learning firsthand the culture and language of Papua New Guinea. This unforgettable experience has given me a whole new appreciation for the diligence and struggles a Bible translator faces daily.

I want to thank God for a wonderful five weeks in the village. The allocation to the village was a perfect fit and I slipped right into the family culture. I give all glory and praise to the Father. I also want to thank you for your many prayers as I was immersed into the native culture of the people here in Papua New Guinea. I am a firm believer that prayer must be a priority in our daily lives. One of my daily prayers is Eph 6:18 'Never stop praying, especially for others. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people' (CEV). I believe through your faithful prayers, God sustained me and provided for me as He has promised he would. Thank you for covering me in prayer during the past five weeks.

Together in Christ,

Tyler Hewitt

For updates including video, audio, pictures, and stories. Be sure to follow me:
http://tylerhewitt.com/

1833 Timber Ridge Ct
Kokomo, IN 46902

tyler.hewitt@pbti.org
http://tylerhewitt.com