

(Steve)

Before we start would you please join me in prayer?

Lord Jesus, all glory and honor belong to you and you alone. You are the source of all that is good. Thank you for blessing us and being present with us. We pray that you will be honored here today. Not the people we talk about and not we ourselves but You. Please guide our thoughts and words. Amen

(Lori)

It is very good to be here and to see all of you. Thank you Pastor Kim for this opportunity to speak. We lived in SJ and worshipped here with you for about 15 years and have been on this journey with us from the beginning. We are in California this year and plan to return to Papua New Guinea in July.

Also, thank you all for your prayers and financial support. Without you and others supporting us, we could not do what God has called us to do with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. We are honored to be partners with you in the Lord's work. We are working to eradicate Bible poverty by making the Scriptures available to everyone in their heart language. Here is a short video with some testimonies of how important the Bible is to one's relationship to God.

VIDEO: Lausanne 4 From Orphans to Sons and Daughters (3:49)

The Scriptures are truly foundational to a thriving Christian life. When we joined Wycliffe we looked for where they had the greatest needs for our skills. God led us to work in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea, or just "PNG", is an island nation north of Australia. With **830** distinct languages, it is a linguistically and culturally diverse country. On Easter Sunday, the 200th New Testament will be dedicated. We praise God for all that progress! We still have hundreds of languages to go!

We have lived in PNG since 2003, before Daniel was in Kindergarten, so our two boys have received most of their schooling there. Andrew is now 19 and a freshman in college at Indiana Wesleyan University. Daniel is 16 and a junior in high school.

In PNG, I support the task of Bible Translation through educating children. Without a good education for the children many families would leave the field. Some would need to home school. Both of these options would slow down the work of bringing God's Word to people in their language.

There are about 250 students at our primary and secondary campuses. I work at the primary campus and have taught 1st grade for many years. Our school is a diverse mix of children from the missionary families and from PNG. The students are from America, Japan, Korea, Canada, Finland, Germany, Australia, Papua New Guinea and many other countries.

The school staff is a great group of people to work with. Our school is desperately in need of more teachers. We have always struggled to cover all the classes but it has become much worse over the past year. For the first time in anyone's memory, in

January the school day has been shortened and some subjects are not being taught this term because there simply are not enough people to do the work.

(Steve)

When we are in Papua New Guinea we are assigned to work with SIL, one of the Wycliffe partners. I support translators, literacy workers and others through software development and software support.

SIL has hundreds of workers in the country and technology is vital to our continued operation. Without the software many critical tasks would grind to a halt.

I work in the Communications and Technical Services department. We will support and attempt to repair just about anything but we primarily handle computers, networking, radios and solar power system.

I do occasionally get out of the office. I was invited to be part of a week-long crusade in a village a few hours from home. I preached twice, in Tok Pisin which made it very challenging.

It was a great experience to be part of a team of pastors, evangelists, musicians and missionaries.

The crusade bore a lot of fruit. Many of the people felt called to turn away from the continued practice of sorcery and magic. Just as for the people of the Old Testament, it is very common for Christians to continue to appeal to their old practices. Here the people chose a complete devotion to God and decisively turned away from sorcery

The week ended with baptisms in the nearby river. In the weeks following, I heard several reports of people from the area visiting neighboring villages and continuing to spread the good news.

(Lori)

There are many commonalities between the Israelites, ourselves and Papua New Guineans. King Hezekiah stands above most of the people of his day and he showed great devotion in pursuing God. King Hezekiah:

- ☐ Remembered God even though many of his countryman did not
- ☐ Trusted God and took great risks
- ☐ Humbled himself before God
- ☐ Prayed intently to God

These are great keys for all of us to pursue. And we have ample opportunity, even more than King Hezekiah did. You see we have the full revelation of the Scriptures and we have them readily available to us in our heart language. From that we can know God. You need to know God before you can remember and trust Him.

For many people around the world, God is a foreigner. Because the Scriptures are not in their language, they have a very hard time knowing God, learning about his love, compassion and forgiveness.

God uses the translation process and the resulting scriptures to transform people and communities. The following video is about transformation in one language group in Papua New Guinea.

VIDEO: Fully Human, Folopa (2:24)

These video clips are fun for us because we know the Andersons. They were often in Ukarumpa with us. The second video is a clip from a larger video about the same community. We have pulled a portion of a longer docudrama for you to see. The man being described was rejected at birth by his family and then reluctantly cared for but never fully accepted.

VIDEO: segment of A Light in the Jungle, Folopa docudrama (5:30)

(Lori)

We encourage you to pray about what part you might play in helping to get The Word into the heart language of a people group for the first time.

Whether you want to learn more about eradicating Bible Poverty by praying, giving financially, or going come see us after the service and we can help you.

(Steve)

Like every member of Wycliffe, we are supported entirely through what God moves His people to give. We do not receive any other form of salary or support. Before we can return to Papua New Guinea, we will need about \$1,200 per month pledged. If you would like to contribute to this we would be happy to talk with you about that after the service. If you want to give a one-time donation we have a **very** short form we would like you to fill out so that the funds will be designated for our expenses in PNG. We look forward with expectation to see how God will provide this time.

(Lori)

In the future, our newsletters and prayer updates will be Blog postings at our Expecting Adventures blog. Please make sure that we have your email address so we can let you know when there are new postings.

We plan to send out a new prayer card before we leave for PNG so if your mailing address has changed please tell us that as well. We have lots of information on a table outside. Please come by and look. Feel free take a copy home if you would like.

We'd love to answer your questions and share more with you individually, with your Bible study or with your small group. Be sure to let us know if you would like that. THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT! This church family is a blessing.