

Greetings again from North Wahgi, PNG. We've been back in the village, from our medical trip to Australia, for three weeks now. Though the purpose of going to Australia was for Robyn to have gallbladder surgery, we were able to enjoy some good quality family time while we were there and came back refreshed. Robyn has healed well from the surgery and has been blessed not to experience many of the adverse effects that some had cautioned her about. We have been encouraged to see the Lord's provision yet again for the needed finances. The total cost for the surgery came in at approximately \$8,020 which is \$5,000 less than the initial estimation. Praise God! We will now begin the process of filing the claim with the insurance company. Please pray that that will go smoothly.

Since being back, Robyn has been trying to get the boys into a school routine, develop a method of creating lesson plans, researching some new curriculum that she is wanting to use, etc. This has been very time consuming for her. She still desires to be working on learning the language here but has had to put a hold on that for a little while. She hopes to be able to pick it up again next month.



Michael and Daniel on a Police Motorcycle in Australia

Also since our return I, Levi, have begun to transition into other areas of the ministry here. I have now started to share the teaching responsibility with our co-worker Dan and have also started working to check some of the scriptural terms that we're using to make sure they're properly communicating the intended meaning or to see if there are other terms/phrases that would communicate better. The difficulty is that some of the things we want to communicate about God or some of the biblical concepts do not have any kind of equivalent in the Yu Wei language. Take for example the word "jealous" or "envy". Instead of saying one sibling gets jealous of another sibling for receiving a piece of candy when they didn't, they say that the one is really mad at the other. However, in our minds, we make a distinction between jealousy and anger. Jealousy proceeds and is often the root of anger. Another cultural thing is that the people here do not take responsibility for their own actions. So in the case of jealousy between Joseph and his brothers, they would say that Jacob caused the brothers to become angry at Joseph by showing him favor and giving him the colorful coat. If Jacob had never done that, his sons would not have become angry with Joseph and would not have thrown him in the cistern and sold him into slavery. So the bottom line is that if those events were to be taken to village court here, it would likely be Jacob paying the compensation to Joseph for his brother's actions. These are all things which complicate the already difficult task of communicating the Gospel cross-culturally.



Levi getting his feet wet teaching

This next month is going to be a busy one for us. Next week we leave again for a 4-day conference with our fellow missionaries who are working in the Highlands areas. There will be a program for the kids as well as some teaching for the adults. This is a time we all look forward to each year. October 1-15 Robyn and I will be attending a 2-week Translation workshop which will help to refresh and teach us more in-depth many of the principles of Scripture translation. We will be taking two of our believers, Steven and Gabriel, who will also attend the course and be trained in how to assist us in the translation process.

Also on Oct. 15 we will be kicking off another literacy course. We will be starting off with approximately 15 individuals and it is our prayer that all of them will remain faithful and finish the course. It is a large commitment for them as we will be meeting 5 days a week for up to 5 or 6 months.

Over the last month or so, receiving input from those who have been attending the teaching, we have change the teaching time to Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Since doing this we have noticed an increase in the number of people who have been coming; however, there are a large number of the people who have started coming who have only come for portions of the initial teaching or have not come at all. For this reason, we have decided to go back and start teaching the first lessons (from Creation to the death, burial, and resurrection) again. We are also seeking wisdom as to how to involve our believers in this teaching and how to continue to meet their spiritual needs at this time.

Prayer Requests:

Pray for our time with Stephen and Gabriel at the translation workshop, that this will be a good time of deepening our friendship with these two guys and that it will help them to feel more equipped to assist us in this ministry.

Pray for good health for us as all of the boys in the family, myself included have been battling sinus/chest colds and ear infections. Daniel has had a double ear infection and Matthew had an ear drum rupture last week as a result of his cold. It looks like we're on the uphill side of the battle now though.

Pray for wisdom in how to see this work move forward in such a way that would move God's church here toward maturity.

At His Service and For His Glory,

Levi, Robyn, Michael, Daniel, and Matthew Lenz
Serving in North Wahgi, PNG