

Letters from the East

Autumn 2011

Roman & Janice Stefaniw

SIL Mainland Southeast Asia

Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and make your hearts pure, you double-minded. James 4:8

Translation consulting

Roman just sent his consultant notes to J'it in preparation for the checking in MaeSai starting Monday. He is set to check Scriptures for two other teams after we start teaching.

Sunday I returned from checking Acts for the So team. Notice L.'s inspirational t-shirt:

Committed to Getting it Done! Here is an excerpt from today's email from L., above, left.

Hi Janice!

How are you doing?...I want to thank you again for being so patient with us, and teaching us sooooo much.

This week we went through the questions that were not yet settled when you were here, and also went through key terms for consistent usage...We have so far fixed up the terms *repent*, *gods*, *vision/dream/trance*, and *persecution* (and checked for consistency on *kneel* and "*His Christ*"). We feel we now have a better system that will help us in the future...I wouldn't have known how to really address these terms and other questions until having worked with you.

The study of Acts together has made a tremendous impact on me personally and on my understanding of Scripture, and my perspective of the spiritual situation of the So. I really look forward to having the finished book printed in So soon, to be able to hear Translator N. lead them through a study together to discover the power that is available to them through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Grateful for your help and friendship,
L.

More recent motivators

Here is feedback on the value of Bible translation into the heart language of people.

- Almost every believer has a New Testament and uses it at home, at church and in home groups.
- It is honey to my mouth every time I read it.
- This is helping me understand.
- One of two or three pillars of our church is Bible translation.
- We're working on the Old Testament and now we can involve the church more so they'll own and use it more.



For praise & prayer

- Our Bible translation checking has gone well these last three months. Please pray for these approved Scriptures in six languages to get into the hands of the speakers and transform those people to build up the church.
- The new laptop screen cracked so please continue your prayers for our work equipment.
- Pray for us as we aspire to draw near to God and cleanse our hearts and align our minds to the Lord as in James 4:8.
- Eliza is learning some Thai, working full time with Siam Legal International in Bangkok. Her duties include about a dozen visits to Chiang Mai a year. Thank you for continuing to pray for our family.
- We plan to go to the Bible Translation Conference a couple days recover from a jetlag and early to meet Abigail and Justin who are planning a road trip from Alabama to see us in the Dallas area. We will be celebrating our grandson's fourth birthday this Fall.
- Pray for the Storying Fellowship that Roman started. It seems to be growing since Roman made a recent invitation at another church here in Chiang Mai.
- Pray for the linguistics students studying translation that we'll be working with next semester from October through March. We've been revamping some of the curriculum.
- Praise God for Roman's personal retreat and my Chiang Mai Ladies Retreat recently.
- We are thankful for each of you and your involvement in Bible translation with us.

Bible Translation 2011 Conference

The 6th Biennial Bible Translation Conference--A forum for presentation and discussion of developing theory and practice in Bible translation. This academic conference is co-sponsored by the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL) and SIL International. CONFERENCE THEME: The Future of Bible Translation: Creative Strategies and Practical Steps. The Conference will begin with a plenary session on Friday, October 14, at 7p.m. Saturday papers will be presented on the following sub-themes:

1. Audience Needs and Media Alternatives (including storying, signed languages, performance formats, audio, video, print, mobile devices, etc.)
2. Bible Translation Theory and Practice (textual and exegetical issues, linguistic and cultural aspects of translation, quality, etc.).
3. Bible Translation Training and Consultancy (including distance education, cross-cultural teamwork, expanding the workforce, training for different team roles, consulting remotely, etc.)

Papers will be presented on Monday and Tuesday, with a concluding Public Banquet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 18. We appreciate our Mainland Southeast Asia Group sending us and hope to bring back inspiring and practical information.

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