

Letters from the East

Spring 2011

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SIL Mainland Southeast Asia

Then Jesus said to those Judeans who had believed him,

"If you continue to follow my teaching, you are really my disciples". (John 8:31 NET)

Notes on completed Scripture checking

Monday a bomb went off on the bridge I crossed going to and from consultant checking in a nearby country. Four people were hospitalized with resulting injuries. Tuesday returning to the hotel, I was glad we didn't rear end an open-back truck bulging with fresh fish stopped in the middle lane during rush hour traffic with a flat tire. Wednesday I needed extra coffee to get through another day of meticulous checking. Thursday a blind man was wending his way among the cars begging, led by a child. Friday the translator took the adjoining photo of me and the language helper, who did a super job helping in spots where the translation needed more natural language. Can you see we're tired but feeling victorious?

Here is an adjustment we made. Jesus contrasts the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep with the unconcerned hired hand (John 8:12, 13). The MKN back translation of v13: *For he is a hired one, he does not care for the sheep.* Since *care* for is ambiguous in English I checked to discover MKN was equivalent to *tend*, which is inaccurate. So the team adjusted v13 to say, *...he does not cherish the sheep.*

Here's the Bible translation checking we've completed since our last prayer letter.

CT Acts	11/2010	JS prepped, checked, mentored, reported.
CB Acts	11/2010	RS prepped, checked, reported.
KYN 1 & 2 Thessalonians	12/2010	JS prepped, checked, reported.
A Romans:	12/2010	RS prepped, checked, reported.
MNG John & Philemon	3/2011	JS prepped, checked, reported.
B Song of Solomon	2/2011	RS prepped, mentored, reported.
SB Luke	3/2011	RS prepped, checked, reported.
KT Genesis portions	2/2011	JS checked, mentored, reported.
LDK 2 Corinthians:	2/2011	JS prepped, checked, reported.



For prayer

- On March 24 an earthquake measuring 6.8 occurred near the border of Northern Thailand and SE Myanmar. There was extensive damage on both sides of the border with over 70 known dead so far. Our team members nearest the area are shaken up but fine. In the home area of one partner organization, a church collapsed during a service and 23 were killed. Aftershocks continue to occur. Please pray for the families of those who have been killed, for the injured and for those who have lost their homes. Pray for God's healing touch on those affected by this difficult situation."
- Join us in thanking God for his goodness as we celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. We were married March 26, 1971 in Bellingham, Washington. He has led us and enriched our love with His.
- Please pray for our Mainland Southeast Asia conference and elections in April that we'd choose appropriate colleagues to lead our MSEA Group.
- We seek God's equipping, refreshing and sustaining as we travel these next few months in the US and Asia pursuing renewed and strengthened relationships; equipping us with new skills for what's ahead, refreshing us spiritually, mentally and physically, and sustaining us as we maintain and use the capabilities he has built in us.

Roman reflects on three trips

I face all sorts of situations when on a consultant trip. Usually translators are great to work with but sometimes they are stressed and hostile. In that situation, the challenge was to try to move forward, be professional and demonstrate some expertise with the people there from that language community. Sometimes even a conversation over breakfast at a cafe makes me extra attentive to form a careful response. Always it is better to dwell on times that overflow with God's goodness.

Early this year, I worked with an all woman team that is highly capable. The biggest problem I had was keeping from smiling as they treated the young man language helper, who was there to answer questions about the text, like a little brother. Thoughtful discussion, joking and laughter punctuated our work time. They did a great job of translating the book of Romans.

Papua New Guinea was a place to see old friends and make new ones as I co-led a workshop. I don't know why but those people sure seemed old -- the few I could recognize! Tande, who was our primary co-translator on the Imboungu New Testament, is translating the Old Testament. As I suggested, he has recruited more people to translate, and someone to do back to English translation so they can have material consultant checked. And people are working on literacy. Yet I did sort of put a bur under his saddle when I suggested they should think about making a translation schedule for the 39 Old Testament books, since in the past 12 years they had brought the Story of Abraham to publication. Hopefully, they will put this into practice like they did the last set of recommendations I gave them. It was sad, in hearing Kundipoi Village news, to hear that John Kemapu had died. Shortly after returning from that trip, Janice and I traveled together to work on two projects in a neighboring country. We each had a lot of fun consulting. Luke 2.13 mentions the 'heavenly host'. They translated this as 'many angels'. I suggested 'the army of heaven' and they all started laughing. If they used that expression it would mean the national army of that country - definitely not something they wanted to say.

We are both a little worn and looking forward to our trip back to the US, where we will visit family, a couple churches, celebrate our 40th anniversary, and watch our nieces graduate before taking them back to Thailand for a three weeks. Even though it will likely be busy, the change of pace should be refreshing.

Roman flew JAARS' prop jet from Port Moresby to Ukarumpa, PNG.



Briefly to the US

Yes, it's suitcase time and we have a schedule. I'm sure looking forward to Easter with family. Only 11 weeks for the five states we'll be in, so you're invited to contact us any time now for arranging a short visit.

3/28-30 Bothell, WA
 3/31-4/4 Aurora, OR
 4/5-4/10 Springfield, MO
 4/11-4/18 Elkmont, AL
 4/19-4/23 Orlando, FL
 4/23-4/28 Elkmont, AL
 4/29-5/5 Springfield, MO
 5/6-6/7 Pacific Northwest.

We will take one month of vacation and otherwise "work remotely".

But this Spring we don't need to be so distant from you so send us an email for a phone number and call, and maybe we can catch up. A big thank you for your recent support, cards, emails and Facebook contacts!

He is Risen!

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