

U S A P S T E G E M A N N E W S L E T T E R G



Ray & Dee Stegeman

USA / Papua New Guinea

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Greetings to you all!

We hope you are enjoying the longer days and more relaxed pace of summer. For us, things have been up and down, yet God shines through it all.

Here are some things that we wanted to share with you:

Thank You - You Keep Sending Me Back!

Because of your generosity, I got to be in Papua New Guinea from March - June this year, training translators in two different parts of the country. I first went to the tropical island of New Britain, where Wycliffe has a regional center. There, I worked with men from 6 different language groups, getting them to think about the structure of their languages so they become more consistent translators. **You can see some of these dedicated people in pictures on the following page.** Most groups of mother-tongue translators work with mentors, who make sure the translators are understanding the lessons I teach and guide them through different applications to the lessons.

Then, I traveled to the highlands of the mainland, to Ukarumpa, Wycliffe's main hub in PNG, for another translator training course. We taught men and women from 13 different language groups in two different stages of translation, learning everything from Bible background and study skills to language discovery and translation.

While in Ukarumpa, I consult with some of my Wycliffe colleagues who need advice, resources or guidance for writing up linguistic data about the languages they are translating the Bible into. That consulting work continues during the time I am in the US. My next trip is in the planning stages (mid-August—mid-November)—stay tuned!

The dubbing of the Jesus film into Akawaio – RIGHT NOW!



We have received a number of phone calls from Rita Hunter, our main co-worker for the Akawaio New Testament translation in Guyana. She is in the capital, Georgetown, to record the narrator portions of the Akawaio script for the Jesus film. We're very excited for this project, and to hear that Rita is willing and able to record major portions of the script. Please pray with us and her that other Akawaio people will step forward and be willing to travel to the capital, to be away from their homes, families and farms, to record the parts of Jesus, the disciples, and the many other minor parts needed to complete the project.

Pictures from PNG -



Gurana's parents and other family members

“A time to mourn. . .



My sister, Beth, was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in May, while I was still in PNG. My brother, Mark, took time off from work and drove from Oklahoma to Florida to see her. After returning to the US, I made arrangements to visit with Beth and our other sister, Susan, did too. We had a very good time together. Due to the insidious nature of this disease, and after enduring two chemotherapy treatments, she was unable to fight off infection and died on 14 July, just 1½ weeks after our visit. My whole family is mourning her loss, but we are all confident that we will see Beth again, in God’s eternal kingdom (1 Thess. 4:13-18). Please hold her immediate family up in prayer – her husband Matt and 8 children, ages 32 to 16. Thank you to so many people who have expressed their condolences

and to those who sent extra money to help cover the cost of the trip back to Florida for the funeral.

. . .and a time to dance” Ecclesiastes 3:4



Since graduating in May, Lucas has moved to the Miami area where he is working as an intern with Dover-Kohl, an architecture firm that specializes in urban renewal. He has been invited to go on two charrettes – one in Michigan and one in Texas. He really enjoys the wide variety of experience he’s getting outside the classroom. He says the Miami area reminds him a lot of Guyana.

Hannah and Gurana recently celebrated their second wedding anniversary. They both love the work they do and enjoy time at the cute little house they rent and on the beach with their two big dogs.

Hannah had knee surgery in late April, to repair damage to the ACL and the meniscus, and she is still recovering from that. She hopes to be fully healed and ready to resume her regular exercise/running activities in another two months or so. Gurana, a mechanical genius, enjoys buying old Jeeps and fixing them up for resale in his free time.



Strawberry moon, and our 28th anniversary

Through the ups and downs of the past months, we remember Lamentations 3:22, 23: **“Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”**

May you know His love and not be consumed. Know, too, our love. We cherish your friendship and your support.

Come see us! The welcome mat is always out. ☺

Ever in His care,
Ray & Dee ♥

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