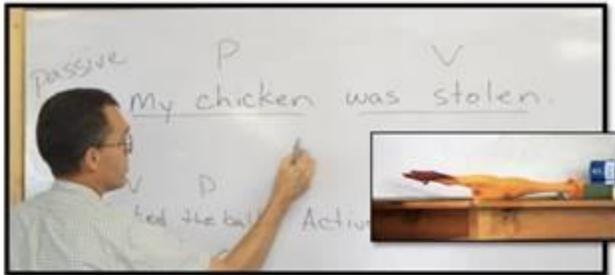


# May 2018 update from Ray & Dee Stegeman

Hi, friends and family!



Greetings all! I'm coming down the home stretch for my courses here at the Bible Translation Training Center in Ukarumpa. In 3 ½ short weeks (I wish they were shorter!) I will be reunited with my lovely bride. :-)

In this second training session there are 33 students in my classes representing 11 language groups. Drama is a highly effective teaching tool for Papua New Guineans, as is humor. In the story montage above, a colleague and I are teaching the passive construction as we use it in English. I wake up and realize, "Oh, no! My chicken was stolen while I was sleeping!" Especially since I don't know who stole it, I choose a passive construction. To make that active, I can say, "Someone stole my chicken!" Later, I notice a man who looks a lot fatter (and guiltier!) than when I saw him the day before, and it becomes "obvious" that he is the thief. I can then say, "My chicken was stolen by John!" or, to make it active, "John stole my chicken!" The English Bible is full of passive constructions, but many PNG languages don't have them. After dramatizing a sentence like this, they are better able to identify more passive constructions in the Bible and know what to do when they find them.

This time in Ukarumpa has been especially busy for me since I'm not only teaching at the training center, but I'm also preparing a presentation for a conference in Brest, France on June

14-15 on my way back to the US. I have been asked to share about how texting has influenced alphabet choices in Papua New Guinean languages in recent years.

Dee and her siblings have decided to meet in Pittsburgh, PA on the last weekend of August to honor their mother Marjorie and bury her ashes alongside her husband's. All of Marjorie's grandchildren (9) and their spouses (4) and great-grandchildren (3) will be in attendance, in addition to Dee and her siblings and spouses. We all look forward to a joyous reunion as we honor the life and celebrate the legacy of a wonderful woman.

I wish you all a Memorial Day weekend that reminds you of the many blessings we have as Americans and gives you a moment to honor all those who gave their lives to help preserve our freedoms.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts to Wycliffe Bible Translators, which have enabled me to contribute to meeting the needs of many Bibleless people here in Papua New Guinea.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Ray