

# 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

July, 2018

*Greetings to you all!*

*We hope you are enjoying the longer days and a more relaxed pace of summer. WE are enjoying being a twosome again and can't wait to share a few things with you.*

## Thank You #1

Ray and I just received a pin for 25 years of service with Wycliffe. Would that they could send YOU all one! Ray and I could never have reached this point without the prayer and financial support of so many of you over these many years. (Alas, this picture we've taken of it will have to suffice. ☺)

**THANK YOU** for your love and concern for us and for the Bibleless peoples of the world and for expressing that love and concern in so many ways throughout the years.



## Thank You #2

During the two years since we returned to the US, Ray has made four trips to PNG. Students from **48** different languages have benefitted from his instruction and encouragement. This is a map to show you the locations of all 48 of those language groups. If you are interested in the names of the language groups, let us know and we'll get them to you. We and those we teach **THANK YOU** for sacrificing to make it all possible. To God be the glory!



## Marjorie's funeral in Pittsburgh

I miss my mom, but she'd be happy that ALL of her family - children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren - will travel to Pittsburgh to remember, honor and celebrate her life and legacy at Pinkerton Funeral Home in Avalon, PA. Visitation will be from 6-8 pm on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and a funeral service will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. It would be wonderful to see any of you who are able to come.



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## Akawaio OLD Testament translation to begin in August!

Isn't it wonderful? I got news from Reverend Mother Rita Hunter that United Bible Societies (through its offices in Guyana and Suriname) has decided to work with her and others among the Akawaio translators we worked with to begin translation of the OLD Testament. They had an organizational meeting in June in Georgetown (the capital of Guyana) and will travel to Suriname to begin in August. Rita has already drafted much of Genesis, so we assume they will begin with that. Woohoo! Here's an excerpt from an update sent by a friend working with YWAM in Guyana who has been ministering among the Akawaio. I thought you would be encouraged; God's word NEVER returns void.

*"Wycliffe Bible Translators Ray and Dee Stegeman and their family spent years translating the Bible into Akawaio so I made sure that the day's reading for our topic was read from the Akawaio Bible. A Proclaimer was also there, looks like a transistor radio, but has the recorded Akawaio NT on it, we used this tool too so they could hear in their 'heart' language."*

## Plans to return to PNG? Yes, Lord-willing!

Ray and I still feel God's call on our lives to contribute in whatever way He chooses for us to further the work of Bible translation. Ray's experience as a Bible translator and linguist in Guyana is so useful in Papua New Guinea - where there are still 300 unwritten languages and many Papua New Guineans who feel God's call to become translators and linguists in their own mother tongues. All they lack is training and encouragement that he can provide! It makes sense for us to return to Papua New Guinea together (woohoo!) and stay long-term. The next training course begins on October 3rd. We (oh, I LIKE the sound of that!) would like to leave the US in mid-September. In order for Wycliffe to "release" us to return, we need a few new regular financial partners—and it's always good to have more prayer support, too! It will be exciting to see how God will provide. Please pray with us about this matter, and see the bottom of this page for ways to give, if you feel the Spirit's nudge.

## Lucas and Hannah

Luke is back at Judson University doing a 1-year master's program after finishing up his internship year at Dover-Kohl in Miami. He is living off-campus in an apartment with 5 other students.

Hannah is coming down the homestretch with her deployment on the USNS Mercy in the Pacific. She has learned so much and visited many countries providing medical care and other humanitarian aid. While away, she was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG). I know she is aching to be reunited with her husband, Gurana, in just 3 more weeks.

*All for now—if you're traveling through Colorado this summer, we'd love to see you!*

*Ever in His care,*

*Ray & Dee ♥*

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