



STEGEMA NEWSLETTER

Ukarumpa, PNG

March, 2019

Greetings all,

Funny how some things are so easy to forget while others stay so vividly in our minds. Do you ever experience that? I mean, sometimes I can't even remember what I did last week let alone last year! But this time last year is quite vivid in my mind. This week (end of March) last year was Holy Week, and my mother was dying. She had just been placed on Hospice care. I was grieving the recent death of a new friend in Fort Collins. At the end of the week, on 31 March, the Lord called my sweet mother Home. And the next day was Easter. The celebration of Easter helped me put my grief into perspective. Death is still our enemy, until Jesus returns, but it has lost its power. It is not the end. Jesus' death on the cross and subsequent resurrection has conquered the grave. Both my mother's and my friend's hearts were ready to meet their Maker. They are in His presence.

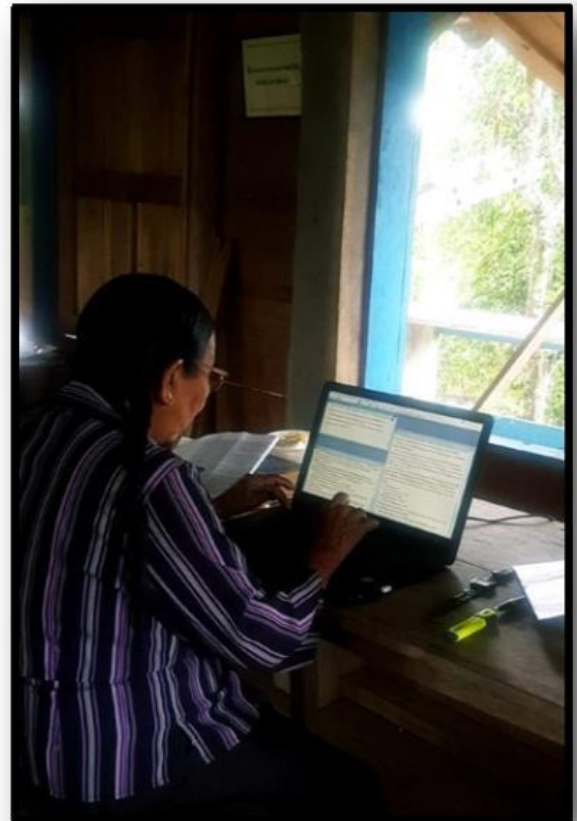
This year, as I walk through Lent, and remember them, I particularly pray for all those dear to my heart who don't know Christ's love or don't think they need it. We all need to know the impact of the resurrection, admit that we can't meet the standard and cry out to Him who set the standard and who IS the Standard and claim Easter's redeeming power for our lives. Christ IS risen! Death is NOT the end!

A joyous Easter to each of you!

Akawaio OLD Testament Translation

Ray has been observing the progress of the Akawaio translators in Guyana. He is able to access their work via a program called Paratext. He is pleased with the drafting he has seen so far – to date – Genesis, Exodus 1-4, Judges 1-5, Ruth, Esther, Daniel 1-3, Obadiah, and Jonah. Please PRAY that they would persevere in their work and be blessed though it.

This is a recent picture of Rita Hunter working on the Old Testament translation, posted on Facebook by her granddaughter. She's working in the Akawaio Translation and Literacy Center—where we used to live and work—so fun for us to see!



Papua New Guinean Translator Training and Linguistics



Many translators here in Papua New Guinea are working with languages that have not yet been analyzed or written. Ray gets to help some of these translators in their language analysis. A thorough understanding of a language's sound system is a necessary step in choosing a good alphabet, and a thorough understanding of a language's grammar structure is necessary for natural communication in that language and effective Bible translation.

Ray's next course, Basic Computing, begins next week. It will introduce Papua New Guinean translators to computers in general and Microsoft Windows in particular.

Dee's teaching at UIS

I get the privilege of teaching children from many different countries, whose parents have answered God's call to further the work of Bible translation. Some have come as translators, some fix our very old cars, some work in our Aviation department, some fix our electric and phone lines, some teach children, some direct and teach adults at the Training Center, some fix and maintain our computers, and some work in our clinic.



recent Book Festival photo—where the kids get to dress up like a favorite book character

We wanted to share with you a short video put out by Ben and Mandy Pehrson that describes their translation work. I teach their twins. It's a few years old now, but it'll give you a good idea of a translator's life and work here in Papua New Guinea.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNzusNGqm8I>

We're going to be GRANDPARENTS!!!

Somewhere near 12 August, "Baby T" will make his/her appearance in the world. Hannah and Gurana (and we and Luke – 12 August is his birthday!) are thrilled. All seems to be going smoothly with the pregnancy for which we rejoice.

Another news item from them is that Hannah has been assigned to the hospital at the US Naval Base in Guam for three years beginning in November. We are all glad Gurana will be able to go along this time.

the day Hannah told Gurana she was expecting
The crescent-shaped cradle in the background is something Gurana made (in faith) while Hannah was on her deployment last year. He had kept it a secret until this moment. 😊



Luke's Graduation

This Spring, Lucas will receive his Master's Degree in Architecture from Judson University. He has worked very hard and still remains very passionate about his chosen career path. We pray for him to know when the right job for him comes available as he interviews with various firms, and we'll be "popping shirt buttons" (a Harvey Sloanism) on the big day, 4 May. Look out, Architecture world—here comes Lucas!!



We love hearing from you as you are able to be in touch. Know that we pray for you and absolutely depend on your prayers for us (James 5: 16b).

"Now, unto Him who is able to keep you from falling and present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forevermore. Amen!" Jude 24, 25

Delighted to be serving THAT God,
Dee ♥ (and for Ray)

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ADDRESS!!**

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Wycliffe

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You can give to our ministry through Wycliffe in a number of ways. One is to go to: <https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/RandDinPNG>

Also, checks can be made out to: Wycliffe Bible Translators, with a note indicating "preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Ray & Dee Stegeman—#300144"