

BACKinPNG

UPDATE from the Bruners • FEBRUARY 2016



John with a colleague and several interns who are training to be translation consultants

Since we have been back in Papua New Guinea for over six months now we want to catch you up on our lives and ministry here through a regular newsletter. We are thankful that we are able to be back here and continue working to bring God's Word to people in a language they can understand. And we appreciate the part you all play in helping us to be here!

JOHN

After my (John) trip to Solomon Islands last year in September I reported that we had finished checking all the books in the Fataleka New Testament and that we only had the final read-through to do. Well, just a couple weeks ago I was doing some editing and came to the shocking discovery that we had skipped right over the book of Galatians in our checking! Hard to deny that evidence of aging! So, when I make a 3 ½ week trip to Solomons later this month, the checking of Galatians will get added on to the read-through of the entire New Testament. I have come to the realization that we may not be able to finish so it is possible that I will need

to make another trip later this year to complete everything. Hopefully, we will still be able to have the dedication for the New Testament sometime in 2017.

Helping the Interns

When we returned to Papua New Guinea in July last year, I had just started my new job with Seed Company (a Wycliffe affiliate) as the Intern Coordinator. So since we have been back I have been working with twelve Papua New Guineans who are training to be Bible Translation Consultants. Most of the interns are needing experienced consultants to supervise them in checking the translations of other languages, so I have been helping to arrange those opportunities for them. In a country where communication and travel are not very reliable, it is often a challenge to line things up! A couple of the interns are doing study programs at universities and I have been helping them with the arrangements for those programs. I have also been meeting with some of the interns who live near the mission center here in the highlands, teaching them how to use some of the tools available for Translation Consultants.



Some of the ladies who work out in villages enjoying the Tea that Brena hosts

BRENA

Brena has been working with the Staff Care department since we have returned. She has continued doing Teas for ladies who work in villages, weekly and monthly Coffee Houses for the community, cooking for people who need meals, and recently catered

the food for a Mother Daughter Retreat. She has also starting cutting people’s hair, which has been a fun hobby for her.



With over 500 people on the Wycliffe center, it is nice to have people who know how to cut hair

GRANT

Grant is in his second year at John Brown University in Arkansas and he is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He was able to spend the summer with my oldest brother Dave and his family in Charleston, South Carolina where he worked at Chick-Fil-A. His PNG roommate from last year, Absalom Timothy, was not able to return to JBU this year, so that was a bit difficult for Grant. He is continuing to play on the Ultimate Frisbee club team and I’m learning to respect it as a sport, not a “game”. Brena and I were very thankful we were able to see Grant last year at Thanksgiving when we were in the States for Seed Company meetings.



It has been great for Grant (Far Right) to be a part of the Ultimate team at JBU – like a family he tells us



JOEY

Joey is now in the last semester of his senior year! He is still in the process of applying for colleges and scholarships and at this point there are several schools that look like good options. He isn't sure what he wants to major in, but Criminal Justice is a possibility (since the age of four he has expressed interest in being a police officer).

Joey also hopes to play soccer in college so he has been looking at colleges where he will be able to do that.

KAIRU

Kairu is living with us again this year and he also graduates in June. At this point he doesn't know if he will go to college in PNG or the U.S. He is interested in some type of medical or dental career. It has been great to have him as part of our family again!

LUKE

Luke is in 9th grade and finding this year challenging with the amount of homework he has. He is doing well, though, and has enjoyed being on the A teams in volleyball, soccer and basketball. He has also enjoyed learning to ride our Honda 250 motorcycle and we have made many trips on the weekends, having adventures on the hundreds of dirt roads and trails that are in the area.



It has been fun to have Kairu (L), Joey (R), and Luke (M) on the same sports team this year



Luke and John about to set off on another adventure. They are often covered in mud on their return.

Pray for:

- My (John) upcoming trip to Solomon Islands. Pray that the Fataleka team will be able to make good progress on checking Galatians and then doing the final read-through of the whole New Testament. There is the possibility that one or two members of the team might not be there because of issues in the past so please pray that things will be resolved so that the whole team can be together.
- Wisdom for me as I mentor and support the Papua New Guinean interns who are training to be Translation Consultants. Some of them are struggling to make good progress and it isn't always easy to know how to help them.
- Brena as she balances the amount of work she takes on for the Staff Care department and the daily work of taking care of the family. Pray she will have wisdom in knowing what things to say "no" to.
- Grant as he manages a full load of hard classes at JBU. Pray he would get an engineering internship or good job this coming summer.
- Joey and Kairu, that they will have the discipline to finish the year well and that they will have clear guidance from God in knowing what to do after they graduate.
- Luke to work hard at school and to keep growing spiritually as he continues through the high school years.
- Brena and I to continue to keep our marriage strong and healthy.



Joey (back second from left) and Kairu (front middle) with their class on their Senior Retreat at a coastal city of PNG



The Gang – happiest when playing sports or eating!

Want to Hear More Frequently?

If you want to hear more frequently from us, we post monthly updates on our website, **johnandbrena.com**. You can even get those updates sent directly to your email inbox if you sign up on the homepage.

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