

BACKtoPNG Wycliffe® Bible Translators

An Update from the BRUNERS • APRIL 2020

In 2010 we had moved to Papua New Guinea from Solomon Islands so our three boys could attend the school that is located at the large Wycliffe center at Ukarumpa, and so that I (John) could make trips to Solomon Islands to continue working on translation projects there. But when we returned to the U.S. in July 2019, our three boys had all graduated so we thought it was time to reassess where we would live at the end of our year of home assignment. We considered returning to PNG, going to Solomon Islands, or basing in the States (and I would make regular trips to do my work).

After praying and talking about it during this past year, Brena and I recently decided that we will return to PNG. We feel that it is the place where God can best use us for the foreseeable future. Brena can continue working for Staff Care, doing Teas and Cafés for the missionary community there and it is a good place for me to oversee the internships of 14 Papua New Guineans. It is also fairly easy for me to travel to Solomon Islands where I regularly train translators to use specialized software and also do consultant checks. But because of the coronavirus pandemic, we have been told by Wycliffe that we need to wait until further notice before making plans to return. So, like most of you, we are waiting and trusting that God is in control and taking one day at a time.

Since the last time we sent a paper letter by mail was mid-2018 (and a number of you don't receive our email updates), we thought that informing you of what has been going on in our lives since then is probably best done through pictures. If you would like to receive more frequent updates from us, go to our website at the end of the letter to sign up or just email and ask.



Until we returned to the U.S., Brena worked with the Staff Care department at Ukarumpa, the large Wycliffe center in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Brena did Teas for ladies who spend much of their time in remote locations working on translation projects. She also did regular weekly cafes for members of the mission community. Here Brena is with two of her colleagues at a Café.



Until we returned to the U.S., I mentored Papua New Guinean interns who are training to become translation consultants. Here, I'm supervising an intern, Yauko Kasave (right), as he checks the translation of the Gizzra language. Six interns have finished the requirements and become consultants and there are 14 more in training.

I have also continued to be involved in translation work in Solomon Islands, doing consultant checks for projects there and also teaching Solomon Islands translators how to use specialized software. In January, I helped to train 30 translators in the use of two programs.



I helped with several training courses for translators at the Wycliffe center in PNG. Here I'm with the participants of a "Back Translation" course.



Luke graduated from high school in Ukarumpa in June 2019, just before we returned to the U.S. He was unsure of what he wanted to do, so decided to work instead of going to college.



We have been blessed to be able to stay in a missionary house in Charleston, South Carolina. It is managed by the church that my brother Dave is employed by as their missions pastor. Joey and Luke are living with us.



We participated in two global missions conferences in February and March and were able to share about the need for Bible translation with over 100 people.



Our oldest son, Grant, and his wife Sara live just a few minutes away from us. Grant works as a mechanical engineer for a small engineering firm and Sara is in her third year of Pharmacy school.



Joey and Luke work for Gabe (middle) doing window washing.



We have enjoyed gatherings with members of the Bruner family who live in South Carolina and northern Florida.



Joey has been accepted by Pioneers mission agency and in August he will be going to India for a year. He will be working with a team that includes his cousin Sam and Sam's wife, Liz.



Kairu (who lived with us for over a year in PNG) was able to stay with us during the Christmas holidays. Kairu is in his second year of pre-dental studies at Cornerstone University in Michigan.



I enjoyed playing in a golf tournament with my dad. Of course we didn't win - but we didn't come in last place either!



Brena and her sister, Beth, enjoyed time with their Dad at our niece's wedding in Texas.

Praise & Prayer:

- We are thankful for all of God's good gifts we have experienced while we have been in the U.S.
- Pray that if it is God's will, we will be able to return to PNG this summer and that Joey will be able to leave for India. Pray that we will be patient as we wait.
- Pray that the missionary community in Ukarumpa, PNG will remain safe from the coronavirus as they don't have good medical facilities there.
- Pray for Luke as he is still unsure of what he wants to do this coming year and pray that he'll seek God in it all.

If you would like to receive monthly updates from us, sign up on our website: johnandbrena.com

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