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Please send support to: Evangel Bible Translators † PO Box 16715 † Irvine CA 92623-6715 † USA
Please mark support “For the ministry of Michael & Lori Johnson.”



Evan, Michael, Lori, Nate, and Ben Johnson

What goes into a Bible Translation?

First there are the people (Matt. 9:38):

- **People** called by God to **go translate** the Bible,
- **People** called by God to **go support** Bible translation, &
- **People** called by God to **send** those who go.

Then there are the tasks:

- **Training** for Bible translation or support work
- **Survey** to determine where translations are needed
- **Allocation** of translators to language groups
- **Language and culture learning**
- **Team building** and training mother tongue translators
- **Literacy** training so people can read the Bible translation
- Actual **translation** work
- **Support** work of many kinds and many jobs
- **Quality control** checks
- **Typesetting and printing**
- **Dedication & distribution** of the Scriptures
- **Getting the Scriptures in use**

What does all of this cost? It costs **decades of dedication**. The true cost of a Bible translation is measured in lives— a large portion of workers’ lives in the field, plus the portion of peoples’ lives spent earning the income to support the field workers.

What is the benefit of translating the Holy Bible? It makes no worldly economic sense to translate the Holy Bible for small language groups who will never spend enough money on Bibles to pay for the cost of the translation. It makes sense on an eternal scale, though. **God’s Word never returns void.** (Isaiah 55:11) The returns are lives saved for eternity and treasures in Heaven that will never be lost. **There is no substitute for the quality of Christian discipleship possible with an understandable Bible.**

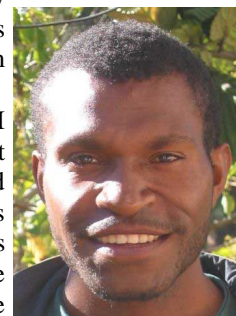
Two Paths

By Lori Johnson

Two men walked into our SIL Center as thieves, but one left redeemed and forgiven and the other left still bound in his sin.

I was surprised when Charlie and his friend followed us to the national women’s Bible study. He and his friend had stopped by my house earlier to see his sister, Esta. I had invited them to eat lunch with us and they later told me it was the first time they had ever been invited into a white man’s house. Charlie and his friend sat outside in the *haus win* listening to the Bible study. I had no idea if they were listening, or just waiting for the others to finish to walk them home— but I prayed that God would penetrate their hearts. When we finished, I walked with the others down to the front gate. As we walked, I asked Charlie and his friend if they had a Bible, they said no. I then asked if they wanted one. Charlie eagerly said “Yes,” and the other said “No.” I always carry extra Bibles to Bible study to give away, because I never know if a new person will come and desire one. I tried my best to share with them the power of God’s Word in Tok Pisin, and encouraged them to read the Tok Pisin *Buk Baibel* (Bible).

It wasn’t until a few weeks later that I was told the story of what happened that afternoon as Charlie and his sister walked to the gate and home. Charlie and his friend planned to steal some coffee beans that day, and he had a bag with him that he was planning to carry them in. They were intending to sell them in town after they had gotten some money from his sister, Esta, for the PMV fare into town. God had other plans. After I had given Charlie the Bible, he opened it up and started to read. He sat by the gate reading, and was so convicted that he took the bag, and threw it into the river. He said that he immediately felt the burden of sin leave. He asked God for forgiveness, and was determined to lead a godly life. As for his friend, he stole coffee beans and went into town to sell them. One was changed by the power of God’s Word, and the other didn’t want to have anything to do with it. It has been almost a year since this happened and I am happy to report that Charlie is doing great. He has been disciplined well by some men in his church, and has stayed the course. I see him every Thursday, as he comes to work in my yard. He is planning to go to Bible school next year. Thank you for those who give to help us with things like Bible distribution. In the last year we have given out over 72 Tok Pisin Bibles to people who are hungry for the word of God. Isn’t it great to know that you have invested wisely into the kingdom of God?



Charlie

THANK YOU!

more ▶

KIDS' COLUMN

PRESIDENT—NATE; EDITOR AND ARTIST—BEN; WATER BOY AND IDEALIST—EVAN



Evan smiles and hopes a kangaroo doesn't bite his hand off.

During the last school break, we all went down to Australia. We got to eat all sorts of western foods and do some shopping. We met our grandparents there, and we also did some tourist stuff. It was nice to be back in a place where everything seems so normal.

Now, we've been starting school up again and getting adjusted into our new house. We all have our own rooms now. Location is everything in Ukarumpa, because it is built on a hill.



Our long driveway is kind of steep.

We now live at the top of the hill as opposed to the bottom, so it takes longer to walk to the school, but we have a view of mountains, as opposed to kunai grass and the river before. We also live closer to where more kids our age live now.



Nate flies over the waves



Ben and Evan demonstrate didgeridoos during their days down under



Nate petting a crocodile tail



Ben ponders that important question: "Does it taste like chicken?"



Village friends welcomed my parents. It takes a little walking on narrow trails to see them.

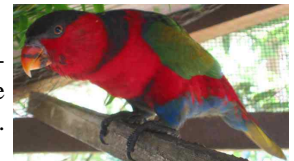


Merry Christmas!

OK, so you might think that I've gone crazy with a Christmas greeting written in September. Just a few days ago, we got a package mailed at the beginning of last December. It went surface mail. Air mail usually gets here within a month or two. There is no such thing as overnight package service, here. Sometimes the remoteness of where we live and serve the Lord is pretty obvious, but think of the benefits! We get our Christmas cheer much more spread out! Don't let that discourage you. We like to get gifts. It is best to check with us via email before sending something, especially since shipping costs are so high, and import duty costs vary. In general, small stuff from individuals, properly declared, seems to come through the best. Do you want to know what I want for Christmas? I want to take my entire family to the USA and back next July.

Thank You!

We appreciate your encouragement, prayers, and support! We couldn't do this work without help. May God bless you!



Lorikeet

Staying in Touch

Please let us know if your address or email address changes. If you would like to get updates from us via email, please let us know at our email address to the right. We send out email updates more often than paper newsletters. Please let us know how we can best pray for you. Thank you for your partnership with us! ☺

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Michael & Lori Johnson

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