

Nystrom Field Notes

Seminole, Florida

November, 2002

Praise points

- We are settling into life in the US for the year.
- The Translation Team held a translation workshop on Luke chapter 1 in September, even though we were not there to help.
- General good health for the family.
- Eric and Brianna are doing well in school.
- For all our faithful partners! Thanks for being part of our team!

Prayer points

- For the translators to get good feedback from their people as they test their translations in Bible Studies in their villages.
- Preparation for the next workshop, to be led by the Arop translators in January / February.
- That we will set proper priorities as we have so many things to do.

Translator in big trouble

Translator Dominic Pusai from Goiniri village is in trouble. He's in jail after having killed a man. But there's a lot more to this story. . .

A while back a man in Dominic's home village of Goiniri 'grabbed' Dominic's sister and made her pregnant. Dominic's mother did not like this guy and did not want her daughter to marry him. So the



Dominic Pusai has been a leader among the new translators. He will be sorely missed if he is not able to continue in the translation project.

guy got extremely angry and destroyed everything that belongs to Dominic and his family. This sounds like an exaggeration, but it can be done when people own so little to begin with.

But destroying their stuff was not enough. This man sneaked up on Dominic's mother and attacked her with a machete, sending her to the hospital with wounds on her head and arms.

She has recovered and is back home in her village.

As Dominic was heading home from the translation workshop early in October, the man tried to attack Dominic with a machete. Papua New Guinean men often carry machetes around with them because they use them for so many purposes. It's a Papua New Guinean's Swiss Army Knife or Leatherman Tool.

So when this man attacked Dominic with a Machete, Dominic also had a machete and fought back. The attacker ended up dead.

Dominic turned himself in to the police and he is in jail as I write this.

Emil sent me an email asking for advice on what to do. He thinks that Dominic may be released and will want to come back to the translation team. He also thinks that the dead attacker's relatives will come to Emil and insist that he not allow Dominic to come back to the translation team. Emil wanted to know what to tell them.

I was happy that Emil was not asking me to make a decision, but merely asking for advice. I reminded him that one of the experimental aspects of this new multi-language translation project is allowing local Translation Committees to do the 'hiring and firing,' so we are mostly out of the decision making here. Our job is to encourage the Translation Committee

If we always run everything and make all the decisions, Papua New Guineans will never be able to run their own Bible translation projects. ***Pray for wisdom for Emil and everyone else involved.***

So, whatcha doin' with all that free time?

Lots of folks are asking, so here are some of the things we've been up to since we arrived in Florida in August:

- Settling the kids into an American school
- Settling ourselves into our new home here
- Visiting and speaking in churches and Sunday School classes, and doing the preparation for that
- Helping the translators in PNG by checking their translations
- Working on a presentation I'll give to a Wycliffe computing conference in November
- Working on various paper work and other monthly and quarterly things we have to do regardless of where we are
- Brianna is in the Marching Band at her High School and we try to get to as many performances and competitions as possible. We did not see her recent competition in New York City, however.
- Eric has been playing basketball and wants to go out for his school's Middle School team in November.
- Eric has also been dealing with a painful displaced disc in his back.
- Bonnie has been trying to concentrate on helping the kids with homework, getting where they need to be, etc.
- Bonnie is also tutoring Brianna and some other students in Geometry.
- I have been getting in shape by riding a few mornings a week with a local cycling club.
- We all got to attend a big Christian music concert

Other projects we intend to work on before returning to PNG in July:

- Plan a building project for after we return to PNG
- Set up new computers for the translation team
- Speak in many more churches after the first of the year.



Since we had our picture taken in August, Eric has grown even taller.

- Help write a new book for Wycliffe, part of which is to be about our experimental multi-language translation project.

As always, there's more to do than we have time for. *Pray that we will set proper priorities and stick with them.*

Contacting us . . .

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Nov. 10

Nov. 15-25

On the road . . .

The whole family at Arlington Countryside Church, Arlington Heights, IL (Church phone: 847-255-2140)
John in Waxhaw, NC for WBT computing conference
