

John Nystrom

From: John Nystrom [john_nystrom@sil.org]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 3:41 AM
To: 'Bonnie Nystrom'
Cc: 'John Nystrom'
Subject: NPU: Back at Ukarumpa, Radio Mercurial is working

Dear Praying Friends,

Brief Version:

- * I made it back to Ukarumpa safely.
- * One of our airstrips was open. Our pilot was pleased with the great shape it's in.
- * My sea trip was good, with only a relatively modest amount of unwanted excitement.
- * Translators have finished Acts 5-7 in the translation workshop and have gone home.
- * Yesterday Emil and I successfully used Radio Mercurial to exchange translation changes!

The Details:

THE TRIP TO TOWN

I left the village at about 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday and arrived in Aitape town by 10:30 a.m. The sea was very smooth, but we still spent a very exciting 10-15 minutes trying to get out of the lagoon through the breakers.

On the first four attempts, huge waves breaking too soon chased us back toward the lagoon. On the fifth try, our skipper headed west as the wave started to break and reached the part of the wave that had not yet broken.

The boat slammed down on the back side of the wave as it passed beneath us. After that it was all smooth water for the one hour trip to town.

TADJI AIRSTRIP IS OPEN

I spent a relaxing night in the guest house in Aitape. At noon on Thursday, the airstrip maintenance crew picked me up to take me to the airstrip, about 20 minutes outside of town. They had to go anyway to place the marker cones on the airstrip. They are a theft target, so have to be placed before each flight and remove immediately after the plane takes off.

Our pilot was very pleased with how short the grass was and how neatly trimmed everything was. There are still issues with damaged Marston Matting at one end of the airstrip so only one kilometer of its two kilometer total length is open for use now. But that's enough for us! Thank the Lord with me for this answer to prayer.

Our Member of Parliament is hoping to see this airstrip upgraded to accommodate jets, a terminal built, etc.

TRANSLATORS FINISH ACTS 5-7

On Friday the translators finished up their work and headed for their home villages, taking with them drafts of Acts 5-7. They have set May 10 to June 6 as their next workshop date. Please pray that we can have Acts 8-12 ready for them by then. This may be quite a challenge.

RADIO MERCURIAL IS ON THE AIR

Also on Friday, Emil successfully sent his first set of translation data "packets" to me by email over our HF radio email link using the Radio Mercurial software that Nathan Miles of United Bible Societies came to set up for us. I was able to send back to him, and late in the day he sent another set to me. Getting this system working was the main purpose for my trip, so I was very very happy to see those first packets arrive from Emil!

**** Praise the Lord with us for this answer to prayer. We have been praying for this since September! ****

OUR TRIP BACK TO THE US

On Wednesday we begin our journey back to the US. Please pray for safety on every segment of our trip, which begins with a 2-hour drive to Goroka, one of our major Highlands towns, then continues with four flights: Goroka-Port Moresby-Brisbane-Los Angeles-Indianapolis, and of course a 1.5 hour drive to Upland, IN. We should be home on the night of the 16th.

As Easter comes, I am thinking about how Jesus' resurrection makes our friend and coworker Joe Anaput's resurrection possible, and mine too!

Thank you again for your partnership with us.

John Nystrom (For Bonnie and the Aitape West Translation Project)

P.S. Tomorrow is Easter, so I want to send this out now. Unfortunately, I don't have time to add photos. I'll try to make pictures of this last month available soon.