

John Nystrom

From: John Nystrom [john_nystrom@sil.org]
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2009 10:55 PM
To: bonnie_nystrom@sil.org.pg
Subject: NPU: Living the gospel of forgiveness and peace in Arop

Dear Praying Friends,

This morning I talked to our brother who has been angry this week. He immediately said he wanted to apologize for the way he has been acting, and especially for the way he spoke to me Tuesday night. He said that he had had no intention of speaking to me Tuesday night because he knew he was very angry and didn't want to talk to me until he had cooled down. But I came and started talking to him, and off we went. He was very sorry for what he said and asked me to forgive him. I did.

We discussed the specific things that made him angry and how we all could have handled them better. We talked about how we should all be talking to each other when we think we see problems.

Later on in the morning I was taking pictures of my friend Brian Chapaitis as he tuned up our partner Beth Fuller's solar system on her house. While I was there, our brother came to the translation center and apologized to everybody. He stopped when he realized I wasn't there because he wanted me to hear it too, but then he decided to continue. When he was finished, he went and shook hands with the other translator that had said one of the things that had set him off earlier in the week, and then he shook hands with everybody else. The whole group then prayed together. I missed the whole event so Beth had to tell me about it later!

I was especially happy to hear him say that he had spoken about this whole situation with a leader in his denomination who has come to Arop to live and work with the local congregation and build up the church. This leader was able to give our brother 'some good thoughts' about the situation yesterday, and again this morning. Of all the things that are coming out of this, I find this the most encouraging thing that comes from this: Our brother has somebody from his own country and a culture similar to his, who can effectively speak into his life as a fellow believer and a fellow Papua New Guinean, and our brother seems very willing for that to happen. As long as that is the case, the Lord can do anything with his heart. May we all be as open to others showing us where we need to change!

****** Please pray that we would continue to live the gospel we are translating as we interact with each other. ******

Tomorrow is a meeting between me and the landowners. They are concerned that our current agreement calls for them to get my house as payment for using the land when the project is finished, but it looks like that day may be far into the future. They sent word to me earlier in the week that they are coming Saturday to talk about the land agreement. I sent word to them today that I am interested in making sure they are fairly compensated for the use of their land, but I want to be sure I am negotiating with the right people. I don't want to make an agreement now and some sort of payment later, only to have another family say they are the ones that should be compensated.

This scenario has happened many times in PNG.

****** Please pray for this important meeting! We now have at least seven buildings of various sizes on this land. Pray for a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. I would like to leave the meeting with all of us having at least agreed in principle on the direction we want to go. One of the landowners can sometimes be a bit quick to assume the worst in what others are saying and to react violently. What I don't want is all smiles at the meeting and then volcanoes of anger later. ******

Serving our King together,

John Nystrom