



Brian and Helen's News & Views

Eastern Highlands Province

April, 2008

Back in Papua New Guinea !

What Are We Up To Now?

Our USA furlough finished and we arrived in January. While for years we hardly ever entertained guests here, today we host Hannah's Mother, Dede Cockerill, and soon we will entertain our Vermont Pastor, Peter Anderson and his wife Sharon on their world tour. We look forward to friends coming! You are always welcome at our house!

Pray For:

- Traveling safety. Brian will travel to Thailand soon for our SIL International Conference (late April) as a delegate from Papua New Guinea.

- Helen has been way too busy at our clinic. Pray for plenty of restful, rejuvenating moments in the midst of all that medical work. Since her return in January she has been out of PNG twice on medical evacuations including a recent trip in which she accompanied a patient back to the US. Praise the Lord for endurance and strength during these trips.

She is also working to get all of our clinic staff up to date and certified in CPR. Pray for the teaching, learning and testing process which has been frequently interrupted by the out of country travels.

- Hannah Cockerill (now engaged!) would like to finish all those reports from her recent sociolinguistic hike on the Rai Coast in time to leave in July.



Many guests come visit our house: "Little Brian"

They Sent Him Away: "Just Swinging Hands"

In the region where the Tsunami hit Papua New Guinea (1998), West Aitape translator John Nystrom now works with 11 languages. He writes:

One group was discussing their translation and I heard something that made me listen up. They were reading Jesus' story about the man who rents out his vineyard and sends his servants to collect a portion of the harvest. They got to v. 11, where the NIV says, "He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away 'empty-handed.'"

I said, "Kenny, what does 'lewlew' mean in Sissano in this context? I hear Arops using it for when a person is unconscious and their spirit leaves them 'just hanging-

swinging.' How are you using it here?" Kenny said, "they sent him away "just hands swinging." "OK," I said, "But what does



John Nystrom helping James Panso (left) and Dominic Pusai from the Onnele Language Group

that mean?" "It means there's nothing heavy in his hands, so he's walking away with his hands just swinging."

Later John describes how similar words in the Serra language meaning 'He went' reads 'He ran' in the Arop language.

So in the end there were four significantly different ways to say "they sent the guy away empty-handed." This is why it's important for the various national teams to check and fine tune each other's translations in their own languages for accuracy and faithfulness to the original text. Notice in the picture that notebook computers are used a lot, even in the bush. That's where I (Brian) come in at times helping on the software application side of things related to language work.

To our friends and supporters: **"Thank You"** for helping us support teams like the West Aitape Project through computer support and by medical assistance. This makes it possible to continue to help make God's Word available in all these languages, (and others) so that nobody has to go home "just swinging hands."

Recent News

We have had much too much rain lately and the Ba'e river near our home community shifted course a bit and damaged a major bridge on the main road to Kainantu. Only light vehicles can cross. The latest news is that the local Government Minister is trying hard to gather the funds to repair this bridge. You can be praying for a relatively swift return to service.

I (Brian) have dusted off any cross-cultural preaching skills I might have and returned to the

village preaching circuit as a member of our local church. Helen continues her work in HIV / AIDS awareness with others here on our SIL center and seeing patients at our remote medical clinic.

Hannah Cockerill Arrives

We first met Hannah when she was little girl and played with "baby David". Now she herself is a missionary and lives with us. She recently completed her training orientation at our Pacific Orientation Course, and works in the Socio-Linguistic Office. She and others love to hike around the far reaches of Papua New Guinea and chart the vernacular language boundaries. These are still unknown in many parts of PNG and where we have maps, they are very old and out of date.



Juliann (left) and Hannah share a "reading" together. This aural tradition started while living in a remote village on the North Coast.

Staying Connected

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