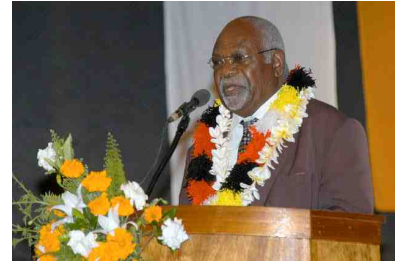


Our Jubilee Year!

Come celebrate with us (by pictures) in our Jubilee Year in Papua New Guinea! Yes, that's right, it has been 50 years that SIL in partnership with the Wycliffe Bible Translators has worked and ministered in this country.

It was a wonderful day of celebrations. The best people came for a visit from around the country, including various embassy ministers from Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. Other local guests arrived too, but best of all was our guest of honor, Sir Paulias Matane, now Governor General of Papua New Guinea.



Governor General, Sir Paulias Matane addresses SIL members and guests

Sir Paulias is a great friend of SIL, and a fine and respected Christian Statesman for our country. All of us, plus dignitaries shared in an hour of worship in song at our main meeting house, and then Sir Paulias gave a wonderful speech in appreciation of all that we have done for his country:



"I am very moved by the faith that you people have. If the people know the Word of God in their own languages, they will hopefully be able to do things that are right under Christian principles...."

I have been to all the seven continents of the earth. ... To me, Papua New Guinea is the best place on earth.

But I'm glad that you are training Papua New Guineans not only in translation but also in many other things as well. I just would like to say thank you very much for your faith in God, because before you do something else, there must be faith first..... Once again thank you very much, all of you who gave up your beautiful places and all the wealth that you have in your countries to come here and live amongst the people of Papua New Guinea. I just want to say thank you again.

...while ambassador to the United States, from 1975 to 1980, I spent many occasions with 'Uncle Cam' Townsend, the founder of SIL, and also his family and co-workers. They were full of love for others. That is why they and all SIL volunteers commit their lives in service to others in the Lord's name.

Thousands of Papua New Guineans have been involved in partnerships with SIL language specialists to study their mother tongue and to be part of translating and providing the New Testament for their language groups. I believe that through the availability and understanding of the Word of God in our own mother tongues our dreams of a better Papua New Guinea can be arrived at.



Colorful Players Bring the Completed New Testaments

The worldwide church, including the Papua New Guinea church, must take up the challenge of supporting and promoting mother-tongue Bible translation. This is my appeal to the people of Papua New Guinea. From the bottom of my heart, I salute the Summer Institute of Linguistics for the good work that they have done and are doing in Papua New Guinea, and I mean what I say. Happy 50th or golden jubilee celebrations."

Then there was a moving ceremony where our Papua New Guinea employees and families participated. They each had a copy of a completed New Testament.



Helen listens in the crowd

All of the 159 that have been completed thus far in a colorful procession. Each participant, some dressed in traditional clothing, came on stage and laid their New

Testament on a special table. It was pretty impressive to see the sum total of years of labors by so many.

But there was more good news. After a luncheon feast complete with traditional dances and music, we had another meeting place set up with booths or tables with displays of all our major works in the country: Scripture In Use, Literacy Training, Community Development, Survey, National Translation Training, and even Helen had a special table with a video story showing our recent HIV AIDS awareness outreach. The embassy officials were astonished at the work of SIL in this country. They had not realized the scope of all our efforts for PNG. This will pay big dividends for us in the future down at the Capitol District.



Visitors watch Dr. Helen as she speaks "Agarabe" in the HIV AIDS video story

So here in PNG, Helen and I would like to thank you for our personal ministry in this country. We could not be here at all if were not for the faithful help and support of our friends back in the home country. So, celebrate with us, what God is doing. We have finished 159 New Testaments so far, and we are actively working or helping others to work in 186 more languages today.

Pray however for our leadership to discover ways to expand our work. There are over 400 more languages yet to receive God's Word and we need new and fresh approaches to complete the task soon.

With great pleasure and with thanksgiving to God

Brian and Helen

Handwritten signature of Brian C. Chapaitis

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