

Teaching in Asaro

Working in technical support roles among the Wycliffe Bible Translators can be rewarding work in its own right. Helping successful translators use their computers in Language Development and Translation, while assisting a translation team with medical needs can be an exciting ministry for us.

One Sunday in the Aiyura valley at a local village church, I “just happened” to meet a student from the Aiyura National High School (ANHS), named Jerry Aviro. Jerry turned out to be from Asaro country, northwest of Goroka, and was the president of the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship (TSCF), a student led ministry in this country and associated with IVCF.

Jerry and I became fast friends and he came over to our house with other students for coffee, snacks and fellowship quite often. A little while later during a school break time, Jerry made arrangements in his home village of Keremu and invited Helen and I to a weekend church “conference” where Helen and I would be the guest speakers. I jumped at this chance to travel to a remote place and just get away from it all.

The only problem, of course, is that I have never preached four consecutive two hours messages over three days before! It’s hard enough in English let alone preaching in PNG Pidgin, the local trade language here. I prayed for wisdom and insight and God did indeed inspire me with a cohesive talk “Becoming the Person of God” starting with the life of Abraham and how it is possible to have his kind of deep relationship with the Father through Christ. Helen was asked to teach in the open air courtyard area to the whole Keremu village about HIV / AIDS and what to do about it.

And what more can I say.... It was a refreshing time for us. The people were wonderful. The small local “Baptist” church way in the bush sang heartily unto the Lord and practically took the roof off the building every night. The messages went well, despite my tiredness at the end of the day. The Lord sustained us and used us.... And the people were quite thankful. We were able to live in the village without amenities and enjoyed it. This spoke leagues about the love of Christ to the villagers.

Helen’s teaching time on HIV / AIDS was well received. Even non-Christians came to hear her message, which included an “abstinence” message missing in many programs in this world. Everyone knew and admitted that the young ones were very sexually active. And the response was quite good. The theme of her talk was: “**A B C**” or **Abstinence, Be Faithful & Compassion**. Included in Helen’s teaching was the necessity to reach out to those with AIDS and minister to them in God’s name with a heart of compassion— especially now that they knew the only ways that one can really contract this disease (as opposed to a lot of mystery ways, including sorcery).

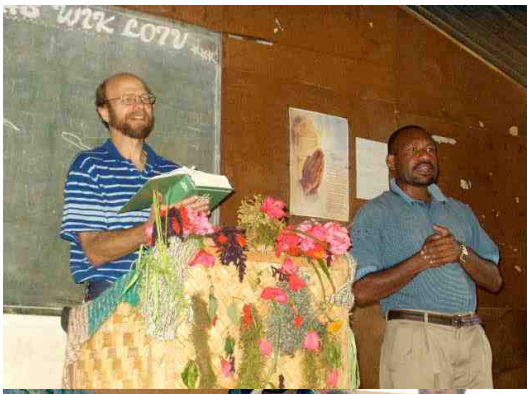
Caring for the lost, both physically and spiritually was well within the theme of the “conference” that weekend. We even discussed the total and complete victory over the spirit world due to a completed and finished work on the cross. I know that will sound a little foreign to most of you in the West, but the fear of the spirit world and particularly the appeasement of the dead ancestors (in total fear) is a very real phenomena over here. But we walk with the full armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-13 “stand firm”).

“For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,”— Colossians 1:13 “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,” – Colossians 2:6

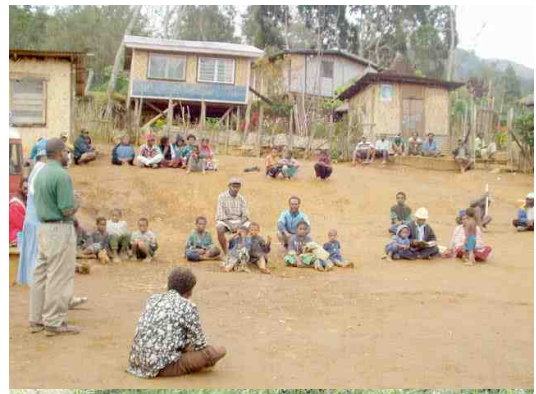
So that’s our report. It was such an incredible blessing to leave all our “technical” work behind for a weekend and really get to minister to a remote and far away people that God has certainly not forgotten in his love for them all. And it was certainly a joy for us to be among them. This would never be possible without your love, help, assistance and your prayers.

Joyfully in Service to Him,

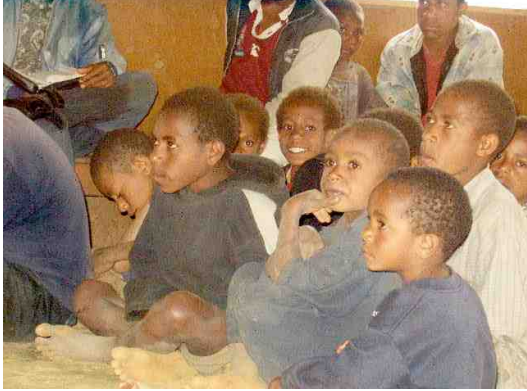




Preaching the Word at the Keremu Church while Jerry translates to the Asaro language. **B.**



Helen with Jerry à (far left) teaches HIV/ AIDS awareness in the village square.



Loud and energetic young ladies sang with gusto at the service. **B**



Gideon leads a few guys to the stocked river looking for a trout dinner.

November, 2004

Email Address: b.chapaitis@sil.org.pg; h.chapaitis@sil.org.pg

SIL Box 188, Ukarumpa, E.H.P. 444, PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200 Orlando, Florida 32862-8200, USA

Tel: 011 675-737-4352
Tel: 1 407-852-3600