

Bwanabwana Thanksgiving

If you travel to the coastal town of Alotau way to the southeast, and then catch a boat about 50 miles to some outlying islands, you would get to a cluster around Tubetube island. That's where Alan and Faye Cannavan have been living and working for over 17 years, helping the people receive the Word of God in their language for the first time. At the recent dedication (on three separate islands) hearts rejoiced to God at this great historic event.

"Thy words were found and I ate them, And Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts..."

- Jeremiah 15:16

The People's Response:

"We wished that you could have heard the prayer warriors praying early every morning for the month leading up to the dedication. To hear them giving thanks to God for the people who had made it possible for us to be at Tubetube these many years. And for those who had helped the Bwanabwana New Testament to be completed. To hear them praying that the Lord would bless each one of you.

"We wished that you could have seen the joy and thankfulness of the people as they brought their pigs and garden produce for the dedication and to hear them give testimony to the bountiful harvest that God has given them this year. We wished that you could have seen our co-translators holding up the New Testament for everyone to see for the first time and then crying openly as they were overcome with joy.

"We wished that you could have seen the people dancing for joy and singing, 'There has never been a day like this day.', they said. We wished that you could have been one of the people handing out the New Testaments to see the joy on the face of each person as they received their copy of the New Testament in their own language. We wished that you could have been sitting in Church at Tubetube on the first Sunday after the dedication to see the people singing and waving their New Testaments above their heads in thanksgiving.

"We wish that you could hear personally how much the people on Tubetube and the other islands appreciate the work that you do at Ukaurmpa every day, day after day to enable the translation of the Bwanabwana New Testament and other New Testaments to be completed. Because you could not be at Tubetube the people in the Bwanabwana language group have asked us to pass on their thanks and Christian love to you.

"Thank you so much for being an important part of that team. God bless you and encourage you." – The Cannavans and for the Bwanabwana people, to those of us in support of the work back at Ukarumpa.

The Prayer Corner: Thank you all for your prayers and financial support that help us to help others, here in Papua New Guinea

Prayer: Please pray as the Cannavans wish to journey over very rough seas to further outlying islands where the New Testament has yet to be received. One very remote island has a giant church building, whose island members are waiting still to receive the "Good News".

For Helen as she prepares a medical presentation to be held in Port Moresby this September. That she travels well, and safely and that her thoughts are persuasive to the medical community there.

That I (Brian) would have wisdom as I direct the construction of the new SIL PNG Web Site. We need wisdom to convey just the right kinds of information for appropriate government agencies to understand better the work that we do and services provided to this country.

That David would enjoy friends, study hard, and find the best Christian fellowship ever at his University, by which to grow strong in the faith. That he would continue to enjoy school and his studies.

Joyfully,





Co-translator Fred is over-whelmed with emotion as he holds the New Testament for the first time.



One of many dance groups celebrating at the dedication.



Singing and dancing expressed the joy of the people as they received their New Testaments.



The Bwanabwana New Testament is eagerly accepted.

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