

WORDS *to* HANDS *to* HEARTS



LOOKING to the FUTURE

When we are in the village, Chloe loves to be outside. She will often walk along the bamboo fence in front of our house (pictured above) and peer through the holes at the rest of the village below and, on clear days, at the mountains and valley that lay beyond our little corner of the world. It's easy to gaze out at the vast expanse of mountains from our doorstep and be overwhelmed at all that our eyes take in. **God's creation exceeds what we are able to perceive from our singular lookout point.** There are villages hidden in mountain crevices, life and death happening beyond the visible peaks, and a whole other world of people and cultures colliding across the ocean. We can't see all of that from where we live in Saut, but it happens anyway, and **God knows about each and every detail.**

As we look to the future of our family and ministry in Papua New Guinea, we often feel the same way about all that lies ahead. Those of you who have kept in contact with us or receive our prayer team updates know that **this past year and a half especially have been spiritually, emotionally and physically tiring on various levels for our family.** Sickness, evacuations, personal struggles, break-ins, and major life transitions have put us to the test as believers, individuals and missionaries. We have often felt like we aren't cut out for this life, for these trials. Christ alone has carried us through, on the prayers of many of you, dear friends and co-laborers. **We desire more than anything to follow the Lord, wherever He leads us, and to wage war against all that stands in opposition to His glory, but it's hard to look at the future and not be wary because of the past.** There are so many exciting things that are stretched out before us: a new baby in August, moving to the village of Kesengen later this year, making plans for a permanent village house, furlough in 2012/2013, Ryan finishing his Master's Degree, and starting to translate Scripture in 2014.

Our desire is to stand where we are, gaze out at the expanse before us, and **trust in the God of hope.** We can't perceive everything from our singular lookout point, but it's there, God knows about it and He will guide our steps into the unknown. So often we as believers want to know what's up ahead, what is around the corner or hidden in that mountain crevice. Perhaps it is best if we don't know. **We learn to trust in the God of the universe** when we just don't get why things are happening the way they are; **we learn to honor Him** when we are victorious in battle rather than pat ourselves on the back; and, quite honestly, we probably wouldn't take a single step forward if we saw it all anyway.



So, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. We will consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3

Alphabet Development Workshop

Recipe for:

Trial Alphabet



First book ever
in Ma Manda!



13 adults literate in
the national language

1 elementary school classroom

1 printer run on generator power

1 reliable 4WD vehicle

Pinch of creativity, dash of patience &
a heaping spoonful of flexibility

previous experience (optional)

Carefully gather literate adults in the classroom for at least 1 week. Ask them to use their existing knowledge of how to write in the national language to try and write a story in their own language. Sift through difficulties in representing sounds and carefully separate out socially, politically and culturally preferable characters. When all decisions have been made and approved by the community, create a spelling guide and use the printer to produce a small book of stories for each community represented. Season with creativity, patience and flexibility to taste. If using previous experience, adjust accordingly. Test thoroughly and change as needed.



Teachers and students at the workshop - Brian and Susan Frey went along to help.



Writing in their language for the first time.



Sorting through the difficulties of how to represent various sounds.

Sharing the finished product and celebrating with the community.



Deciding on letters and editing stories with the new trial alphabet.



Explaining good writing skills through drama.



Aa

Bb

Dd

Ee

Ff

Gg

Ii

Kk

Ll

Mm

Nn

Oo

Pp

Ss

Tt

Uu

Vv

Yy

Àà

Êê

For eight weeks beginning in January, **our family stayed peacefully in Saut** without any evacuations, serious medical issues or threats of violence made against us - praise the Lord! Our longest village stay to date was a success on several accounts, as we saw the formation of a translation committee made up of representatives from several villages, the people **officially changed their language name to Ma Manda**, we decided **to move to the village of Kesengen** in the future, and we made **preparations for the Alphabet Development Workshop**. These are all major steps as we move forward in our program and prepare to **begin translation work once we return from furlough in 2013**. One thing that made this two month stay more enjoyable included the use of HF email. **We were able to send and receive small text emails via radio** from family and friends during that time, helping us to feel more connected to those in Ukarumpa and back home. We even got to hear about the birth of our niece, Piper Joy Thompson, just hours after she made her entrance into the world! We continued with **language lessons** during those two months, meeting three mornings a week with Garambon, a man who was assigned by the community to help us with language learning. **Garambon was invaluable as a language and culture guide**, and we are grateful for his friendship and willingness to help us in these beginning stages of our work. Here are a few pictures from those two months in Saut:



Clockwise from left: Ryan doing language documentation; three friends from Ukarumpa hiked in for a visit one weekend; language lessons with Garambon and his daughter Sumbua; Mom and daughter enjoying a typical village afternoon; Chloe helping Dad with language work; the newly formed Ma Manda Translation Committee.



WHY OH WHY?

I thought you were going to Australia to have baby #2; why are you going to Thailand instead?

Traditionally, missionaries here have either gone back to their home country or to Australia for deliveries, but medical costs and visa issues have people looking elsewhere. We will be the first PNG branch members to try delivering in Chiang Mai, Thailand where medical costs are lower and no special visa is required. As a bonus Crystal's sister and her husband live "nearby" in Laos and will get to visit us while we are there!

Why are you moving villages? Does this have anything to do with your evacuation last August?

Saut has been a great place to do initial language learning as there are fewer outside influences, but Kesengen will provide a more central location for translation work and easier access to other language groups in our multi-language program. This idea was already in our minds before choosing Saut initially in 2009, so the evacuation and threats last year didn't bear on this decision.

ONE body...MANY parts

Bible translation cannot happen in PNG without people like this...

AVIATION

Gavin Jones is a helicopter pilot in our Aviation department in Ukarumpa. Gavin has flown us in and out of Saut many times. For our recent ADW in Kesengen, we decided to drive in rather than fly, and Gavin even loaned us his vehicle for the trip. When the workshop was done, our drive home turned into an adventure as torrential rains had destroyed many sections of the road, causing us to be stranded for a day and a half. The unreliability of roads, especially during rainy season, is a perfect example of why our aviation department, made up of mechanics, pilots and others, is such a vital and valuable part of Bible translation work in PNG. Gavin, his wife Carrie, and their son Isaac are a prime example of people using their skills and passions to be a part of what God is doing here!



AUTO SHOP

Tony Hinton is the current manager of our Auto Shop in Ukarumpa. The Auto Shop maintains and repairs automobiles, motorcycles and small engine equipment that is used on our missionary center and all around the country. When we became stranded coming out of Kesengen, Tony and 2 other men hopped in an Auto Shop Land Cruiser and drove to get Crystal, Susan Frey and the two kiddos back to Ukarumpa while other men fixed the road and got Gavin's vehicle down the mountain. Without the valuable services provided by Tony and other Auto Shop employees, driving and getting around in this country would be much more laborious. We are grateful for Tony, his wife Martha, and their two kids who joyfully serve in PNG alongside of us!



INDUSTRIAL

Brian Frey is an assistant manager in our Industrial department in Ukarumpa and oversees various tasks such as road repair, trash pickup, center maintenance and power supply. His speciality is diesel mechanic work and he keeps our road graders and big equipment in working order. Brian, his wife Susan, and their 9 month old son Greg went with us to Kesengen to help facilitate the ADW. We were so grateful for their extra hands and insight during the workshop. However, Brian really shone when it came time to get the car back home (see him navigating a "bridge" below). His knowledge of 4WD and roads in PNG were invaluable in ensuring our safe return to Ukarumpa. The Freys are a young and energetic family that give their time and energy wherever it is needed!



Want to join our **prayer team** and receive prayer updates every 2 weeks? Send us an email and let us know!

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