



# *Borchard Prayer Letter*

Papua New Guinea

May 2021



Dear Praying Friends,

## **Big Change for the Ipili Language Work!**

Some months ago I never would have thought that the base of the Ipili work would be moving to the Ipili area this year, but that is exactly what has happened. It all started because the number of coronavirus cases have increased dramatically in the country of Papua New Guinea. That caused Mandita to decide that he wanted to move his and Margret's family members to the Ipili area. At first, I did not think that was a good idea. With a lack of medical care and food in the Ipili area it didn't seem like a safe place to be going. But then Terry Cirre, our support team person and regional director in PNG, talked with Mandita and Margret and that caused him to see the value of such a move. Mandita and Margret do not see it as a temporary move because of the virus. They see it as a chance to get the Ipili leadership and community more involved in the work. It will give them the opportunity to show the Ipili people what is involved in doing the translation, and they will be able to encourage people to use the Ipili Scriptures. That won me over to the idea! So, at the end of April we chartered a bus to transport the families to the Ipili area. Terry Cirre sent me the above photo of the families ready to leave on the bus.

Mandita's garden at his home close to the translation center was recently destroyed by a flood so that made the lack of food in the Ipili area look like less of a problem. In contrast, their family land in the Ipili area has better land for a garden. It will take some time to re-establish their garden there, but after that they should be able to grow most of their own food.

***Please pray for them as they settle in and ask the Lord to keep them all safe from the coronavirus.***

## **Various Updates**

You may remember that Mandita's son Willy has been quite ill with tuberculosis in the bones of his back. I thank the Lord that he seems to be doing better. I was concerned that if Willy went back to the Ipili area that he would have difficulty getting his medications, but Mandita has been able to get a six-month supply of Willy's medications. He also got a six-month supply of his own medications.

Margret was in the Ipili area from December until early March. I was very pleased when I read her report on her time there. She spent time doing Bible studies with women using the Ipili translation of Genesis, Exodus, and Ruth. She also showed women who have audio Bible players how to locate the recordings of the Scripture texts used in the Sunday services. One thing that she learned was that it is important to have the women listen to the Scripture portion three or four times for them to understand the meaning of the passage well.

I will continue to check the Ipili translation of Exodus. We have been able to set up a way for Mandita and Margret to continue sending me their changes in the translation via the internet. ***Pray for wisdom for all of us as we work on the translation.***

Your Partner in Bible Translation,

*Janet*

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