



Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

August 2022

Dear Friends,

My Plans for the Coming Months

As I mentioned in my previous prayer letter, I am going to retire at the end of August. But after that, I still plan to work with Mandita to finish the translation of Ipili Genesis. He thinks he should be able to go to the translation center at Ukarumpa in September or October to work on Genesis. ***Pray that Terry and Cyndi Cirre will be back in PNG by the time Mandita gets to Ukarumpa. Also pray that Mandita and I can finish Genesis soon after that so we can get the Ipili Old Testament portions printed in one book so pastors and evangelists will be able to use those Scriptures in their congregations.*** We also want to record the parts of these Scriptures that have not yet been recorded. I'm hoping that we will be able to complete all this work by the end of this year. I will probably write one or two prayer letters before I finish my work.

Mandita is asking that we pray that a new missionary will join the Ipili work so the translation and Scripture engagement work can continue.

Exciting Developments in Papua New Guinea!

God is doing incredible things as churches in Papua New Guinea (PNG) embrace the task of Bible translation. There are hundreds of languages in PNG that still need God's Word, and the task has seemed almost too great when Bible translation organizations thought about how they would try to do it with their traditional approach. But in recent years God has been leading churches in many language communities to creatively initiate Bible translation. So even as my specific role in the Ipili project is winding down this year, Lutheran Bible Translators is now involved with six languages in another part of PNG. Here's a bit of that story:

In 2013 a prayer meeting was held at one of the Lutheran churches in the Waria River area. As they prayed, individuals were sensing that God was calling them to do translation so their community and neighboring communities could clearly hear the Good News. The Bible translation they had used for years in the church did not meet their needs for understanding. The impulse grew as they prayed, and finally someone spoke it aloud. Excitement erupted because they **all** sensed this same call, and now as a group, they confirmed it. They started reaching out to other denominations, the government, and Bible translation organizations. Lutheran Bible Translators joined these churches this year in a unique partnership.

It's been an exciting journey as the Spirit of God moves in people's hearts during the training. At one workshop, where they were learning about translation by translating the book of *Jonah*, the trainer described it as being "like a crusade." Those attending were deeply moved as they delighted in the beauty of the words and grammar in their language and their greater understanding of what the Bible was saying.



Waria Pictures



This year other Papua New Guineans have reached out to Lutheran Bible Translators because of our experience working with church-led initiatives. This means there is potential for partnering further in other areas of PNG. I'm grateful for how you have walked alongside me for many years. Thank you!

Now I encourage you to broaden your vision to Bible translation work in other parts of PNG. Please consider supporting the Waria Multi Language Bible Translation Project. (See the Contributions box below.) Your support will put God's Word in their hands. It will also allow you to receive annual updates about the project.

Your Partner in Bible Translation,



P.S. Please use ja.borchard@yahoo.com for **personal** emails to me. I'd love to stay in touch. (For now, I'll continue to use my two work email addresses for prayer updates and thank you correspondence.)

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