



Borchard Prayer Letter

Papua New Guinea

February 2023

Dear Friends,

In my August prayer letter I wrote that we hoped Mandita would be able to go to the translation center at Ukarumpa to finish editing Ipili Genesis. Well, as usual, things did not go according to our plan because our plan was not the Lord's plan. In late August I heard from Mandita that he was in a hospital because of pain in his leg. He ended up being in and out of one or another hospital until late November with what I think was an infection in his foot. He was finally able to go home and seems to be doing okay now. **Please pray that he will continue to be healthy.**

I had been hoping that the Ipili support team Terry and Cyndi Cirre would be able to return to PNG so they could help Mandita when he would go to the translation center to work on editing Ipili Genesis, but the Cirres have decided that they cannot return to PNG for now. **Pray that the Lord will open up a way for the Cirres to return to their work in PNG.**

In January the Ipili translation of the Old Testament books of Ruth and Jonah were printed as two separate booklets. The plan is that those booklets will be used with people who meet together to practice reading Ipili. Mandita reported that when he was visiting some congregations in the Ipili area, people told him that they want to get audio Bibles so they can listen to God's Word. He said, "It is the most important thing in their Christian life. This is an important message I am sending to you today." Recently Mandita was able to stop by the translation center to pick up some more audio Bible players. He also picked up the finished Ruth and Jonah booklets. Here is picture of him when he picked up the players. **Pray for him as he uses the booklets to help people practice reading Ipili.**



Since the Cirres will not be returning to PNG for awhile I suggested to Mandita that we not edit Genesis any more at this point but instead print out some trial copies of the book which he will be able to give to Ipili church leaders to use. That way they can give feedback on the translation. We will also get Exodus chapters 1 – 5 printed as a booklet. A typesetting expert is preparing the Exodus booklet and the trial edition of Genesis to be printed. **Pray that the typesetting and printing process will go smoothly.** Once those books are printed we will arrange for Mandita to go to the translation center to pick up the finished books and take them to the Ipili area. After those things are done, I plan to wrap up my work on the Ipili translation, at least for now. Perhaps the Lord will provide a way to eventually finish the translation of Genesis. We need to remember that this is the Lord's work.

Update on the Waria Project in Papua New Guinea

The Waria project continues to be led by the Lutheran church in the Zaka Circuit. A significant need that emerged during 2022 was for new project computers and a simple solar power set-up for each language group. Plans are being made to purchase and set these up so the work can go more smoothly this year. **Pray for this process and give thanks for the incredible teams that persisted under challenging**

circumstances last year. Pray for Sarah Esala, LBT's regional director for PNG, as she visits the church leaders of the Zaka Circuit and the leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in March to explore together how they can foster Bible translation ministry further in PNG.

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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