



TRIBUTE TO HELEN MARTIN* – To God be the glory, great things He has done.

I first “met” Helen when I was five. My mother had my brother and me pray for her and the work she was doing as a Bible translator in Papua New Guinea (PNG). She is the inspiration for my own calling into the ministry of Bible translation. I first met Helen in person some 45 years later at LBT’s 50th anniversary. It was a thrill to meet my mentor from afar after so many years.

Helen was born in Chicago in 1935. She came to know Jesus as her Savior when she was 7. By the time she was a teenager she knew she wanted to work in missions. Later, she learned about Wycliffe Bible Translators at the Urbana Mission Conference and joined up with them. After linguistic training, she was sent to PNG along with Velma Foreman in 1961. She and Velma were assigned to live and work among the Yessan-Mayo people located near the middle of the 700-mile Sepik River. They worked for five years learning the language before they could begin translating and teaching people to read and write their own language. The complete New Testament was dedicated in 1980. The two then went to the Yawu dialect. After discovering this dialect was too different from Yessan-Mayo, another NT was completed in 1996. Before retiring from their work in PNG, Helen and Velma oversaw the work of 30 other projects and completed a revision of the Yessan-Mayo NT now known as Yamano. They had served faithfully for 43 years.



And It was Good Soup”, a movie about their work was produced by John Primm, LBT cinematographer and film director, Rev. Ken Kilian. You can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRXNADJ3FPA>.

Helen was the first associate member of LBT and was one of the inspirations behind the

establishment of LBT as our founder Morrie Watkins worked to encourage Lutherans to support her and Bible translation work.

Helen was a dog lover and took her dog back and forth between her homes on the Sepik and the mission headquarters in Ukarumpa. Helen and Velma had built a modest home there as they needed a place to stay when they came out of the village for Bible translation consultant work, meetings, and R&R. It was so basic that it wasn’t until 1990 that they finally put in an indoor bathroom when center management made a rule that everyone had to have indoor bathrooms.

Helen went to be with the Lord August 6, 2023.



Velma Foreman and Helen



Helen and I at LBT’s 50th anniversary celebration 2014.

*Thanks to my colleague Alvina Federwitz for most of the information here.

Many Yamano and Yawu people have put their trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior. Helen and Velma were quick to proclaim with the Yamano and Yawu people, **God re yenbo. God is good.**

FAMILY UPDATE

Aletheia is near Ft. Lauderdale, FL where she recently graduated from a program in Master Pro Makeup Artistry as a licensed esthetician. Al, my dad, my sister, and I were able to be there for the ceremony. She is currently looking for jobs in her field or jobs that would give her time to practice her new makeup skills. In her free time, she is currently learning West Coast Swing and Two-step Country dances.



Micaiah spent the first half of 2023 continuing to rehab his leg from his 2022 hiking accident when he wasn't out camping and doing more hiking. He had a third surgery back in March as a follow-up to the initial injury but has since been cleared by the Air Force to return to training. He's now back down in Arkansas for his second attempt at C-130 Flight Engineer qualification. He also began dating a lovely young woman, Natalie, back in January. She's studying to become a nurse, which will be an excellent complement for Micaiah's injury-prone lifestyle. Micaiah is looking forward to finishing his training come 2024 and returning to Minnesota to be closer to friends, family, and Natalie.



Andrew and Taylor will be expecting a baby boy in January and are very excited. They have been traveling quite a bit this year going to 6 new countries. They continue to lead a Bible study for young professionals which has grown significantly in the last year. They are requesting prayers to help them find another leader to assist them when baby comes.

Luke and Lindsey finished their second year in Alabama. They have an expanding household with Lydia (5 months) joining her brother Elijah (now 2). Luke is still in company command with the Army. Eli's favorite activities are running and floor art. He masterfully decorates the floor around his high chair with strawberries, blueberries, and whatever else is fed to him. Lydia loves to smile, giggle, and perform gymnastics, specializing in flips from her back to her belly.

Al and I have taken a few camping trips. Our big trip was a road trip to AL and FL with family to see family. We took my dad on as many adventures as we could including riding a horse and fishing in the Everglades and Gulf of Mexico. We are thankful for the many blessings in our lives.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise for progress in all three projects. Some large books have been completed recently like Genesis, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.
- Pray for the final in-person and online checking for the year.
- Pray for wisdom regarding new project plans and funding.

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Blessings to all as we celebrate the greatest Blessing, our Savior Jesus.



Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "PUT GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship.