



Lutheran Bible
Translators

Throw it in the River

Papua New Guinea

Winter 2026

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Silence filled the thatched roof building packed with translators from the Yekora, Suena, and Zia languages, along with community members, as they strained to listen to a new teaching about something called “trauma healing.” I was able to boat upriver to attend the workshop. What I heard was so moving as participants were sharing how affected they were. They told me they had “never heard this kind of teaching”. One said, “I didn’t know it was ok to cry!”



“During the Trauma Healing Workshop, a man named Kaingta Wokare used to be a sorcerer in his community, but he repented and surrendered all his things he uses to *make witches*. Then the workshop participants and facilitators alongside with two pastors prayed and they threw those things into the river.” (Shared by Bethuel Karau our Waria Project Coordinator in his own words).



The workshop facilitators teach through group scenario participation so people can begin to understand their “heavies” in life, and how Christ brings freedom through forgiveness.



What you do for the work in PNG

- You prayed and a sorcerer was changed.
- You prayed and the solar printer was installed in November despite many hurdles to overcome.
- You pray and I wasn't sick even once on my 3 ½ week trip including 12 planes, 1 helicopter, and 2 boat rides.
- You prayed and 8 books of the Bible have been completed for Yekora (3) Sunea (3) Zia (2).
- You gave \$56,500 and your gifts covered all my expenses for 2025 so I can keep moving forward with the work in PNG.

Answered Prayers for 2025!

The Solar Printer Installation for the Waria Cluster Project at the Lutheran Church of Zaka Circuit was dedicated Nov 2025. More to come on this story.

Can't wait?

Watch the video on one of my social media platforms to see the installation happen.

Or watch on YouTube here:

<https://youtu.be/qEwWG5SnbZ8>



Join my new Social Media Pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3961346437509793>

Instagram Account:
[@michelle._.gillard](https://www.instagram.com/@michelle._.gillard)

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- **Donations/Prayer Letter Sign up**
lbt.org/missionary/michelle-gillard

The Bible Translation Conference in Thailand with my PNG partners and LBT coworkers from all over the world was an overwhelming dive into all things Bible Translation. We gained valuable insights for PNG! Can you spot the PNG folks? Look for a gold bird of paradise, the national bird/symbol of PNG, on our clothes!