



*Eipare opita roirare heri'uropa hukutaea kepai'ita puuririaaro pii oita'i?
Ta uka iiboorea; ta purapita tateea bisioi! (Luke 24:5-6, Rapoisi)*

*Why are you searching for a living man among the dead?
He is not here; he has already stood up again! (Back-to-English – see below)*

Rapoisi Jesus Film progress

Last December George (photo above with his wife, Agnes) began preparing a Rapoisi version of the Jesus Film script. Although the text is based on Luke's Gospel, which is available in Rapoisi, we have discovered that this job is not as easy as it seemed at first.

The Jesus Film (see <http://JesusFilm.org>), a synopsis of Jesus' life according to Luke's Gospel, has been translated and dubbed into more than 1,900 languages—96 of them in Papua New Guinea, five of those in Bougainville. Rapoisi and nearby Nehan are being newly translated this year.

The Rapoisi content of each film 'clip' needs to fit the length of the video scenes. Rapoisi words are generally longer than English words and we are finding it hard to fit each clip into its allotted space while keeping the important content and making sure each unit of speech sounds natural and complete.

Please pray for George as he completes the script preparation, for us and that the Rapoisi community—that we will give him good feedback over the next couple few weeks. We are all eager to move on to the recording stage of this project!

Mark's Gospel progress

Our good friend and Kim's "village brother," John Boire, translated Mark's Gospel in 2018. This was his first Bible translation experience. But due to Kim's illness and COVID, this year we are finally able to work together to check and revise his initial

draft. I am very impressed with John's thoughtful work! He is good at critiquing his own work: seeing bits that aren't quite right and finding less-common Rapoisi words to express meanings.

We rejoice to watch John learn more about crafting the Rapoisi Mark text so it is **accurate, clear** and **natural**—the “a-b-c’s” of translation principles. And we are learning a lot about the Rapoisi language as we work together.

Please pray for John as he meets with community members over the next few weeks to do “village testing” of the first half of Mark. He and Steve have a few chapters of “advisor checking” left to complete before village testing can happen for the rest of the book. After village testing is done there is more cleanup of the text and a “Biblical Terms check.” Next we prepare a “*back-to-English*” translation (see *Scripture verse at top*), which gives a trained exegetical consultant a view into the Rapoisi text; then finally we can schedule the consultant to come for a final content checking session.

God's Word in Rapoisi really does make a difference!

John had a great experience to share with us recently. He is a Pastor for the local United Church in his Rapoisi community; preaching duties are shared among several pastoral leaders. On his Sunday to preach he chose a chapter from John. He asked a good reader to read the chapter **in English**. John confirmed with his audience that this was hard to understand... many people in Rapoisi-land understand very little English, especially when it is read aloud.

Then John asked someone to read the same chapter in **Tok Pisin**, a national language of Papua New Guinea (PNG), understood well by nearly all teens and adults. “How was that? I think you understood it OK, right? But Tok Pisin sometimes talks in circles or takes a side road, trying to explain concepts hard to express in this language.”

Then John himself read the same chapter in **Rapoisi**. He told us:

“Suddenly as I started to read it got very quiet. All eyes were on me and mouths were hanging open! Even the kids were quiet, listening. I got a bit teary-eyed myself, seeing people's reactions to hearing this story, familiar to them in English or Tok Pisin, for the first time in their heart language. It was a very powerful moment!”

Other projects

Last year while we were still in the US **John** started translating **Gospel of John**. He finished the first draft in March, and he and Steve “advisor-checked” chapters 6-14 together. They decided to let John (the book) rest while we finish revising

Mark, since some of Jesus' longer messages recorded in John are pretty tricky to translate.

George has been 'taking breaks' from the Jesus Film script to continue drafting **Hebrews**. You might ask, "Translating Hebrews is 'a break' from working on a film script?!" Well, yes, in a way.... Hebrews is not an easy book to translate, but the Jesus script involves a different type of concentration! George is working on chapter 11, and Steve is studying the draft this week, preparing to help George revise it.

One reason we are living in the town of Buka is to help translators from other languages whom we previously taught here in Buka. **Manasseh Neeki from the Uisai language** of South Bougainville is one special friend. He came with his hand-written drafts of 1-2 Thessalonians and spent a week with us typing and re-checking these books, then he added Philemon. We helped him buy a new battery for his village solar system so he could, once again, use his computer back home.

Kim provides computer support for a few other Bible translators in Bougainville. Since March she has swapped out parts and managed to get three older laptops mostly working for the four members of the **Vasui language** translation team, who live a couple hours' bus ride from here.

Jesus is alive!

Easter seems ages ago. We enjoyed an outdoor sunrise service on Lutheran Hill at Ukarumpa, and had great fellowship with old friends. Paula and we are the last remaining members still in Papua New Guinea from our orientation group 40 years ago. We enjoyed reminiscing about our initial training course—constructing a mud stove and cooking dinner on it, sleeping alone "in the bush" on a Survival Hike, learning the hard way to squash ALL the lumps out of the baking soda, which cakes badly in this climate.



40 years in PNG

Yes, 2022 marks our fortieth year of serving in Papua New Guinea! **We are so thankful to you**, our home-based support team, for keeping us here with your prayers and financial gifts toward our ministry. **We are thankful to God** for

bringing us back after Kim's health crisis and then the difficult COVID years. We are especially thankful to be working face-to-face with George and John, making good progress, finally, on providing God's Word to the people whose heart language is Rapoisi.

It is well-established among Bible translators that whenever things are going well, the Enemy tosses in something to delay progress or cause dissension within a team. Along with the prayer items we've highlighted above, please pray specifically **for our small Rapoisi translation team, that George, John and we will grow close** spiritually as brothers and sister in Christ and in our work together, **and that Satan's delay tactics will be made ineffective.**

God bless each of you!

Steve + Kim