



Cameron and Ruthi Fruit serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators

August 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

Sometimes, in writing these updates, I sit down and wonder what to write about. Other times there is so much going on that I don't know where to start. It's been one of the busy times since our last letter, and we hope you find all the activity interesting.

Carolinian gospels near printing stage

The Carolinian translators had the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John ready for consultant-checking for several months and only needed a final United Bible Societies consultant check. The consultant, Annie del Corro, was finally able to come for four days in early August. The team did a lot of work with her, making mostly minor corrections and clarifications. Here are a couple of examples of changes we made:

In Matthew 8:8, we had translated: *The centurion said in reply, "Lord, it is not proper for you enter under my roof;*

We changed it to *The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof;*

In Matthew 21:42, Jesus is *the cornerstone*. In Carolinian we don't have a specific word for cornerstone, so we called it the *highest stone*, to try to get the idea of the "key" or "most important" stone. (We also don't have a Carolinian word for "important"!) But instead, Annie encouraged us to borrow a commonly-known word from the Chamorro language that means *important*.

Now that Annie has approved the gospels, I'm running spelling checks, punctuation checks, chapter/verse numbering checks, and heaps more. When that meticulous work is done, I plan to typeset the gospels for publishing in the Philippines.

Visit from Nico and Pam Daams

Many Wycliffe workers live in or near centers that provide a great deal of assistance and guidance as they do their field work. Living in Saipan, Ruthi and I are much more isolated, so it was a big event this month for our administrators Nico and Pam Daams to visit us for a while.

I am so grateful to Nico, whom I consider a mentor and example for my roles in assisting the Carolinian, Chamorro and Woleaian translations. He again gave excellent advice on the future for these projects.

Pam is an expert in "Scripture Use"—that is, ways to encourage the use of the Scriptures, along with their translation and publication. Maybe that's even more important than the translation itself, because it has no value if people don't read it! The Carolinians got excited about some of Pam's ideas, especially a special heavy-duty audio player, the Sabre, intended for Bible recordings. Even large groups can use it, since the Sabre is incredibly loud and clear for its small size.

Recording Luke

The other benefit of having an approved text is that now we have been able to start recording Luke for audio CDs. Pam Daams acquired funding for "Scripture Use" purposes, which includes the replication of compact discs with our recording on it. So far we've had a little trouble because it's been raining torrents here all the time, so our recordings get a roaring of water in the background.



Carolinian translation team with Annie del Corro



Listening to the Sabre audio Scripture player



Our administrators, Pam and Nico Daams

We're also hoping to load Luke onto Sabre players if we can get some in Saipan. It's exciting to be getting these recordings out to the community, especially to those Carolinian speakers who have never learned to read their language.

Chamorro dictionary project loses Rita Inos

On August 10, the committee to update the Chamorro dictionary (including me as a "technical consultant") suffered the loss of one of its leaders. Dr. Rita H. Inos had struggled with cancer for a long time, but still gave a lot of energy to those of us who are helping with the dictionary revision. She was only 55. Although I knew of her illness, I never dreamed that she would pass away at this time. Her last words to me were, "I just need to go away and rest."

Rita had a lot of wisdom with which she was able to inspire us to do our part to make the dictionary better, and make the effort a pleasure. She gained much of that wisdom from her many years as Education Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. She was a leader, especially in the public schools, but also in politics and at Northern Marianas College.

Besides all that, she had a great smile and was a lot of fun. We all enjoyed working with her and will miss her a lot. Please pray for the Chamorro committee and especially for Dr. Liz Rechebei, who will now be taking over many of Rita's responsibilities.

You can't stop that Woleaian bunch!

The Woleaian translators in Yap have been faithfully working on the translation on their own until my next visit (now planned for November). They were meeting one evening every week, carefully reviewing and revising each verse of the first draft of the book of John. But now they've decided once a week just isn't enough. Now they are meeting *two* evenings every week in an effort to double their speed. I really admire their dedication since they have the same pressures from work, family and church responsibilities the rest of us do. It is inspiring to see the devotion of the people here in Micronesia with whom we have the great privilege to work.

Thanks for your part in helping us to be here.

Yours in Christ,

Cameron, Ruthi, Colin, Mason, Joel, and Anthony



The late Rita Inos as we remember her—cheerful and with a big laugh. Liz Rechebei is in the background.

Please thank the Lord with us:

- * for the near-completion of the four Carolinian gospels
- * for the steadfast work of the Woleaian Bible translators
- * for the great help of Nico and Pam Daams

Please pray with us:

- * for the Chamorro dictionary committee, and especially Liz Rechebei, following the passing of Rita Inos
- * for the recording of Luke to be a blessing to the Carolinian people
- * for the checking and typesetting of the Carolinian gospels

Our mailing address:

Cameron and Ruthi Fruit
P. O. Box 7418 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670)235-7418
cameron_fruit@sil.org

For financial contributions:

Wycliffe Bible Translators
P.O. Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32682-8200

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