

J&K's Village Ventures

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Doing It Right?!

Have you ever felt so busy that you just had to set something aside so that you could come back to it later? That happened to us. It started with a phone call to a Binandere friend this past January. As we conversed we learned that our brother in Christ, Pastor Gregory, had recently passed away. This was a big surprise, since he was one of the younger men on our translation team. Also, we had just worked with him in November. Now we were told, that only a few weeks after we had left the village, he had died.

When we first moved to Nindewari village, Pastor Gregory was serving as pastor at the pentecostal church 2 miles away. He joined our team in 2004, and through the years proved to be a true friend and dedicated co-translator. Now, after 18 years of working on the translation of the Binandere New Testament, he was with the Lord. As Kathy and I talked about



Pastor Gregory will be greatly missed by his family and all of our team.

his passing, we realized that once we returned to the village we would need to visit his family to express our condolences. But deciding just how and when we would go about this activity was postponed for the moment. We would have to trust the Lord to guide us once we arrived in the village. After all, we were in the midst of packing and were scheduled to fly to the village the following week. Thankfully, you folks at home were praying for us!

As it turned out, we flew into Nindewari village Tuesday am and by Wednesday pm we had had two of our co-translators visit us. Though they came on two different days, they each

gave us the same advice: "We cannot restart our Bible translation work until our team travels to Pastor Gregory's village to visit his family and gives them a gift of freshly cooked food. This is the way our Binandere culture handles this kind of death." So, Kathy and I followed their advice.

Friday am, 72 hours after we arrived in the village, with the help of three of our co-translators' wives, we cooked 10 lbs. of rice, fish and vegetables. We also bought two live chickens which we killed, plucked, and cooked to add to the small banquet for the pastor's family. Then we, along with our co-translators and their wives, hiked 2 miles to Pastor Gregory's village. As we climbed the hill to his house, we were greeted somberly by family members and invited to sit next to his wife Bessie, who was wailing loudly. After shedding some tears together, we prayed for her and her family. I then asked permission to read some verses from 1 Thessalonians 4. "These are verses that Pastor Gregory helped to translate," I said. And as I began to read in Binandere, everyone suddenly became very quiet.

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope...For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven...And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Bessie then thanked us for our words of encouragement and Pastor Gregory's oldest brother formally announced that we now had permission to resume our work of Bible translation.

So, the following Monday we resumed our translation work. And over the next 5 weeks, thanks to your prayers, God's help and Pastor Gregory's family's blessing, we translated another 186 verses into Binandere from Romans and 2 Corinthians.



Kathy rinsing weevils out of the rice before cooking.



Pacific Ezekiel Howard
Jonita & Isaiah's #1



Wrenlee Elizabeth Nash
Sarah & Braden's #4



Selah Dawn Nash
Sarah & Braden's #3



Milly Juniper Jane Wilson
Justin & Kelsie's #4

**I will sing to the LORD, because
He has dealt bountifully with me. (Psa 13:8)**

- ▶ He gave us good health in the village February-March.
- ▶ He helped us translate 186 verses from Romans 8-11 + 2 Corinthians 3-7. Now 91% of the Binandere NT has been drafted.
- ▶ He helped us back translate + village check 1 Corinthians chapters 1-6 and Hebrews 7-12.
- ▶ Praise the Lord that Kathy's girls' Bible study was well attended, and 23 girls competed in the memory verse and Bible reading contest.
- ▶ Praise God that Kathy's ladies' literacy class went well. They met five times and 17 ladies were able to improve their reading and writing skills.
- ▶ God blessed us with good working relationships with our 5 co-translators and 2 back translators.
- ▶ We thank God that since our Nov-Dec newsletter, we together with the help of fellow believers have sold 83 more Binandere Scripture books.
- ▶ Thank the Lord that 3 Binandere men have agreed to come help us consultant check Philippians, Colossians, 1+2 Thessalonians, 2 Timothy, Titus and 2 Peter; July 1-24, 2023.

**In the day of my trouble I will call upon
You, for You will answer me. (Psa 86:7)**

1. Please pray for Jonathan as he fine tunes the Vernacular to English translations of these 7 epistles for our consultant's review by June 3rd.
2. Please pray for God's spiritual and physical protection to be over George Jiwaibae, Roy Maioni and Rodney Kerari and their families. These are the 3 men who plan to come to Ukarumpa to help us consultant check in July.
3. Please also pray the same prayer for our consultant, Korry Reuben, who has agreed to help us check these 7 epistles in July.
4. Please pray for good weather for our 3 Binandere men as they travel by motor boat 100 miles on open seas and then 140 miles by bus to Ukarumpa on the weekend of July 1st.
5. Please pray that the Binandere people will read and apply God's Word to their lives.
6. Please pray that Kathy will have a safe and refreshing trip home to visit our 3 children and their families, and her siblings; May 8-June 16.
7. Please pray that we as a family would keep our ears tuned to the Good Shepherd's voice.



Gratefully Yours,

Jonathan & Kathy

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