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### ***Our First Month Translating***

For years I have looked forward to the day when we would begin translation of the New Testament, but I have to admit that, like most dreams, it is different than I anticipated. My expectations for this time were that it would be very personally satisfying, fulfilling, with a sense of victory, peace, and unity that would settle upon our team.

I can liken my *first* impressions to tumult and tempest, fire and rain, a vortex of conflicting emotions swirling into an unpleasant eddy. Our first week was rather like the All-Star Wrestling my brothers used to watch when I was a kid. Colorful, lively characters caricaturing conflict, exaggerating issues, retreating to their corners to pout until they got their own way. Frankly, it gave me a headache.

All sorts of things come into a man's mind after a week of headaches. Did I *really* hear God right about this **translation** thing? Maybe what he was *really* saying was **transportation** and I was really supposed to be a taxi driver in New York—you know, witnessing to people using my cab. Maybe he was really saying **Alsatian** and I was supposed to raise German Shepherds and sell them to police agencies. Perhaps it was **insulation**—you know, for no down payment and low monthly installments you can have your house insulated by a professional.

After rinsing my ears out and giving translation another week, my *second* impressions were a bit different. Most of the guys had worked on their translation assignments at home, had struggled with the issues, and come back to the training center with something on paper, having put a lot of thought into things. They had also spent a week in prayer and seeking God's desire for them. Though there were indeed a few "Excedrin Headache Number 32" days, the second week was better overall. I felt like we all were getting a better feel for things and that there was less argument and more constructive interaction.

By the time you read this, we will have drafted and revised Mark chapters 4, 5, and 6. The guys will have gone back to their respective villages and begun work on drafting Mark chapters 1, 2, and 3. Before the next update I will have started working with Ezekiel Panawa and others on back-translating chapters 4 through 6 and putting them through the exegetical checks (these are checks to determine whether or not the meaning of the translated texts follows the meaning of the original text).

Please spend some time praying for these guys from the following villages:

- **Igurue:** Matthew Apaura
- **Garia:** Ezekiel Panawa (head of the translation team) and Stanley Iworia
- **Iwaiwa:** Nipson Kiroi, Wai Watut, Kenny Maiya, Pita Alex, Parakun Sarap.
- **Mopo:** James Urama, Sominak Yuna, Siramia Kauwaki.
- **Uria:** Kisama Sonny, Daniel Sonny, Jacob Niura, Pata Ninipuria, Amos Ligai (part-time), Samuel Bun.

And, as always, remember our family in your prayers. Angela and the kids are really having a good school term. We are adjusting to our new schedule, as I am spending a lot more time in study and in the training center with the translation team. Also, though the meteorologists predicted an unusually long and dry dry-season, we have had rain the last several days and the grass is turning green again and people are beginning to relax a bit (they had been afraid of raging forest fires—yes it had really gotten dry).

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Your love, prayers, and support make the difficult weeks bearable and remind of us God's faithfulness and call on our lives—a call rooted **not** in convenience, personal fulfillment, and expediency, but rooted in God's desire for us to be conformed to Christ's likeness, fitness for Eternity, and for these Somau Garia people to have the opportunity to know Him through having His Word in their heart language.

Meanwhile . . . Keep sending the Excedrin!

Your servant in Christ,

Todd, for Angela, Andrew, Samuel, Abigail, and Hannah

P.S.: Here's what the first draft of Mark 5:1-20 looks like in Somau Garia:

## Mak 5.1 – 20

<sup>1</sup> Yesus nupo tianwop xeika Kariri enepira Kerasa nikau ouro putauwoteniai. <sup>2</sup> Yesus kokouna wetina moatia, sapaun kire xoxi yanyan tuku apue kopa upuyau purirounae maiyewotai. <sup>3</sup> Nu kopa upuyau xinirouna. Kire apue soksok tirouworu xana xue, xumei taurouneri sorena xue. <sup>4</sup> Xokupa yause kakoro xirouneri sorena xume kakatirouna, nu soksokin kutu, paxat kire apue sok tepuwat xana xue. <sup>5</sup> Xokupa yause nu asau ukum, kopa upuyau, totouyau purirouna. Nu xoxi xiraxarau purina xemasae mupokem kisikeseurouna. <sup>6</sup> Nu Yesus xetaurein xekerina, keikei mana nutiem outapa ukurourouna eisawotai. <sup>7</sup> Nu ere kuna ipak kauna, "Yesus, ne Xourop Xoiteupo Nonon Kutu, ye amakiepure kakinena? Ye Xoiteupo wenumure soksok kuna kanine, kakixanau xoixoiyeu." <sup>8</sup> Kakati Yesusue kauna, "Xoxi yanyan, ne mua apu wetinau xaute!" <sup>9</sup> Yesusue nu kotouna, "Neu wenin yuna?" Nue xiyei kauna, "Ye wenimi Marai.\* Pa amure, sini xokupa yanyan totoupurinuku." <sup>10</sup> Pain Yesus xounirouna soksok kuna kauna, "Ye yanyan teu xetau ouyau xesanikeu." <sup>11</sup> Eke otu ana kire kokai puteu teikemuro xoye nipuroteneai. <sup>12</sup> Xoxi yanyanie xounirau kuna kauneri, "Sini pia pu kamunikoro xesasikau ma puropinuku." <sup>13</sup> Pa weinikitati xoxi yanyan pu kamunikiro maweneai, pain 2,000 puteu keikei xouneri kara kiriri ene nineri xumoweneai. <sup>14</sup> Pu yayakue pa kapia xekerineri, ximixouneri kuna wese wese xesauwoteneai. Kakeri xokupa kouneri pa kapia yaraxetai xekoteneai. <sup>15</sup> Yesus xosa kouneri pa apu okime xoxi yanyan tuku purirouna xekoteneai. Nu nanunanu teteixati nekeireri misipurati, sosopan xekerineri ximiketeneai. <sup>16</sup> Nini xokupa sapi xekowoteneai, pa apu xoxi yanyan okime nu xosau purota, apu wese wesei kori kaniketeneai. Purerania kaniketeneai. <sup>17</sup> Xuiapue pa kuna eseneri, Yesus ninipo ou weti kirero xouwopinaure soksok kuna kawoteneai. <sup>18</sup> Yesus nu kokouna xosa manatia, pa apu okime xoxi yanyan tuku purotaie Yesus kotouna, "Ye ne tainepinere?" Xati, <sup>19</sup> Yesus xirari pa apu kauna, "Ne xounau wese xemen mana kanikinau ye Xoiteue yauyayetai xinau kanike." <sup>20</sup> Kakati pa apue xouna Tekaporisipo\*\* xuiapu kuna kanikina, Yesusue tianina xoxi yanyan ariyerieta. Kakina Kanikati xuiapue eserineri xouxouworoteneai.

\* (5.9) Sarisie xoma xepure kunun purirouneri sie.

\*\* (5.20) Tekaporis panum autapa autapa xere wese.