

Danny & Becca DeLoach

HITTING



the target

MAY 2007

AIMING

to see God's Word hit its target in the hearts of the people of Papua New Guinea

Praises

- For the successful results of recent literacy courses.
- For the deep sense of God's presence we have felt with us during this time of change.
- For the opportunity to be home again where we can see so many friends and family again!

Prayer Requests

- That Wantoat church leaders will hunger to hear and read more of God's Word in their own language and continue the projects we have started together.
- That Wantoat Christians will have God's wisdom to effectively deal with the cargo cult.
- That God would give us wisdom to pace ourselves, balancing the needs of our family with the many things on our "to do" list.
- For financial provision to meet the higher cost of living in America and to replace some of our aging equipment.



Successful Literacy Courses

During our last village stay one of our primary goals was to conduct more literacy courses. Last year Danny hiked around with the Wantoat Scripture Use committee to begin training them how to teach these classes. Now we wanted to bring the program to a different area of the language group while also giving the committee further training. We praise God for the people's enthusiastic response to the classes. The most exciting feedback came from two different influential Wantoat church leaders who said that the courses helped them overcome particular obstacles they had experienced reading Wantoat and that they are now more enthused about reading God's Word in their own language!



"Reading long words in my language has always been difficult for me. Now you have taught me an easy way to do that. I'm eager to read my Wantoat Bible more now."

A Wantoat Church leader



Challenges in the Village

We are grateful to the Lord for allowing us to see some fruit in our ministry during our last village stay. This helped to balance the challenges we faced. One challenge was a series of sicknesses in our family, causing the kids to not sleep well at night and adding extra strain to the normal workload of village chores. But a more worrying concern was the growth of the cargo cult in our village. In previous prayer letters we have mentioned the tensions and divisions in our village. For a while we thought the situation was improving, but recently it has taken a turn for the worse. Cargo cults are difficult to describe. Basically it is a belief that there are secret practices or beliefs that will allow a person to obtain material possessions without having to work for them. The nature of the cult is that the people involved feel that they are “growing closer” to God. They twist Scriptures to support their positions. We have tried to maintain good relationships with the leaders of the group and lovingly share with them a more full teaching of Scripture on these subjects. Unfortunately, the group has drawn more distant toward us and some of our village family have joined in. Our heart aches for them. Right now we know of only two or three Wantoat villages affected by this cult.

Changes in Plans

Our field term has lasted just a bit over four years. These years have been full of many changes: adjusting to life overseas, finding a language allocation, setting up our home in the village, adding two new members to our family!, constant packing up house and moving our family back and forth. We are not saying this to complain but to give a context for how we are feeling emotionally. This past stay in the village was especially stressful. Our whole family felt the strains of sickness as well as the pains of watching the social and spiritual fabric of our village being torn apart. Additionally, Anna experienced some particular stresses during our village stay that concern us. When we returned to Ukarumpa we met with our supervisors. They advised us not to return to the village in the near future. They said that other missionaries who have

experienced cargo cults in their village have said that it is not productive to be in the village when the group is at its “high tide.” Our supervisors were also concerned with the emotional wellbeing of our family. We are not in a crisis. But our leaders felt that the best thing for our family would be to come home early for furlough. This will allow us to receive the physical and emotional renewal we need for a fruitful furlough and for returning to PNG healthy and ready for further ministry.

We have returned to the States, and right now we are in Dallas, Texas, site of the SIL training program and also some of its corporate offices. While we are here our supervisors have assigned us projects to work on that will help our family, particularly Anna, to experience the restoration that we need. We are also preparing resources to use in our church presentations on furlough. When our assignments here are finished (hopefully around early to mid summer) we will travel to south Georgia to spend time with family and begin sharing in churches in that area. Then, in the fall we plan to visit churches and individuals in other areas of the South and Midwest.

There is no way to express how much your love, encouragement, support and prayers mean to us, especially during times of transition like this. In many ways you are the fuel that keeps us going!

Love,

Danny, Becca, Anna and Joshua



See WEBSITE
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