

August 10, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Harvest Baptist,

The last time we wrote, we were heading to town to shop and get checkups. We did go to the medical center to see about the pain Bella has been having. The orthopedic doctor took some x-rays of Bella's back. She had fusion surgery on it a few years back. The doctor explained (again) that there is extra stress on the vertebrae on either side of the section that was fused. Bella will likely have pain for the rest of her life. However, the doctor also mentioned a few things that Bella can do to help. There was no evidence of cancer, so that made me happy.

Another thing we asked prayer for was the water project. I asked prayer that it wouldn't take a lot of my time. As it turns out, other than giving money to the guy overseeing things, I have not had to do anything. I was a little surprised that the water is already in the village. It will be a week or two until it is finished. I was thinking it would take months. So, hopefully the folks here will have water in their houses soon.

We have been pushing hard to get the book of Luke translated because we thought we would be having a check in the Fall. But it turns out that our checker will not have time then to come in. So, we will continue to work on Luke, but without the pressure. I have drafted through Luke 21, and we have completed all our work with the language helpers through Luke 11. After Luke, the plan is to start on Romans. I really do enjoy aspects of translation. I mentioned that at time I yell at my computer because I can't figure out what a verse or passage is getting at. It is those times that push me the most. I look at all the helps we have, including back translations from other translators in the area. Sometimes all that information just peculates in my brain, and I will come to a conclusion. Often that seems to happen when I can't sleep for thinking about it. Translating has challenged some of my preconceptions about certain passages. I sure do enjoy that aspect of translating. Please do keep praying for us. I am constantly aware that this is a job that we cannot do on our own.

As I write this, Bella is in the next room working with some of the village children on literacy. She normally does this during our children's club, but she feels that once a week working with them is not enough. These children do go to school. But they only go for 2 hours a day, and the teachers in the outlying villages here are often the ones who were not good enough to teach in town. Bella does a good job teaching literacy. There are many children who were on the verge of quitting school because they just weren't learning to read. Bella helped them and now they are in junior and senior high school. And since they learned by reading their own language, they really read the translated scripture well.

Thank you for your prayers for us. We are very happy to be here and to be able to do what God has given us to do. Thank you very much for the \$100 that you sent to us in July.

Yours in Christ,

Paul and Bella

Prayer requests;

1. Please do pray for the pain that both Bella and I deal with pretty much every day. Although it hurts, we try to not let it affect what we do.
2. Pray that the translation here will faithfully communicate God's Word in the Sekadau language.
3. Pray that the water project will get finished and will work well.
4. In August we have a team of men coming in to help us with preparing people in here to be ordained as elders and appointed as deacons. Please pray that the time will go well.

The pictures are; Loading our things on to motorcycle to bring to our house

The water pipe as it snakes its way through the woods

Bella teaching the kids to read





