



Norm & Jill
Weatherhead



Our Latest Prayer & Praise

Dear Vulcan Church,

As Christians, we have heard this said of God: ***"It seems that often God does not show up early, but don't despair, God is never late."*** This is certainly the case for us as we look at where things are in our ministry with the Akukem in Papua New Guinea, and definitely is true as we look at our current situation due to COVID-19.

Progress in the Akukem Translation Project

Just before the COVID-19 pandemic concerns hit us all in mid-March this year, we were making good progress on the revisions to Luke from some Village Checking sessions done earlier by the translators, we were half way through the Exegetical Checking of 1 Timothy, and Genesis was nearly complete in its draft form in the computer. Then COVID-19 hit the world, the translators had to immediately go back to the village, and the possibility of doing work sessions in Madang has looked like it could be delayed now well into 2021.

But Praise God.... We were able last year to outfit the Akukem team with two solar computer systems for them to be able to do translation work out in their villages. We also equipped the translation team last October with a Computer & Paratext Program training course so they could understand the translation software better and be more independent while back out in the bush. Therefore... the team can continue making progress even now on the following:

- Village Check Luke chs 11-24
- New Drafting of the last 5 chapters of Genesis and on into Exodus
- Back Translation of Genesis and 1 Tim chs 1-3
- Clean up of some small NT epistles to produce better draft translations

Praise the Lord! For He is Good!

Norm's Return to Canada

We want thank you once more for your prayers concerning Norm who was stuck in PNG for an extra two months

due to the travel restrictions brought about by COVID-19. The Lord definitely watched over Norm as he traveled through four countries on six flights over a 3-day period. Norm is now out of the 14-day quarantine in our home here in Canada. So many obstacles delayed his return to Canada which made us wonder about when God would open the door for his return.

As we consider the continuing ban of most international flights into and out of Australia, which could continue for the rest of 2020, God has showed us just how perfect his timing has been to bring Norm back to Jill and family in late May. An excellent example which shows God's glory and his goodness in the timing of Norm's return is that massage therapy services have opened up again here in Alberta this week, just days after Norm's self-quarantine was finished. Massage therapy is still very crucial for Norm to be able to function in life due to the high levels of pain that come as part of his muscle disease.

But Praise God.... Staying in PNG, Norm would have run out of his pain medication; coming home early to Calgary, there would have been no massage therapy available. But in God's perfect timing, Norm is no longer needing to self-quarantine, and massage therapy sessions are now just becoming available to help him reduce his daily pain levels, and he can get all the pain medications he needs which are only available to him here in Canada.

Praise the Lord! For He is Good!

New Bible Translation Opportunity for Norm

Two very significant events have just occurred which will have profound effect on Norm's Bible translation ministry. The first event has impacted all of us, namely COVID-19; the second event has been Norm's completion of his doctoral studies granting him his Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min) in mid-May. This has prompted us and other people to ask the question, "So what is next for Norm?"

As believers, we know that none of the world events take God by surprise, such as COVID-19, and we also know that God takes good care of his children and often provides new opportunities to serve him and give him glory in ways we had not suspected. We believe that such an opportunity is now being presented to us.

For at least two years now, our PBT Canada Board has suggested that we try to build a relationship with the Canadian Institute of Linguistics (CanIL) which is based in Langley, British Columbia. During 2019, CanIL reached out to Norm as he approached the end of his doctoral studies, to see if we might be interested to come and help teach basic linguistics and other courses needed by those who are studying to be new Bible translators.

Praise God.... Norm has been invited by CanIL to become a part-time teacher at the school in Langley, and is fully supportive of Norm still traveling over to PNG each year to continue working with the Akukem translation team on their New Testament project. So while we may be forced this coming year to stay in Canada due to the travel

restrictions of COVID-19, God has opened the door for Norm to invest into the lives of the next generation of Bible translators. And... when international travel is possible again, CanIL supports Norm in continuing to do translation work there in PNG, and then bring back this experience straight into the classroom for new students pursuing Bible translation ministries.

Praise the Lord! For He is Good!



Life may still be uncertain for many of us considering how the world has changed. But God is good, all the time. He goes before us and behind us, he protects us and provides for us.

We ask that you pray for us, for the Akukem translation project, for this possible opportunity to teach at CanIL, for Norm's health, for Jill and I as we build on our marriage and relationship after being apart for so many months. In all of this we trust God to lead us, and to help us grow in him.

We are so grateful for your partnership with us in prayer,

Norm & Jill Weatherhead
Missionaries to Papua New Guinea