



**Norm & Jill
Weatherhead**



Our Latest Prayer & Praise

Dear Vulcan Church,

It has been just over a month since I (Norm) returned to Canada after being in Papua New Guinea for four months. Life and ministry looks very different these days due to COVID. So often we are writing to tell you about the plans for our next international mission trip to continue the work of Bible translation. With so many restrictions in place, it seems unlikely that I would have any opportunity to go to PNG again this year, and it could be well into 2021 before it would be safe to travel to PNG.

We are so thankful then that God has provided the means and opportunities to continue serving Him and the cause of Bible translation, even while we are still here in Canada. We want to share with you what is currently being put in place which we believe will bear much fruit over time.

Ministry in PNG

At the beginning of each month, I am able to electronically send some top up credit to the mobile phones of three Akukem translators. Thanks to the modern technology of cell phones and cell towers, it is possible to get messages to and from the translators out in their remote PNG villages. From some recent messages from the men, I can tell you this:

- the people in the villages are still all relatively healthy, with no reports of COVID-19 cases in their region and in most of the country as a whole. Officially, there are only 11 known cases in PNG (Praise God!) and we continue to pray that the virus is not in the country spreading unofficially and undetected.
- the Village Checking of the book of Luke has continued. The last message stated they had completed up through chapter 20. So they have only 4 more chapters to check. I am asking the men to bring the completed revision suggestions into Madang when they can in the near future, and I will receive photocopies of the pages and also computer Paratext updates to be able to review their revisions.
- work on the book of Genesis is nearly completed in its first full draft form by one man, and another man is typing into Paratext the Tok Pisin back translation which I and future consultants will need to check their translation.
- plans are slowly being put in place to potentially have some online work sessions in Madang with the translation team. I am hoping that we can continue to look over the rough draft of 1 Timothy (chs 4-6). It will

not happen for a couple of months at least, but the Akukem team and I, plus other consultants, are trying to work out how to possibly do some translation checking via online Zoom meetings and screen sharing. Pray for us to know how to do this successfully with the telecommunication challenges we face in PNG.

Ministry in Canada

As mentioned above, we don't have any immediate international travel plans. That doesn't mean however that I am unable to engage in ministry that furthers the work of Bible translation while home here in Calgary. I am currently working on a number of projects which we would appreciate your prayer support over them:

- in addition to staying in touch with the Akukem team remotely through various telecommunication and online technology, I have some long-term projects I would like to work on. I want to improve the Akukem-English interlinear text of translated Scriptures, as well use a new linguistic program to begin creating a good Akukem-English dictionary.
- during the summer months, I plan on creating a shareable video clip/Power Point/sermon which could be shown by churches to their congregational members who are at home or gathered together in their local church. I want to share Bible translation ministry stories which will help people to see the impact that Bible translation is having on people in other countries.
- in our last update, we shared how CanIL (Canadian Institute of Linguistics) in Langley, BC has approached me to help teach linguistic courses to their students. In July, I will be summarizing my doctoral research on "Endangered Languages" and what we can be doing as Bible translation organizations with one of their summer session classes.
- even more exciting than being just a "guest lecturer" for a class at CanIL, the discussion between CanIL and the Board of PBT of Canada has progressed well, and we are anticipating that I will be able to be one of the faculty teachers starting this Fall. I would teach an entire course on basic linguistic and translation theory to the next year intake of students at CanIL.
- **Teaching for CanIL**

We should take a moment here to explain a bit more about CanIL and what being involved with them would look like. Jill and I are still members of PBT of Canada, and as an employee of PBT-C, I receive my salary from them. As you know, PBT-C is a "faith-based mission" and as such, my salary and mission expenses are covered by donations from churches and individuals who believe in the mission work we do for PBT-C, here in Canada and on mission fields overseas.

This relationship of regular donors supporting the work of Bible translation through the ongoing ministry of PBT-C mission work would still continue to be the same whenever I might be teaching courses for CanIL, which is also a "faith-based" institution. I will be on "loan" to CanIL from PBT-C when I am in Canada, thus I still am dependent on donor support of PBT-C as one of their missionaries. The primary objective is to help expand our missionary ranks with a new generation of Bible translators, Literacy and Scripture Impact

specialists, and the means will be to help teach courses to the students of CanIL.

As you can see from the picture above, we have carved out my "online office" in the corner of our basement suite living room. At this point in time, with the ongoing concern about the corona-virus, the majority of courses taught by the school will be online in nature. This works well for us, so that I can be involved with the school while still living here in Calgary. Jill and I will be praying about the possibility of a future move to Langley if a longer term commitment to helping teach at CanIL is worked out between PBT-C and CanIL.

Please be in prayer with us concerning this opportunity to serve God by helping to raise up a new generation of missionaries who will advance the Kingdom work of Bible translation. What is truly exciting for me is that I would still travel to PNG, when possible, to work with the Akukem translation team in person, then work with them remotely as we work out the technology. Plus, I will have opportunity to share my experience with the students of CanIL and help motivate them with real live field stories of what God is doing over in PNG and around the world, bringing the Word of God to people in their own language.

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

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Norm & Jill Weatherhead
Missionaries to Papua New Guinea