

Dear Brothers and sisters at Harvest Baptist Church,

Last month we asked you to pray that the Lord would send rain here. About a week after I wrote that we began to get our normal rain for this time of year. What that means is that once a day for an hour or two we get a torrential downpour. The rest of the day it is hot and humid. We are grateful for the rain. The rice fields here are growing well.

We also talked last month about the process for getting the Sekadau Bible ready to print. We are down to the last few things that need be gone over. Right now, Bella is checking over the introductions to the Old and New Testaments and the information pages that go in the front of any printed book. Hopefully sometime next week we will be able to send the Bible to the printer. We are told that it will take about 3 months for the Bibles to be printed.

It is normal over here to have a dedication ceremony for newly translated Bibles. There are a number of people who want to celebrate with us. We have set the date for the dedication on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Parobut is a very small village, so it will be interesting to see how this all works out. Bella and I plan to host any visitors who are coming from the U.S. The rest of the folks will have to be hosted by the folks in our village. They are already talking about how they will do this. The tribal folks here really enjoy large gatherings and ceremonies, so they are really looking forward to this.

One of the elders of the church here has been going to missionary training one week a month for the last year or so. It isn't certain that he will actually go and work somewhere else. But the skills he is learning will help him wherever he is. His family leaves on Monday to do their practical training. They will move in to a tribal group a long ways from here. They will spend their time there putting into practice what they learned about language and culture learning. His being gone will leave a hole in the ministry here. I actually encouraged him to do this now, rather than later. While we are still here I can make up for the lack of teachers. I really love teaching the Bible.

Another one of our steady teachers has been going to a nearby village to help teach there. This village asked for our help. They had a pastor/teacher in their church, but he had a stroke and died. We are really happy to see our guy's willingness to do this. Of course it stretches us even thinner here. It has helped that another man in our village has been willing to help with the teaching here.

Bella has pretty much set up the Sunday School curriculum for the folks here to use now, and after we leave. It has been hard at times to get folks willing to teach Sunday School though. This week Bella asked a man if he would teach, and he responded by thanking her for letting him teach. That was encouraging to hear. One of the weaknesses of the churches that our mission has planted here is that they do very little for the children and the teens. We have worked hard to see that change.

Thank you very much for praying for us and for the people here. Once the Bible is sent to the printer, Bella and I will focus on making and revising Bible lessons to leave with the folks here. It takes me about 5 times as long to make a new lesson as it does to revise an old one. I need wisdom to know what to spend my time on. Revising the lessons is a huge job since we have been teaching for about 18 years in here.

Thank you very much for the \$100 that you sent to us in October.

Yours in Christ,

Paul and Bella

We attended our regional conference in October. This is a picture of our group. Bella and I are in the back on the far right.



A scorpion that was on the lawn in front of our house. They are 4-5 inches long, but their sting is no worse than a wasp sting. We have seen a lot of them around lately. Not sure why.



Me, teaching in church. By the way, this is formal wear for the village. Most of the men in the church are wearing tee shirts and shorts. I am wearing long pants.

