

News from Pat Brien

28 November 2006

Divine Appointment

Last Saturday was the graduation of students at Christian Leaders Training College (CLTC) in the Western Highlands. CLTC is located west of the town of Banz, and just over the mountain range from where Joan and I work with the Narak people. A couple here at Ukarumpa wanted to attend the graduation but didn't want to drive the long distance, so they asked if others would also like to go if they chartered one of our aircraft.

Initially I gave this idea a miss, but when one of my friends wanted to go, I agreed to go with her. It would give me the opportunity to visit our colleagues, Don & Heather McLean, who live at CLTC and work with the Yu We (North Wahgi) people in Bible translation and literacy.

The day before we were to go, my friend had to cancel out due to back problems that put her in bed for several days. I was disappointed, but felt that God wanted me to go anyway and perhaps He had used my friend to get me to sign up. Another friend of mine took her place.

On Friday, shortly before departing, I received a phone call from Heather, telling me that Molling, our main Narak co-worker, had just arrived at CLTC. Don had gone down to the gate to meet him. I told Heather to please let Molling know that I was arriving there that afternoon.

Departure was delayed due to weather but then it cleared and we took off mid-afternoon in a little single engine Cessna 206 – pilot plus 5 passengers and a small child. We arrived about 4:30 that afternoon.

Molling was there at the airstrip and was so delighted to see me. He had felt God telling him to go and see the McLeans – perhaps he could talk to me on the phone to find out how I was doing. He could scarcely believe it when they told him I was arriving that afternoon. My reaction was much the same when I got the news that he had also arrived there that same day.



We had time that evening and next morning to talk and catch up on news before he had to depart to return home. I thought how amazing it was that God brought both of us together at the same time to see and encourage one another. Molling said that all was fine in the village, no one had died, and our house was also in good shape. He was concerned to find out how I was doing since I hadn't gone out to Narak-land this year with Joan.

More Interest in Bibles

You remember that Joan and I traveled out to Kimbe on New Britain Island last May to find Narak speakers to see if they wanted to buy Narak New Testaments and other literature. We met up with a few of the many Narak people who live and work at the oil palm plantations there, and we found they were indeed interested in Narak literature. We sold 77 books, but we had a few left over that didn't sell. We left them with our colleagues, Brent and Sandi Wiebe, who are translators with the Bola people who live in this area.

The Wiebes just recently went back to their village and one of our Narak men saw Brent and asked him to bring the books a couple days later. Brent did that, and every book that we had left with them was purchased, including three New Testaments. This man also told Brent he had collected money from various people to buy Bibles, and requested we send out a whole carton of New Testaments on a flight in December. I might add that these books are heavily subsidized for the benefit of the people, so the cost of freighting these books out there will cost us more than we will recoup by their purchase. But that is irrelevant to us; the important thing is that the Narak people are wanting to buy Scripture and other Narak books, such as the Bible Memory books, hymn book, and other reading books. I was able to tell Molling about this, and he was delighted. He has such a heart for the distribution of Narak Scriptures.

Christmas Greetings

My thanks to those of you who have supported me this past year with your prayers, letters, and financial gifts.

May this Christmas season be full of the realization of all that God has done for us in sending His Son, Jesus, to be born as a human baby, so that later Jesus could give His life as a ransom for our sins.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a year ahead filled with the presence and peace of God in your life.

Pat

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