

Dear Prayer Partners,

First, I want to thank you for your prayers over the last few months and especially this past week. I have seen God answer so many, and I know that I am here only by His grace and your prayers. I was able to fly in with a friend from school, and now she and I share an apartment here in the missionary housing. Praise the Lord that we had smooth flights, the missionaries (the Allens) had good weather to pick us up at the capital, and our bags made it! From Saturday to Monday, I was with the Allens grocery shopping and doing errands as this is their opportunity to stock up for another two months in the bush. Please pray that they will not have any more trouble with the bank freezing their credit/debit cards and that they will have good weather to fly all the supplies out here to the bush next Monday.

Yesterday, I joined Sarah Glover for her Pigin literacy classes held in the church building. Being in class helping her gives me the opportunity to pick up new words and phrases and then use them with the students. One class is for adults, and the other is for children. They are very kind in trying to help me learn, even though we cannot really communicate. I have found, though, that smiles can bridge any communication barrier. The people are extremely friendly and love to smile and wave back at you. :) I can hardly believe that I have been here in the bush for only two full days and am already learning two new languages! Pigin is the national trade language, and has many similarities to English. Kamea is the language for the people in our area. Many here speak Pigin, but all speak Kamea! There are multiple versions of the Pigin Bible, but Mr. Allen and Sarah are working on translating Bible stories (with select verses) and full books of the Bible.

Today has also been a big day. Sarah's language helper, Ansuta, came to help with the first check of the story of Abraham. Sarah had already typed up Ansuta's Kamea translation, but today they went through for spelling and clarity. Sarah kindly allowed me to practice reading the Kamea, and they both helped me understand the meaning of some words and grammatical structures. Since Ansuta doesn't speak much English, she would explain to Sarah in Pigin, and Sarah would then explain to me in English! If I know the context, I can figure out what they are saying, but usually I can only pick out some words. I am so excited to keep learning so that I can communicate with this sister in Christ. :)

Since Friday is market day, Ansuta taught me many Kamea questions and phrases that I can use. For example, "Ntinga auwada" means "Are you all right?" And you would reply "E, ninga auwadi" meaning "Yes, I am all right." So many things to remember!

Looking forward to the next weeks, my prayer is the same as David's in Psalm 63: "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: . . . To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary." God has already done so much, and I cannot wait to see how He continues to show His power and glory! May God show Himself mighty in your life as well!

Love in Christ,
Suzanne