

Dear Prayer Partners,

The Lord has been working in so many ways during these last two weeks, and to be honest, it has taken me a while to process all that I've been seeing and hearing. One big thing I've been learning is the power of prayer. Missionaries don't have the ability to make things happen, especially when moving forward depends so many different people in different places with different ideas. Without control over people and situations, we give every burden to our great God who IS in control. So many simple prayers have been answered; and, just this morning, two more. The Lord provided men to fix the ground break in the road so that Bro. John could keep working on translation instead of overseeing the project, and three students who hadn't been to literacy class in three weeks came back. I am continually reminded of the sentence that we taught last week: "Olgeta taim God em i gutpela"--"All the time, God is good!"

A week ago, a few of us visited another village about three hours away and stayed with a young lady named Lin in her family's bush hut. Their kindness and generosity were humbling, but what struck me most was Lin's dedication to reading her Pidgin Bible and memorizing the seven verses that she had in her heart language of Kamea. Listening to her explain the meaning of those verses and seeing her eyes light up at reading her own language showed me how much I take for granted reading my English Bible. While many Kamea believers are able to read and memorize from the Pidgin Bible, it can never make quite the same soul impact as it would in their first language. You may know the feeling of memorizing a verse in another language and, while you understand what you're saying, you have a hard time getting the knowledge to move your heart. The principle is the same for most of the people groups in PNG. They have Pidgin as their "business" trade language, but don't use it for personal matters unless they have to. Many other similar interactions with the national believers have continually increased my desire to work with Bible translation and discipleship.

One last thing: Over the last two weeks, it's been exciting to be more involved teaching in the literacy classes. My Pidgin is finally getting better--thanks to the teacher Sarah Glover--and I feel more able to establish friendships. Even if I can't fully tell a story, they get a good laugh while I try and another good laugh after Sarah translates. Praise the Lord that I can now match all names to faces, so now it's just remembering who's related to whom! One big prayer request is that the Lord would provide educated people to participate in Sarah's teacher training later this year. So many villages need literacy classes, but it would be best for the nationals to take initiative and fulfill this need.

As always, "Unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to power that worketh in us, unto HIM be GLORY." Ephesians 3:19-20a

Love in Christ,  
Suzanne