

LIFE ON THE FARR SIDE

OF THE OCEAN

News From Jim & Joan Farr—January 2014

Hi everyone!

By the time you get this, we'll be in the village or very close to heading there. January 27 we leave Ukarumpa and plan to be in the village until early April. It has been really good to have these months at Ukarumpa without having to deal with travel disruption.

UKARUMPA THESE PAST MONTHS

Jim is continuing steadily on his pre-editing of Baruga New Testament draft material and is 2/3 of the way thru Revelation. Only Matthew remains! It really does provide a jump-start and the finalizing work with the team goes much more efficiently when he can prepare ahead this way.

Both of us prepared lectures for a Consultant Training workshop in November. It took a LOT more time than we'd bargained for but was good to do.

HOWEVER the sad tale of Jim's computer (which was new in 2012) is that after 6 or 7 trips to the "computer hospital" it has continued to have repeated irrecoverable hard disk crashes and has now been declared "unable to resuscitate". Did you know they even have an acronym for this problem? BSOD = Blue Screen Of Death! It made us laugh, even though the problem was far from funny. These days, a functional computer is absolutely crucial to our work. We were surprised and grateful that they had a couple in stock at our "Technical Services" department and he was able to purchase one. But of course all the programs and data need to be transferred and we're down to our last week before going, sigh.

Jim was able to travel by helicopter and see both villages while spending only one night away earlier this month. We got a lot of cargo moved early that way, including a drum of boat fuel which will be a huge help. He also discovered a power system problem in one village, so now we can take out appropriate equipment. And he was able to send out word to the Baruga team with dates for work times.

We had a group of 4 Barugas come up to Ukarumpa in November. Jim did editing with three of them. They completed Galatians, Ephesians, and part of Philipians! One of the men (Johnstead, who we mentioned in the last letter) took a course toward helping him become able to check and **approve others' translations. We're pleased** to see his professional development moving along so well. We also checked 1 Corinthians (Joan acting as consultant).

We had **an extra "resident"** outside our Ukarumpa house for several weeks. Here it is in all its 8" glory (when spread out)! I (Joan) was sure it was a man-eater! But our housekeeper assured me it wasn't dangerous and capably got rid of it, pausing to let us get this picture.



We've "reinvented" Joan's former house that hasn't sold. It is now designated as the "Baruga Ukarumpa Dorm". We've had two groups there now, quite successfully, and it saves us some money as well since we don't have to house them elsewhere.

Joan has been overwhelmed by a huge job of curriculum rewriting for a course coming up this May. A MUCH bigger project than anticipated when she offered to teach. But the required minimum that had to be done before we left has just barely now been completed, praise the Lord.

WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE THIS TIME?

Translation: Two 10-day work sessions during our two months in the Baruga area.

In Korafe, Jim hopes to finish editing Psalms that are all drafted (they got up to about 104 last time) and also to see how they go along trying to write their own back-to-English-translation of those first ones, which is what a consultant will eventually use to check them.

Ladies' Bible Study: Joan has an idea of a way of using a primarily oral method for new readers to begin to study the Bible for themselves and learn to listen to the Holy Spirit speak to them **through it. Please pray for this! She's getting a little nervous.**

Reading Contests: Planned for all three major village areas, complete with lots of prizes. Competitions for Adult Men, Adult Women, Students in Grades 5 and up, Children in Grades **4 and below. We'll travel around on our boat, sleeping in the other villages to do this.**

We're hoping to identify good readers that will be able to help with an audio-recording version of the Baruga New Testament. (Joan has been learning how to do this.) Also we hope it will be motivational to begin to build excitement about "The Book" that is coming - we expect in 2018.

Concerns about ongoingness: We would like to leave the people able to carry on with further translation work after we return permanently to the US, if they wish to. That will require some discussion and preparation now. Please pray for these discussions - for wisdom for Jim as to how to direct the conversation and to be able to hear well what he needs to understand. Pray also for responsive and motivated hearts among the people. There would need to be an office built (by them) in each location and a leadership structure organized, which always can open the door to jealousy.

Prayer & Praise Items for Jim & Joan

PRAISE God that the needed new computer was available HERE without having to deal with shipping and that we were able to afford it. PRAY that it will work well, glitch-free, so our focus can be fully on finishing the translation.


PRAISE God that Joan's health has been much better so far than last term. PRAY for continuing wisdom regarding amount of activity and **for God's continuing protection.**

PRAY for good motivation, team dynamics, and progress in editing in Baruga as we meet with them for the first time in 18 months.

PRAY for the Baruga ladies' oral Bible study that Joan hopes to begin. **Pray for God's choice of who will participate and for wisdom & peace** for Joan about how to guide this. Pray that the ladies will get excited about being able to hear from God for themselves in His Word.

PRAY for the Reading Contests - for excitement, good participation, and that we will be able to identify readers to involve in the audio recording of the New Testament that we plan to do. Pray for us **too, since we find travelling on the boat, sleeping "rough" in villages,** etc. seems to get harder the older we get!

PRAY about ongoingness after we leave, for them to develop vision and a sense of ownership. Pray for real wisdom for Jim about how to raise the topic and direct the discussion, and that good decisions will be made (or begun).

NEW UKARUMPA PHONE NUMBER! Goes to switch-board, then dial our house. 



At left:
Working
with
Barugas in
Joan's old
house



Our co-workers in our region are a very international bunch! Japanese, Korean, Costa Rican, New Zealand, and Austrian as well as a few Americans

CONTACT US!

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