

Montags' Junglegram

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*“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed
people for God from every tribe
and language
and people
and nation.” Rev. 5:9*

Dear Praying Friends,

Another very wonderful chapter has been completed. As we await the arrival of our Kashinawa New Testaments to arrive from being printed in Bolivia, we have now finished the adaptation for a second edition for the “Kaxinawá” of Brazil. Their alphabet is very different and I had a lot of adjusting to do to the computer-generated adaptation that we started with, but it sure was easily readable just as it was. The Brazilian Kaxinawá (just a different spelling) have a lot of Portuguese loan words that have become part of their every day speech, more than the Spanish loan words used by the Peruvian Kashinawa. The two men who came with their families to work with us were really afraid to come, one especially fearing that there would be spells cast on him and something would happen to him. The other man, who was younger and a believer, was a lighthearted, fun person and a special joy to work with. But the most important thing is that both of them were conversant in the distant dialects in the areas that are not on the same river system as we are in Peru (the Curanja and Purus) and spoke right up with questions when they didn't understand and offered suggestions as to how to make it clearer. There are many Kaxinawá who live on the Purús in Brazil and they speak more like the people in our area but we needed those from further away to be able to show us which vocabulary words needed to be changed.

The Brazilian men have now headed back to their villages with Tufí, our co-translator, whom the Lord has sent there to recruit them. Those whom we had expected to come changed their minds, and Tufí was sick and went to Brazil to get medical care, which is free there to the indigenous people. When he found out that new “recruits” were needed, he set out with all his energy to find these men, and how we praise the Lord for the results, and for Tufí's commitment to the translation that urged him on until he found men whom he thought would be able to do a good job.

Yesterday I returned to Yarinacochoa-Pucallpa on a Navy troops plane and will be going into Lima in another week to meet three dear people who are coming for the New Testament dedication service in the village of Balta. After a bit a touring, on August 9th we will fly in a 5 passenger missionary plane to Balta, the village where we first began to work with the Kashinawa in 1969, when we were young and didn't know what was ahead. What an honor it is to return there now with a revised New Testament done with dear Roberto, whose father

was probably Dick's most beloved friend ever, and who took our son fishing too many times to count. Roberto is everything we all dream our kids could become when they are sold out to the Lord, an honor to His name. And Tufi also has been a faithful, bold Christian for probably 28 years, and Waldemar received Christ as his Savior through the ministry of these two men, all of whom lived in Balta and the next village upriver way back when. If I sound nostalgic, I guess it is because I have seen so many lives changed through the ministry of these three, all of whom have also left their homes and gardens in their home villages and their family ties to bind themselves to us in a new village until our work is completed here in Peru. They have given up a lot and often are not appreciated by their own people, but the Lord is glorified daily by them and He is pleased. They are part of those who suffer joyfully for the cause of Christ.

Just so we don't fall into laziness, Dick has been moving ahead well on Old Testament translation while I worked on the Brazilian NT adaptation. And then when the adaptation was completed, I had several days to begin on Psalms with Waldemar. We are working toward a selected 40% of the Old Testament to be completed before we leave Peru at the end of 2006. No down time is in sight, and the Lord has given us His blessed strength to just keep on keeping on joyfully, to His honor and glory.

While Dick again works on OT translation in Nueva Luz, I will be going to San Paulo, Brazil on September 25th to take the Brazilian NT to the Brazilian Bible Society for publication. (No, I don't speak Portuguese _ , but yes, I probably will learn some in the two weeks I expect to be there, and then will return to Nueva Luz.) We are trying to make as many contacts as we can with the national church in the Brazilian province of Acre, where the Kaxinawá live so that they can help distribute the New Testament. And there is a young Brazilian couple in Bible School now preparing to work with them, so that is a great encouragement to us.

Please continue to pray for all the different directions we are going in and for the Lord's continued fencing us in to walk in His path under His protection. Thank you for your faithfulness to us with your prayers and your financial giving. May we be found worthy of your trust.

May God bless you, one and all.

In Christ's love,
Sue for Dick and Sue Montag