

Montags' Junglegram

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NUEVA LUZ

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Dear praying and loving friends,

As our time in Nueva Luz draws to a close, we are again ready to change locations. Yes, we are a bit weary of moving so often, but every move brings new blessings, so on we go! First we will have a day of traveling downriver by canoe to Esperanza, the government town close to the Brazilian border, where we are supposed to leave the next day on the plane for Pucallpa. We are looking forward to spending some time with the new evangelical pastor in Esperanza and talking with him about plans for the distribution of the Brazilian edition of the Kaxinawá New Testament in Brazil, which he is already enthusiastic to be involved in.

Then we will fly to Pucallpa and hopefully have a little time there to do a bit more “polishing” of what we have translated since June: large portions of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Job, Proverbs and all of Esther. The first three of these books have been especially hard books to translate, probably the hardest we have every done. And we are all glad they are almost completed.

Life goes on in Nueva Luz as usual. Our house is usually full. Tonight after a supper of boiled green cooking bananas in a peanut sauce, fried bananas, and a thick drink made with ripe, mashed cooking bananas, the Domino players have gathered around our little table on the open porch. How long has it been, if ever, since you played Dominos? There aren't very many options here after dark sets in at about 6:00 p.m. The ten-year olds and up and several men are very avid Domino players and are always are ready for a turn at the table, and we all have fun.

Tufi and Maria and two of their grandchildren are, as usual, living here with us. Maria cooks for us and helps feed our many visitors, which helps me “keep the ol' nose to the computer grindstone”.

We are rather short on books to read this time, and I have enjoyed doing some studying in my nursing journals, for I expect to go back to nursing for a while when we return to the US in less than a year. Also I have especially enjoyed and have been blessed by reading a very old book by Oswald J. Smith, “DAVID BRAINERD, His Message for Today”. It is made up of excerpts from his diaries and the edition we have was printed in 1959, an “oldie but goodie”, to be sure. David Brainerd was a young man who gave his life to prayer and fasting for a ministry to the Indians of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Delaware, and Oswald Smith recounts the great influence Brainerd had on his own life and ministry, as would anyone who reads earnestly from his diary or excerpts. I was deeply touched by many things. First of all, he was expelled from Yale in his third year, where he was at the top of his class, when he responded to a fellow student's question regarding what he thought of a certain professor, replying, “He has no more grace than this chair!” That was reported to the president, and out he went, with no recourse! My, oh my, how our educational system has changed its level of tolerance to the other extreme!

David Brainerd has given me much to think about with another passage from his diary: “Prayed earnestly for Christians, and for those I have reason to fear are my enemies, and could not have spoken a word against the vilest man living.” It gave me the “If the shoe fits, do something about it” as a way of life, and I trust I will not forget this earnest desire for holiness in all my attitudes.

This dear man died of incurable TB at the age of 29, engaged to the daughter of Jonathan Edwards, who lovingly nursed him through the last six months of his life. He accomplished more for the Lord in his 7 years of ministry than most of us can accomplish in 70!

Well, I know this is getting long, but I want to give you our prayer requests:

- ❖ **Protection from those things that interrupt life for our co-translators and for us.** My co-translator Roberto's 12 year old daughter had been having "female problems" and was seen at the small hospital in Esperanza and had a PAP'S smear taken. About SIX months later, they were recently told that she had cervical cancer and the physician who received the report in Lima recommended treatment within a month. So, as soon as they got this news by a passing health team, the family headed to Esperanza and were told she would probably need surgery and then have to go to Lima for follow-up radiation or chemotherapy—a 12 year old girl! I will spare you the details of how she and Roberto got to Pucallpa and had various tests done, but three weeks after they left the Nueva Luz, she has been finally diagnosed to have a rather benign parasite infection and not CANCER. Every lab makes some mistakes on PAP'S smears, and the positive ones are always repeated, but what a trial for them it has been, and how we are missing Roberto. His daughter will probably return to Esperanza about the same time we leave for Pucallpa, where Roberto will await us. We prayed for the Lord to heal her from the cancer that the lab test had indicated she had, and it may very well be that He has healed her, and we rejoice that she is well. But Roberto, who is the most perceptive of all our co-translators, will have been away from working with us for over a month and I have really missed him. However, while Dick continues on with Tufi and Edmundo, Waldemar and I have been making good progress. Also despite many rainy and cloudy days, there has always been enough power from our solar panels to keep the computer going all day,
- ❖ **Pray for endurance for Roberto and Waldemar as we again work with our translation consultant in Lima from November 14 through December 16.** This work is very stressful for them, for one reads a passage in Kashinawa and the other "back translates" it into Spanish, so that our consultant can see that the main points come through with the proper emphasis and the passage holds its basic form with clarity. Their Spanish is only fair and there are so many facts that they try to keep straight, which makes it really a struggle for them. We have tried 6 or 7 other men to see if they could do this, and they all failed miserably, so Roberto and Waldemar's ability to do this is a great blessing. We expect to work mornings with our consultant Jim and then in the afternoons we will finish up final checks on remaining books we want to check.
- ❖ The Brazilian New Testament is still in the printing process but we rejoice that we now know how it will be received and we have a network begun for Scripture distribution and evangelization of the Brazilian Kaxinawás. **Please pray for the Lord to open many doors and bring many of these dear people to salvation.**
- ❖ And last, but not far from least, **please pray for the spiritual growth of all the Kashinawa believers**, that they will commit themselves to daily Bible study and prayer and that the Lord will bring a great time of growth in depth and number among His people among the Kashinawas.

We sincerely thank you for your faithfulness to us in prayer and in your financial giving. May the Lord's grace and peace be with you and may you be always ready to give a testimony of your faith wherever you are.

Yours in Christ,
Sue for Dick and Sue Montag