

# ◊ The “Scoop” on the Scotts ◊

Hank, Krista, Amanda, and Nick Scott  Mail: 7403 Davis Rd., Waxhaw, NC 28173-8416  Emails: [hank\\_scott@wycliffe.org](mailto:hank_scott@wycliffe.org) [krista\\_scott@wycliffe.org](mailto:krista_scott@wycliffe.org)  Phone: (704) 225-3851

## Where in the World is Wewak? And Why Do I Care?

### What and Who does this involve?

In our last newsletter I introduced a new project to provide low power computers, satellite Internet, and solar power systems for remote places, to accelerate Bible translation. Since then, a diverse team of 11 specialists from Jaars, The Seed Company, and Wycliffe Associates have been working hard toward this end.

The first deployment was selected, a cluster translation project involving two language groups in a remote part of Papua New Guinea (PNG) located on an island in the Southwest Pacific. Mother Tongue Translators (MTTs) – national Papua New Guineans from these language groups travelled three hours by boat through the swamps to reach the nearest town of Wewak where a month long translation workshop was held.

The translation consultants overseeing this work include Les Bruce from The Seed Company and Jill Riepe of Pioneer Bible Translators. Les lives in the Dallas, TX area and Jill lives in PNG. They are the experts who provide Biblical consulting. They take the rough draft translation done by the MTTs and work it through

*Matt Krol, left, provides computer orientation*



the various stages to produce a completed Bible. With this new equipment, the MTTs will be able to work in their villages every day on translation and communicate regularly with Les and Jill, rather than only doing translation when the workshops are held twice a year!

So where exactly is this Wewak town? I had heard that it was a coastal town in the East Sepik province of PNG. It's amazing what can be found online these days!



*Location of Wewak, northern Papua New Guinea, Southwest Pacific*

Through some quick Google and Wikipedia searches, I learned that Wewak is the capital of the East Sepik province. I also found that it has a historical significance from WWII when it was the largest Japanese airbase in mainland New Guinea, massively bombed by Australian and US forces, and eventually the site of surrender for Japanese forces in New Guinea. The airstrip constructed near Wewak during WWII by the Japanese is still in use today as the local public airport.

If you search Google for Wewak you will find images from that area, many which look like a tropical paradise.

### Why do I care?

Aside from these interesting facts, the reason that PNG is of importance for Bible translation is that it has one of

the largest concentrations of languages in the world, and therefore a huge amount of translation work is under way. There are 830 distinct language groups in PNG, of which about 300 still do not have a written language and do not have God’s Word available to them. Another 200 languages have translation work under way, but many only have a small portion of scripture today.

Typical living conditions for missionaries in PNG are difficult. The entire island has very little public infrastructure: what few roads they do have are in poor condition, and any type of public communications technology is very limited to only a couple of major cities. This is one of those “off the grid” or “end of the earth” places, where most transportation takes place with small air-planes and much of the communications for missionaries working in remote villages is still done with HAM radios. Cellular networks only exist in a few of the major towns, but not in rural areas. Because of these limitations for isolated villages, this is a place that can really benefit from the technology that we are deploying.

**Back to Wewak and new technology:**

As the MTTs worked at the translation workshop with Les and Jill, they were introduced to the laptop computers that our team provided. Most of the MTTs have never used computers before. For them it is a pretty big leap to use a computer for daily translation work; and then to understand how to correctly hook up the solar power equipment and satellite Internet terminal to send and receive data. They are learning how to use the Bible translation software, how to send and receive e-mail, how to back up their data, how to use Skype for live chat sessions, and how to care for the

*Instructions in English and the local language...*

4. Push and hold the round button on the left until the green light above it comes on.

Nau baiyu onim masin. Daunim dispela raunpela batan long han kais bilong liklik skrin (hap glas). Holim inap liklik grinpela lami lait i stap.



*Computers being set up at Jaars*

equipment to protect it from damage and keep it in working order. The Jaars team has tried to make these things as simple and fool-proof as possible, but it is still a lot to absorb!

For the last week of the workshop Matt Krol, project lead for The Seed Company, traveled to Wewak to complete the setup of the solar power systems and to provide further training on proper use and handling of the computers. Since this was our first deployment, Matt was also looking for things that we could improve for future roll-outs.

*The team working with the satellite Internet terminal.*



**What’s Next?**

Matt is just returning to the USA now so we will debrief with him to identify changes to help with the next deployments. Upcoming sites include various locations in Africa, the Philippines, and the South Pacific. My team at Jaars continues to evaluate numerous options for solar power and charging systems and for the computer hardware that we will deploy, as this is a rapidly changing technology.

Please **be praying** that the Lord would lead us to good decisions which will help this project succeed over the long term, and ultimately provide a great acceleration in Bible translation. **Pray** that government officials in other countries would quickly approve licensing requests for the satellite equipment that we need to use. **Pray also** for the MTTs as they come up to speed with technology. **Pray too** for the equipment to work as designed without failures in these rugged environments.

**Thank you for your prayers!** They are invaluable as we trust the Lord for great things for His glory.

**One common theme is evident in this project:**

*“If this was something easy to do, others would have already done it. What we are attempting is difficult, but the Lord is in it!”*

### **Financial Update**

Over the last year we have mentioned that we are running short on monthly support. Two new families have committed to support us financially, and two current partners increased their giving. Three others stopped giving due to financial hardship. The overall impact is an increase of \$200 average per month which we are thankful for! We are still lacking \$650 per month in support, but in recent months people have given a number of special gifts, which have helped us keep our heads above water. Thank you so much!

If you are interested in helping with a special gift or through ongoing support, please see the information below for a variety of ways to do that. Thank you for your generosity – both those who have given special gifts as possible, and those of you who are giving regularly. We are blessed by and thankful for a great team of supporters!

### **Options for financial donations**

If you are considering giving to our ministry, you can use any of the methods below.

- ✓ Via check: Mail to the address by the Wycliffe logo on the last page of this newsletter.
- ✓ Online with a credit card or bank transfer:  
[www.wycliffe.org/Give](http://www.wycliffe.org/Give) (use the missionary link on left)
- ✓ By phone with a credit card: 407-852-3705

Thank you for your consideration and interest!

### **Krista's Update**

This month Krista began a part-time job working about 10 hours per week. She still is interested in substitute teaching, but has not done a lot of that so this part-time job will help us financially. Due to this new job, she has pulled out of coordinating most of the Jaars youth group special events, and she expects other parents to step up to that role. As Nick approaches high school graduation, this is a logical move anyway. Her new job involves working at a resource center that provides materials for home school families, teachers, parents, and other educational groups. The role makes good use of her organizational and public relation skills. The additional income from this job will not meet all of our financial needs, but it helps out. She hopes to use some of the money to buy Christmas presents for our family this year, as we always try to do Christmas without building up debt.

Krista has also become involved in a role at church organizing the welcome desk and coordinating the volunteers who work there. She has enjoyed meeting people that we previously had not met. I (Hank) continue to be involved in running the sound booth equipment, and also as a deacon.

Over the last few months Krista has not had too many migraine headaches. Her doctor added a new medicine to her cocktail of daily meds a few months ago and that seems to have made an improvement. She still is having between one and three migraines per month, but her medicine to abort the headaches is working well, as are the strong pain killers when the migraine does not go away. Both she and her doctor consider this “manageable.” Thank you for your prayers over the years for this ongoing condition!

### **Kids Update**

Amanda is doing well this semester in her sophomore classes at Appalachian State University. She is once

*Amanda being surprised on her 20th birthday*



again thinking about changing her major, so this is the last time I will mention that topic! I guess this is quite common for college students; those of you who have experienced it with your own children will understand. The good thing is that Amanda continues to seek God's Will for her life and follow His direction. She does need to "declare" her major by the end of this school year, so we would appreciate your prayers as she considers what course of study to follow.

also should help with possible ROTC scholarships for college if he chooses to join the Air Force. October is a key month to submit applications for those scholarships and we expect to do a couple of college visits soon as well.

Nick has not yet specified one college, but he expects to apply to a number of them and see what options open up. He has not decided on a specific course of study yet, but he is seeking the Lord's direction. Also he is not sure that he wants to commit to military service (a requirement for an ROTC scholarship) but he understands the benefits and the risks and is considering all of this. We would appreciate your prayers for Nick as he makes these critical decisions.



*Nick and Missie*

Nick is quite busy in his senior year in high school. He is the Group Commander for the Air Force Jr. ROTC at his school, which means that he is in the top leadership position and has oversight responsibility for the program. While this can be challenging, it is giving him excellent experience in leadership and in working with others. It

*Just for fun: Krista was repairing a child's too-too for a friend the other day, when we decided to try it on Missie!*



## Prayers and Praises

Please pray for the following:

- That God would guide Hank's team in providing sustainable technology solutions, getting His Word to people even sooner.
- For the remainder of our \$650 monthly financial needs to be met.
- For Amanda as she considers her college major, and for Nick as he applies to colleges and maybe a ROTC scholarship / military service commitment.

Praise the Lord with us:

- For the increased \$200 of monthly support, and for the continued support that our financial partner team faithfully sends!
- That Krista's migraine headaches have been manageable in recent months.
- For Hank's team's first deployment of computer equipment to Papua New Guineans and the opportunity to work alongside other missions to accomplish the task.

*We appreciate your prayers!*

*Hank & Krista*

**Wycliffe** 

Wycliffe Bible Translators  
P.O. Box 628200  
Orlando, Florida 32862-8200

For financial gifts, on an attached piece of paper indicate:  
*For the ministry of Hank & Krista Scott*