

## Matzke Messenger May 2016



*Tim & Martha Matzke serving with Wycliffe in the Solomon Islands*

### Joining Together



Wycliffe assigns a majority of its field personnel to SIL International. And SIL just concluded its international conference, held every four years, in Thailand. We were honored to attend as delegates to represent the Solomon Islands. We spent the week reviewing SIL's identity and purpose in light of how the world has changed since SIL began in 1934. The conference produced some general guiding statements that will be processed further by SIL's Board and leadership in the days ahead, but we're quite excited about the direction we are heading. Most importantly, this conference was marked by an outpouring of prayer. We pray this spirit will spread throughout our organization during the upcoming 40 days of prayer called by our incoming executive director, and that people of every language will be blessed as a result.

### Thai Adventures



Durian, a tropical fruit known for its strong smell and taste, was in season in Thailand. One night, we ventured out with friends who enjoy durian and were happy to introduce us to the fruit.



Walking through the night market, the smell made it easy to find. We bought some, along with some other new-to-us fruits and tried them. The durian wasn't as strong tasting as expected, but it didn't leave us craving more.



Durian is banned from many hotels because of the lingering smell it leaves behind.

On another trip through the Night Market, Tim tried fried grasshoppers and silk worms.



### A New Day for SIL

At the end of the conference, SIL welcomed a new Executive Director, Dr. Michel Kenmogne, from Cameroon. This is the first time the position has been held by non-westerner and a speaker of a minority language.

## It is Finished!



While we were in Thailand, our friends and colleagues, Jim and Carolyn Mudge, were celebrating an important milestone - the final *read through* of the Roviana Bible.

Jim and Carolyn have faithfully served in the Solomon Islands for more than 30 years. After helping to facilitate the translation of the Roviana New Testament (published in 1994), Jim went to seminary to earn a degree in Old Testament studies in order to help with the translation of the Roviana Old Testament.

The Roviana translation team have labored for years to translate the Old Testament. Over the past few months, the translation team has revised the New Testament, completed

the Old Testament, and completed the final checks before publication.

Currently, a recording team from Faith Comes by Hearing is in the Solomons to produce an audio recording of the New Testament so it will be available at the time the Roviana Bible is launched, sometime next year.

Our administrative support (overseeing bank transfers, sending out prayer requests, arranging visas for the recording team, preparing budgets, etc.) for the Roviana Bible translation ministry, and other translation teams, allows the translation teams to accomplish their ministries.

While we have never translated a single Bible verse ourselves, we feel like we do play a part in giving Solomon Islanders access to God's Word in their own language. We are grateful to our prayer and financial partners who also have a place in this ministry. Thank you!

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## The multi-lingual program is bearing fruit!

In November of last year, Tim toured the schools involved in the multi-lingual education program to assess student progress. He was pleased to find that except for some students who missed a lot of school, all the children tested at least at grade level (kindergarten) and a number of them were a grade or two ahead.

One of the boys in the programme tested at grade 2 level in the assessment and he must have overheard Tim tell the teacher his score. The boy's family moved, and when his dad told the principal at the new school that he should be in grade one, the boy insisted that he should be in grade 2 because the 'white man teacher' said he should be in grade 2. Because of the boy's insistence, the principal went ahead and placed him in the grade 2 classroom.

At the beginning of the school year, the grade 2 teacher gave all her students an assessment test. This boy, who had skipped grade one entirely, took the highest grade in the class. It's exciting to see how the multi-lingual program is making a difference in the lives of these students!