

Matzke Messenger - April 2012

Tim & Martha Matzke serving with



This painting of Joseph adorns a Catholic chapel in the Solomon Islands.

Through the centuries, Christians have used the arts to express their faith and teach Biblical principles. Today in the South Pacific where music, dance, storytelling and art are an important part of the culture, the arts can be a creative way for Christians to evangelize and to teach Biblical truths.

This July, the Solomon Islands is hosting the *Festival of Pacific Arts*. Three thousand participants from around the Pacific are expected to attend this festival, which is held every four years. For the past year, Martha has been interacting with festival planners and looking for ways we can serve the festival committee and at the same time raise awareness of Bible translation in the Pacific. In January, Martha traveled to the Solomon Islands to meet with the festival committee to present proposals for involvement in the event. The committee members were pleased with the proposals and we will be involved in three specific ways.

Biblical Storytelling:

In the Pacific, stories draw people together as they share local history and explain the world around them. Today, storytelling is being used in exciting ways to share Bible stories. Carefully crafted stories come to life while sharing the Bible in accurate ways. A team from Australia and New Zealand will be coming to the Festival to present a workshop on Bible Storytelling and offer interactive demonstrations during the festival.

Arts in Mission:

A team of ethnoarts students here in the USA will travel to Dallas to be involved in the *"Arts in Mission"* workshop offered at our International headquarters. Following the course, they will travel to the Solomon Islands to lead workshops about using the arts in ministry. A Solomon Islands musician is coming to Dallas to participate in the course and help lead the team in the Solomons. We are excited about hosting a Solomon Islander in our home!

Languages of the Pacific:

The Pacific has the distinction of being the most linguistically diverse part of the world, with more than 1500 languages. Martha is leading the effort to create a display about the languages of the Pacific and the progress of Bible translation. It's our prayer that this display will generate interest and get people thinking about language and Bible translation in their home countries.

Being able to participate in this arts festival is a unique opportunity. After more than a year of planning, it's exciting to see the pieces falling into place. This June/July, Martha will be traveling back to the Solomon Islands to participate in the festival. She hopes to be able to connect with participants, visitors, government officials and the media about Bible translation.

- Praise God with us for this God-given opportunity!
- Pray for the many preparations for the festival.
- Pray that this event will be used to promote what God is doing in the Pacific and lead to more Pacific Islanders becoming involved in the ministry of Bible translation.

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Tim's Adventure in Thailand

Tim traveled to Thailand for three weeks in March, as a facilitator for a workshop on Multilingual Education. He was able to visit a successful multi-lingual program in a rural part of the country. The following two weeks the Bridging Between Languages in Mother-tongue based Education workshop was held at a university in Bangkok to teach multilingual education principles. Participants came from 20 countries.



Tim had contacted a friend in the Ministry of Education in the Solomon Islands and invited to him to send some participants to the workshop. Two Solomon Islanders from the Ministry came to the workshop and were part of the small group that Tim helped facilitate.

Aseri and Marion work in the Solomon Islands Ministry of Education and are responsible

for helping the country move ahead in helping children learn to read and write in their own language. They found the workshop to be extremely valuable. They both told Tim that while they had known that it is important to teach children in their own languages, they had not known how it really worked. This workshop was very valuable in helping them to learn more about basic principles behind multilingual education and some of the specifics of how to do it well.



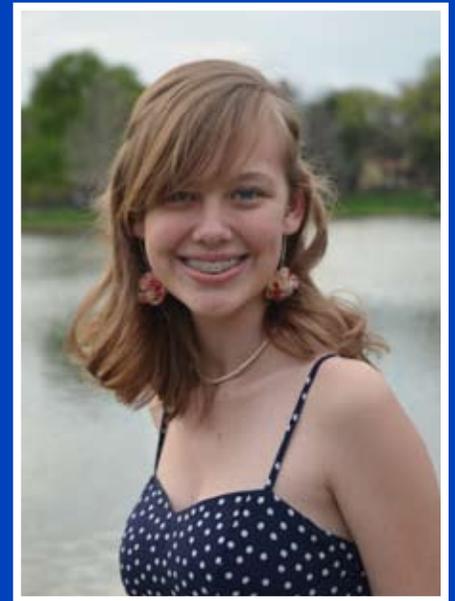
Update on Emily and Sarah



Emily is nearing the end of her first year at the University of North Texas where she has become involved in ROTC. In January she was inducted into the Army Reserves.

At the end of July, Emily will be attending Basic Training followed by further specialized training in Apache helicopter armament. She is planning on returning to college while serving in the Army Reserves.

Sarah is finishing her freshman year. She heads to Washington DC soon with her choir. Next year she is hoping to be involved in Academic Decathlon at school.



2012 is turning into the 'Year of the Suitcase' for our family!

January	Martha	Solomon Islands & Fiji	Arrangements for Festival of Pacific Arts
	Tim	Spain	Literacy
March	Tim	Thailand	Multi-lingual workshop
April	Sarah	Washington DC	Choir
	Martha	Thailand	SIL International Conference
June-July	Martha	Solomon Islands	Festival of Pacific Arts
July 24	Emily	South Carolina	Army Basic Training