

Tim & Martha Matzke serving with Wycliffe

Festival of Pacific Arts

August 2012



The festival began with a church service attended by thousands of people. Hilda, who had just completed a Bible Storytelling workshop, told the Genesis story of the fall of Adam & Eve.



The 'Arts for a Better Future' workshop gave participants tools for using local arts to address community needs from a Christian perspective.



*During the first two weeks of July, the Solomon Islands became the focus of the Pacific as they hosted the **2012 Festival of Pacific Arts**. Participants from more than 20 countries and visitors from around the world gathered to celebrate the cultural diversity of the region. This secular event is held once every four years and this was the first time it included Christian elements.*

It was a proud moment for the country as they hosted this huge undertaking in a spectacular way. It was an honor for Martha to be in attendance and to help lead the effort to bring awareness of Bible translation to the festival. We thank God for this opportunity!

The logo for the festival is painted on this man's face.



Languages of the Pacific

Martha spent a great deal of time at the 'Languages of the Pacific' booth. Our team interacted with roughly 2000 people representing 146 languages. The goal of the booth was to get people thinking about the many languages of the Pacific and the need for Bible translation.



Each day we asked people to translate a word, phrase or sentence for us. People LOVED to see their language written on the board. Some people came by every day to give us the information about their language. There was usually a crowd by the white board as people compared their own language with others.



Experienced translator, James Ashley, had many stories to tell about languages in the Solomons and Bible translation.



These delightful ladies were part of the Discovery Team and helped out at the Languages booth. They were wonderful.



Two members of the Solomon Islands National Parliament also came by for a visit. We are thankful for their support and encouragement!



This young woman was attracted to our booth because she wanted to learn more about languages. Angela speaks 3 different Solomon Island languages in addition to English and Solomon Islands Pijin. One of the languages she speaks is a very complex one. Translation work was begun in Äiwoo, but the translation team were not able to complete it due to health issues.

When my colleague James told her about this need he asked, “Who is going to finish the translation?” She enthusiastically answered, “I WILL!”

Samson, is a soft spoken early childhood teacher for the Anglican church. His mother tongue is Cheke Holo. The children he teaches have a hard time learning to read because the materials are in English - a language they don't understand. He sees the need for children to learn to read in their own language, and has been translating materials into Cheke Holo. I was able to encourage him and a couple of days later he came by with a bag of literacy materials to show me.



The man on the left is a retired police officer and is originally from Tikopia, a remote island in the Solomons. The man on the right is Joshua, the National Coordinator of the Solomon Islands Bible Translation & Literacy Partnership and also a former member of the police force. They were discussing the need for the completion of the New Testament in Tikopian.



This man from New Caledonia was helping translate the sentence of the day into the Pije language; ‘John said, “I’m going to Honiara today.”’ As he was writing he turned to me and asked, “**How** did John go to Honiara? Did he travel up, or around or straight to Honiara?” In his language there was no way to say ‘go’ without saying how a person was traveling.

Languages are beautiful and complex!



Meet Malcolm



In June, a special arts workshop, 'Arts for a Better Future' was held in Dallas. We invited a Solomon Islander to come to Dallas to attend the workshop and help lead a team

of ethnoarts students back to the Solomons for the festival.

Malcolm has a vision for using the arts as a ministry tool. Please pray for Malcolm as he explores how God wants him to use the training has received.



Family News

Tim: continues to serve in the International office, particularly in website development. In addition, he is the new Language Development and Research Coordinator for the Pacific Area. He is looking forward to coordinating multi-lingual education efforts in the Solomon Islands and East Timor.

Martha: is in recovery mode from the Solomons as she tries to tie up loose ends from the trip!

Emily: is attending BCT (Basic Combat Training) with the Army in Fort Jackson, SC. She's excited about this next step in her life!

Sarah: has had a busy summer of travel, a visit from a Minnesota cousin, camp and a mission trip with her youth group.

From Lemons to Lemondae

Malcolm was scheduled to travel back to the Solomons via Australia with the Discovery Team. Because Malcolm didn't have a transit visa for Australia, he could only fly as far as Fiji and then wait two days for a flight to the Solomon Islands.

Equipped with a bit of money for room and board, but not knowing anyone in Fiji, Malcolm sat in the airport to think and pray. He struck up a conversation with a security guard who invited him to stay in his home.

The next day while the man and his wife were at work, Malcolm went out and purchased cleaning supplies and some food. He cleaned their house including a dirty stove and prepared a meal for the couple.

Over dinner the couple shared that they had not been walking with the Lord. As Malcolm talked with them and read Scripture they renewed their commitment to God. A visa mix-up turned into a God appointment. How sweet is that!.

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