

Literacy

INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY DAY
8 SEPT 2017

A young Arosi girl demonstrated her ability to read in her own language during International Literacy Day celebrations in Honiara.



International Literacy Day - Reading + Writing = Changing Lives

The local theme for International Literacy Day was Reading + Writing = Changing Lives.

September 8th is International Literacy Day and it is celebrated by various groups who are involved in literacy around the Solomon Islands. Tim and I served on this year's planning committee and we enjoyed being a part of the celebrations.

A group of teachers and students involved in the vernacular literacy program came into the capital city for this special day. During the opening program, two of the students demonstrated their reading ability in

their own language. They each were given a book they had not read before and they read with ease. The girl above read with such animation that when she finished, the audience broke out in applause and left many teary-eyed. It was an amazing moment.

The teachers and students spent time in a 'model classroom' to demonstrate how students can be taught in their own language.

Later in the program, several adult literacy students from a Bible-based literacy program gave their testimonies of the life-changing experience of learning to read and they each read a Bible verse from the Pijin

Bible. One new reader came to the Lord recently as a result of the literacy class.

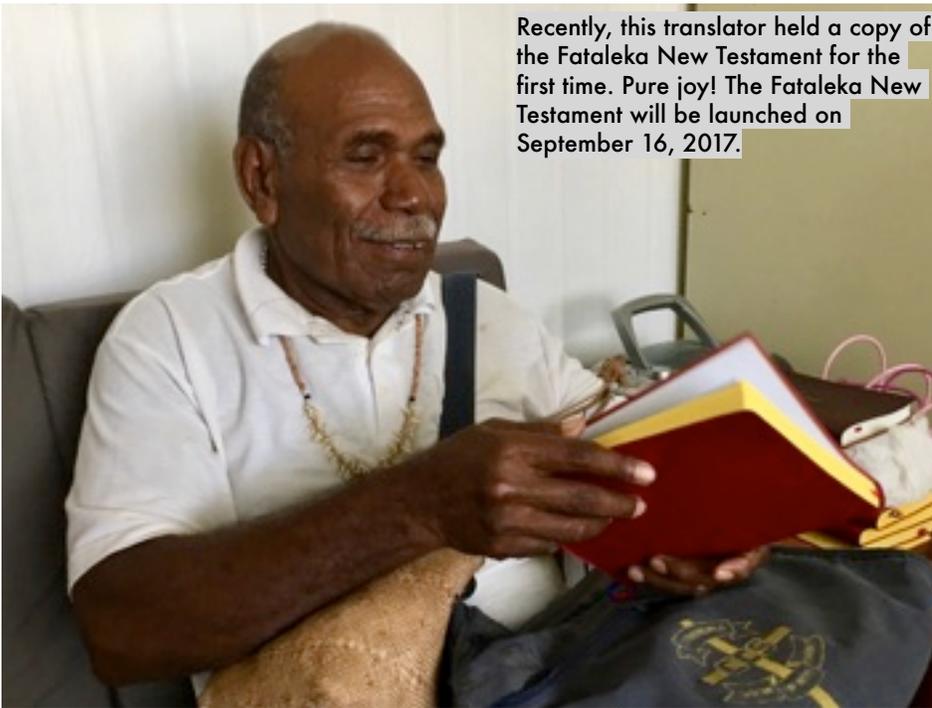
Martha recently traveled to the island of Makira to visit the schools involved in the vernacular education program. One man shared that one day he heard his kindergarten-aged grandson reading and thought the boy was reciting something he had memorized at school. He was shocked when he turned around and saw that the boy was actually reading aloud from the New Testament!

It's encouraging to see how lives in the Solomon Islands are being changed through literacy and God's Word. And we feel blessed to be a part of it.

Learning to read - that's something to smile about!

This woman recently graduated from a Bible-based Pijin Literacy class. Along with about 50 other adults, she recently learned to read in Pijin. Each graduate received a certificate and a Pijin Bible. In just a couple of months these illiterate men and women have become readers and now they can read the Bible for themselves!





Recently, this translator held a copy of the Fataleka New Testament for the first time. Pure joy! The Fataleka New Testament will be launched on September 16, 2017.

Roviana Bible

In May, after 35 years of hard work, the Roviana people received the full Bible in their language. The event coincided with the 115th anniversary of the arrival of the first missionaries in that area and 3 days of celebrations marked the occasion.

An audio recording of the Roviana New Testament produced by Faith Comes by Hearing was launched at the same time. Young people serving with Youth With a Mission helped sell Bibles and distribute audio recordings. Soon a Roviana version of the Jesus Film will be available. Wycliffe helped with the development of a Roviana Bible App. The Seed Company helped to fund the completion of the Bible. It was great to see all these mission organizations working together to bless the Roviana people.



A New Beginning

Andreas and Friederike Leuschner and son, arrived in May. We are thrilled to have a new team serving with us - our first from Germany!

One of our responsibilities is to help orient new teams and get them settled into their ministries. The Leuschners will soon be moving to a village here on Guadalcanal where Andi will be serving as a Scripture Use Specialist. The Anglican Church has two training facilities nearby where Andi will have opportunity to provide training in ways to study and apply the Word of God.

Later this year we are expecting a single woman from Switzerland and next year a family from Canada. We are excited to have new members coming to serve Bible translation in the Solomon Islands.

Prayer Requests:

Pray for someone to come fill the Operations Manager position in our office:

For four years, we have been without a full-time person in this critical position. We are grateful to those who have stepped in to help for periods of time, but having someone fill this position would be wonderful!

Praise God for the new Bibles that were launched this year.
Roviana - full Bible (May 2017)
Fataleka New Testament (Sept. 2017)

Pray for the further development of the Vernacular Education Program. We hope more languages will be added to the program next year. Pray that good people can be identified and hired for key positions.

Pray for Emily and Sarah as we are separated as a family. Emily is working in the Dallas area and Sarah has begun her third year at John Brown University in AR.

Praise God for new opportunities. Tim has been asked to lead a writers' workshop in Papua New Guinea. The goal will be to produce beginning reading materials in 20 languages.

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