

# Matzke Mission

MARCH 2018

TIM & MARTHA MATZKE



*Ruth and her  
Koo family*



*The beautiful Koo  
people of the  
'weathercoast' of  
Guadalcanal Island*



## The Gospel for the Koo People

Samson Chaku became a Christian in Australia in the mid 1800's while working on a sugarcane plantation. When he returned home to the Solomon Islands, he brought the gospel with him and in time a church grew. Since that time, these Koo [Koh] speaking Christians have had to rely on an English Bible.

In November of last year, Ruth, a new member from Switzerland, arrived in the Solomons to serve as a translation advisor. It has been our responsibility (and joy) to help orient her to the Solomon Islands and work with her to determine where she will serve in Bible translation.

We asked Ruth to pray about an assignment to the Koo people. Then in early March, we traveled by boat to the

*The southern coast of  
Guadalcanal Island  
receives lots of rain and  
rough seas, earning it the  
name the 'weathercoast'.*

'weathercoast' of Guadalcanal Island to visit Peochakuri Village. We were warmly welcomed by the people who are excited to have Ruth come and be a part of their community.

Ruth will be living with a local family so she can learn about the culture and way of life of the Koo people as well as immerse herself in the language. We met with Ruth and the family to talk through the arrangements. We feel confident that this fine Christian family will take good care of Ruth.

After our weekend trip, Ruth is preparing to move to the village by the end of the month so she can spend Easter in the village.

Please pray for Ruth as she begins learning the language and culture of the Koo people.



*Ruth, with two of her new Koo friends, standing  
in the spot where the Gospel first arrived on the  
Weathercoast.*

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### Financial Gifts:

Wycliffe Bible translators  
PO Box 628200  
Orlando, FL 32862 (designate 'for Tim & Martha Matzke')  
designate for Tim & Martha Matzke  
**Online: [Wycliffe](https://www.wycliffe.org)**



# Changes

Since October 2013, we have been serving as co-directors of our mission group here in the Solomons. It's been a lot of hard work, but also incredibly rewarding to be a part of helping support the ministry of Bible translation.

But, we are also feeling quite tired. Our group is now seeking a new director to take our place. We aren't sure how long the process will take, but we hope that by the middle of the year, the new person will be identified so we can have an orderly transition.

At this point, we are planning leaving the Solomons in September or October to return to the USA for a year's 'home assignment'. We are looking forward to being closer to our girls, spending time with family and friends and having opportunities to share about our ministry. It is our intention to move back into our house in the Dallas area while we are in the USA.

Please pray for God's choice of the next director for our group. And for strength for us as we work to finish well!

We are planning on returning to the Solomons in early 2020.



# Savosavo Bible translation is moving forward



*Participants in the Savosavo translation meeting joined hands and prayed for God's blessing on the translation ministry.*

## Sister Cecelia is back!

Last year, we shared about Sr. Cecelia, a Catholic missionary from the Solomon Islands who started getting interested in Bible translation while she was in Bible school in Colombia, South America. After her 2016 Christmas holidays in the Solomons, she went to Peru where she was assigned to serve for 3 years. When we said good-bye, we told her to keep praying about becoming involved in Bible translation in her own language of Savosavo.

Through an amazing set of circumstances, it became clear that God wanted her to return to the Solomon Islands.

Since her return, the Catholic church has given her permission to be involved full-time

in Bible translation and she has begun training in translation and studying the grammar of her own language. In January, a workshop was held on Savo Island to help people better understand what was needed to begin a Bible translation ministry. A couple of Savo pastors who attended the workshop also want to get involved in Bible translation ministry and the 2 of them are members of the newly formed Savo Translation Committee.

It's been a real source of encouragement to us this past year to see God at work on Savo Island. Please pray the momentum that has begun will continue to grow so the Savosavo people can someday read and hear God's Word in their own language.

