

## Prayer Points

Please pray for:

- The nation of Papua New Guinea—spiritual growth in established churches, economy, law and order in larger cities, growth of private enterprise
- Bishop Kapman and the United Church in New Ireland Province—realization of his dream for a self-sustaining holistic ministry for 245+ congregations.
- Ertius Lisam, former Islands Regional Director, who has decided to translate the Tigak New Testament with the help of Lesley and Marianne Fast.
- Don and Sharon Hutchisson as work with the people to complete the final draft of the Sursurunga New Testament.
- Safety in our Fall/Winter travel schedule to missions conferences and meetings in Las Vegas, Albany NY, Richmond and Portsmouth VA, Miami, Texas, Urbana, IL
- Wisdom in decision whether to travel to Togo, Benin, Mali and Ghana in January 2004 with a group of pastors.
- Corporate funding of the Africa trip if it is the Lord's will for us to go.
- Health and strength for ourselves as well as for Flora, and the rest of our families.
- Salvation of unsaved family members and friends.
- Pray for Ertius and Rhona Lisam as they translate the Bible in the Tigak language.



Don and Sharon Hutchisson

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Designate financial gifts for:

Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas

Write the check to:

Wydiffie Bible Translators  
 P.O. Box 628200  
 Orlando FL 32862-8200



Sunday School children, Pangeifua Village

View the pictures in color at our

New Website:

[Http://home.earthlink.net/~k.g.nicholas](http://home.earthlink.net/~k.g.nicholas)

Thank you for partnering with us ...

...in His service,

Kevin and Gertrude

# Nicholas News

Autumn 2003

Home Address: 3954 Atrium Drive Orlando FL 32822

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Praise the Lord!

- Our two newest African American members are doing well in their training to do literacy work (Greta) and management (Katherine).
- Two African American volunteers (Kim and Rhoda) have come on board to assist in African American Mobilization.
- We had a very productive time of ministry and great joy in introducing Kevin to Gertrude's Sursurunga family in Papua New Guinea.
- We have opportunities to build two major church mobilization partnerships with Urban Ministries, Incorporated and the Cooperative Missions Network of the African Dispersion (COMINAD).
- We have the opportunity to present two seminars at the Urbana Christian Students Conference in December 2003.
- Gertrude's sister Flora continues to experience stable health while she waits for a liver transplant.

## Daring to Dream with Bishop Kapman

This summer we visited with Rev. Gerson Kapman, the Bishop of the United Church in New Ireland Province. He oversees about 245 local congregations in New Ireland, Papua New Guinea. He dreams of a holistic self-sustaining ministry to the people of New Ireland. This vision includes completion of a Bible School, two vocational schools and a wholesale store. When we left last year the school was off to a good start and housing was being constructed for married students. This year we stood on the ground marked for construction of a wholesale store. As we walked along the property with the bishop we sensed that God is at work in the United Church in New Ireland. We tried to envision how we could join God in blessing His people in New

Ireland. Although I spent many years doing literacy and Sunday School work with most of these congregations, we want to do more to help the progress of the gospel in the language groups. Dream with us and pray with us that the Lord would bless the ministry in New Ireland.

—Gertrude



Kevin and Bishop Kapman standing on property marked for Wholesale Store

Let the peoples praise Thee, O God; Let all the peoples praise Thee. The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him. Psalm 67:5-7

Wydiffie 

## Gertrude, Sharing Marianne's Dream

Marianne Fast is a co-worker in literacy who dreams of training Papua New Guineans to teach adult literacy in their own villages and to use computers and type their own Bible stories. She and her husband Lesley completed translation of the Tungag New Testament in 1999. This year they returned to help train people from two neighboring language groups to translate the Bible in their mother tongues. It was great to re-unite with Marianne and the Tungag men who did the first Sunday School books in Tungag. They are well trained so they were a big help to us as we continued with developing Bible stories for eight other groups in New Ireland. Before I left PNG in 2000, I had generated extra funds to purchase a new computer. We found the new computer at the missionary group house where we stayed and Marianne training people to type their own stories. Marianne's dream became a reality for two ladies we worked with. Lydia and Alice typed Bible story texts in their languages. This

freed us up to make layouts and publish Sunday School books. Kevin fit in as if he'd lived in Kavieng for years. He was very supportive—doing everything from dishes to publishing books to make our time a success. Near the end of our time, it was Kevin working fulltime with the local people while Gertrude supervised and prepared food for us each day. We ended up working with texts from about 10 languages and producing books in six languages. The people continued working even as we were leaving. We saw God fulfill our dream of returning to help his people in New Ireland. God enabled us to do so much, it is difficult to tell it all. We praise Him for giving us the grace, mercy and strength to help build his kingdom in Papua New Guinea. We hope to return to Papua New Guinea in early 2005 to be a part of what God is doing in the United Church and to continue helping people to develop a four-year Sunday School curriculum in their languages.

—Gertrude



Gertrude, Marianne and Tungag men



Tigak speakers: Alice, Ertius, and Fred

## Kevin's Sursurunga Village Experiences

I had heard stories about the Sursurunga people but the time came to go meet them. Half the way was on paved roads but the other half made for a long ride on bumpy roads and rickety bridges. We finally arrived in the Sursurunga area but it took a while to get to our final destination because we had to stop and greet people along the way. At Himau Village we stopped to greet Gertrude's adopted mother, Tumsup. Both of them cried for joy to see each other again. And everyone we met seemed pleased to meet me. It had been nearly ten years since Gertrude had been there so we stopped all along the way to greet Gertrude's many sisters. At last we made it to Don and Sharon Hutchisson's house. They are nearing completion of the Sursurunga New Testament. I rejoiced to hear English again. Up to that point, I had not understood a word of Sursurunga that Gertrude was speaking with everyone. Not long after we arrived we attended a big feast. There were eight large pigs and three smaller ones that had been roasted on hot stones. The men and women sat in separate areas. Thankfully, Don sat with me to explain what was happening. Breadfruit leaves functioned as plates; these were served up with generous portions of pork, sweet potatoes, and yams which we enjoyed very much. Later, there was a constant flow of people coming and going from the house to visit with us. One of the highlights of our stay was to visit the school that Gertrude helped to start in 1991. It was exciting to see and hear about the impact that the school has made on the lives of the children. Students have a greater appreciation of their own language. They are doing so much better in their studies since they start learning in Sursurunga instead of English only. Everyone complained about our short stay but now I can put some faces to the people that I have heard so much about.

—Kevin



Gertrude with Sursurunga friends



Gertrude with Pangeifua children



Gertrude reunited with Sursurunga family