

Bible Celebration Weekend Story

On September 3rd and 4th in the Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, I had the privilege of being involved in a Celebration of God's Word. This two day celebration saw over 1000 people marching through the streets of the city lifting up the Word of God. There was an outdoor worship service in one of the major parks in the city and on Sunday evening the churches in the city put aside their denominational differences and came together to worship.



This event began as a celebration the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Although there were earlier English translations the King James Version was the one that was authorized by the government and the church of the day. Previously those who translated the Bible into the "common" language faced intense persecution. Many mark the

publishing of the King James Bible as the start of the movement to bring God's Word to the languages of the common people.

In preparing for this event I researched the history of the Bible from the explosion of the common language translations in Europe through to the founding of Wycliffe and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) and on to the current work being done in PNG. I was able to provide this information to one of the local pastors for his Sunday sermon. He reported back to me how many in his church had no idea what it took for them to be holding God's Word in their hands and were very moved by the sacrifices others had made. Many gained a greater understanding of how precious it is to have God's Word in a language that they could really understand.



With the many English translations available to us today we sometimes forget how precious the Word of God is. Remember that Jesus said "If you continue in My Word then you are truly disciples of Mine" (John 8:31b). This was a great reminder of the privilege it is to be part of the ongoing history of Bible Translation.

Mail Contributions to:

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Checks should be made payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators with a separate note saying "for the ministry of Jim and Michele Axelson"

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