

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved ... how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ... "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:13a, 14b, 15b



Winter ~~JAARS~~ Report

April - 2010



Making The Gospel Available To All Blaans

In our world today, the Gospel is presented in many media forms. The written word is foremost and the basis for all others. But it can also be heard from someone speaking, on radio, on the internet, on cassette, on CD, on digital memory "sticks", on MP3 players, and on computer hard drives. For those who find reading difficult, an audio form is essential, if they are to hear and understand God's Holy Word.

Our news today is of a dream coming true for the Blaans. Though literacy is a value for this people group, there are still many for whom reading is not an option. Our biggest concern is for the elderly who are unlikely to ever read. Others such as the sight impaired, would also have access to the Scriptures if they could hear it read or played for them.

We will tell most of this story in pictures. For too many Blaans, the printed page is a mystery, but when they hear God's Word spoken to them, they begin to hear Him speaking to their hearts.

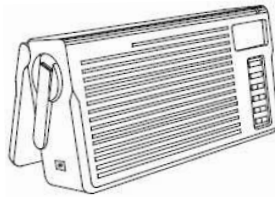


The day was **August 1st, 1996.**

Kathy and Sally had worked more than 15 years to see the Blaans receive the Book in their heart language. The dedication day was a grand celebration. Although the Blaan church had been around for years, and the Scriptures were welcome, for many the Book remained closed because they could not adequately read it.

In early 2009, we became aware of a tool that can make God's Word more accessible. Sturdy solar-powered players have now been perfected. Our own Vernacular Media department at JAARS showed us what can be done through a partner organization, Faith Comes by Hearing. FCbH has taken on the challenge to record as many languages as possible and provide players for use in

that language area. The Proclaimer is the unit FCbH designed for this purpose, but before God's Word can be loaded on the players, it first must have been translated.



PTL, Koronadal Blaan is one of these with a translated New Testament. On Nov. 18th, 2009, we got word the project was approved with a request, "...could we send FCbH a copy of the New Testament?" We said, "Yes!", and quickly put a copy in the mail. Imagine how our hearts were bubbling over with joy for the Blaans.



Egg-crate foam keeps outside noise away from the microphone.

Specially trained SIL members, Jaicheol and Meena began the recording of the Koronadal Blaan New Testament audio on January 11th. It was completed on March 9th. In that time, 24 Blaans were the "voices" of the New Testament.



After recording each voice, the audio was checked for complete accuracy



Praise 'n Prayer

- Thank you for praying. In our last letter we asked you to pray the following. "Pray with us as events start to unfold for recording the whole of the New Testament in audio. Pray for the 24 Blaans who will be the voices of the New Testament".
- The above prayer request was answered in some amazing ways. For any of you who have been following our website, you have been treated to a week by week report with pictures of God's mercy and blessing to the Koronadal Blaans. This letter tries to capture some of the high points from those glorious weeks.
- We are asking you to begin praying for the FCbH team as they work with the newly recorded Koronadal Blaan New Testament audio files. We got this in a message from Jim at FCbH, "When we receive [the audio] a quality check is done and then the recording is put into a queue for mixing and editing, where the sound effects are put into the recording and the files are prepared for mastering." This will take about six months. Pray.

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The checking crew were so excited to see the completed Koronadal Blaan Audio New Testament, that they worked into the night checking every word spoken to see that it was exactly like the original Blaan translation. While the recording is being checked, Jaicheol is working with other parts of the New Testament.



Back at the JAARS Center, these ten boxes contain life lines for our teams working in Papua New Guinea. When we order these radios for our overseas centers, we put them through a complete set of tests for two reasons. We want to be sure the radios will dependably serve the teams working in the field. Secondly we want to avoid costly return shipping for equipment that was faulty from the factory. All these radios met the test specifications.



Looking over Meena's shoulder, we see the voice pattern and the vertical "editing line" where she is cleaning up the sound. Editing might be removing a cough or a

stray click picked up by the microphone. She could also be blending in an audio retake to replace an incorrect reading. Jaicheol and Meena are using highly specialized software to make their critical job easier and more accurate.

At the completion of all the recording and accuracy checking, there was a special time of celebration at the



Davao Center. Everyone involved in the recording shared a meal and fellowship time. Then the Blaans broke out with singing that great old hymn "To God Be the Glory"—in the Blaan language. To the Christian's ear, this song says it all. While everyone was there, time was taken for one more photo op.

We praise the Lord for every person involved and most especially for Jaicheol and Meena. Without their commitment to this project, little would have been accomplished for the Blaan People group.



Spring has come to the JAARS Center in North Carolina. Besides the love we have for the work JAARS



does supporting Bible translation around the world, we enjoy the beauty of the Carolinas. These ornamental pear trees are just outside the building where Leon works in Wireless IT Communication. At coffee break time, he likes to go outside to feast his eyes on something other than spreadsheets, Internet research and e-mail requests appearing on his computer screen.

At the conclusion of recording the Blaan Audio New Testament, Meena wrote that "Pastor Saya was shedding tears and we all did during the time they were singing "To God Be the Glory" in the Blaan language."

On reading Meena's regular reports, we too felt the strong tug of joy on our hearts. God is doing something special. We are on the edge of something new for the Blaans. Marginal or non-readers in this language group are about to have greater access to the Good News of Jesus' love for them.

Thank you for your love and faithful part in our lives and work.

*See the **color** version of this letter and much more by going to our website: www.leonwinter.com*

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