

For as the rain comes down from Heaven and does not return, but waters the earth, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, So shall My word be—it shall not return to Me void, but shall accomplish what I please and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11 (summary, NKJV)



Winter **JAARS** Report

December - 2012

Maligayang Pasko,
Merry Christmas



THEY'RE AT THE STARTING GATE

In recent weeks we've been watching a dream for the Blaan people beginning to unfold. In our last few letters, we've mentioned this, but now it's beginning in earnest. Like horses at the starting gate, the Blaans are excited to begin. On October 20th, 68 pastors and



lay workers from both Blaan dialects came together to set the ground work for translating the Old Testament into the Blaan language.

The meeting was held in General Santos City, southern Mindanao. This was the town near where Sally and Kathy worked for many years.

There was balance as the participants represented five different denominations. This is good as it insures the finished Bible will be accepted by the general Blaan community.

The next seminar will cover basic translation procedures and will be five days long—no date yet. Please pray for



Small group times allowed for ideas on how to proceed. Leaders Ding Roque and Cuma Saya compare notes.

the Blaans as they begin to work together. They have asked for prayer on what to do about the expenses. We feel they need to encourage the local churches to get involved in prayer and financial participation. Since the new Bible will be used by the Blaan church, they have a mandate from God to help those doing the work.

Does this sound familiar? If it were not for the generosity of many of you, we could not keep at our roles in supporting the Bible translation effort around the world. **Thank you!**

The vision is to see Blaan individuals and communities transformed by the power of God. The meeting ended up with Pastor Cuma Saya thanking God for the meeting and asking His help to make the project a reality.

Continued on the next page...



Praise 'n Prayer

- Praise for a vibrant Blaan church. May God guide each step as they add the Old Testament to the New they already have.
- Leon's brother, Keith, is now home with his Savior. Please pray for his widow Shera and family. They needs lots of God's mercy.
- Already we are beginning to plan for our trip to the Philippines in the summer of 2013. This is a huge prayer need, as we pull travel and project funding together.
- Pray for Sally's sister-in-law, Donna, who was just told her cancer has returned to her liver. She hopes to hold her 1st grandchild due in June.



♦ Visit our website: www.leonwinter.com. ♦ Click *Archive* for past letters ♦

A few more pictures from this historic meeting:



After the presentations, there was a time for small groups to meet.

Reports from each of the small groups gave opportunity to share many ideas.

Some family news

Christmas is just ahead and Thanksgiving is fresh in our hearts. For the two



of us, we enjoyed a family visit of our youngest daughter, Kristy, her husband Dennis, and their two children, Gabe and Olivia. They came from Los Angeles, California to stay a week. We were delighted!



In September our daughter Sheri, her husband Chris, and their three boys, Aiden, Kellan, and Rowan, came from California for a few precious days. They had a family wedding to attend at the beach, but had a few days at our home as well. It was so good to see the boys



who are growing so fast, and to visit with Chris and Sheri. *Breaking news, Sheri is expecting!* 😊

Barbara and Paul's son, Dominic, our oldest grandchild, will be graduating from high school this month in South Africa. He is taking exams now. He plans to return to the U.S. for college next summer. Lord willing, we hope to be there in California when they arrive in the US from South Africa.



Hal and Angela's son, Camden, was baptized in November at EV Free, Fullerton, CA. Knowing our children are raising their children to know and honor the Lord gives us a special joy. A family that honors the Lord can always expect God to lead them through the seasons of life.

We praise God for our good health and energy to meet our many opportunities.

Dear family and ministry partners,
It's with thanksgiving we share that the Blaans will have the Old Testament. The selected team will have to work hard, but they could see it happen in 12 to 15 years. Your job will be to pray with us for them. We will keep you in the loop all the way. Your faithful part will keep us going.

By His Grace,

Leon & Sally

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

Letters, cards, e-mail, and web:

Leon & Sally Winter
6101 Stonebridge Lane
Waxhaw, NC 28173-8018
Phone: 704-256-4790

Email: leon-sally_winter@sil.org
On the web: www.leonwinter.com



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For Financial Partnership:

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

Payable to WBT with a separate note saying: "For the ministry of Leon & Sally Winter." **Thank you!**