

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <Isaiah 9:6. Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <Isaiah 7:14.



Winter **JAARS** Report

December - 2013

**Maligayang Pasko,
Merry Christmas**



Christian Worldview—Tool For Blaans

In November the Koronadal Blaans mother tongue translators met again for a seminar that will help them think through how Scripture relates to day-to-day life as they translate God's Word.

To introduce this concept successfully, it is helpful to understand how people adapt to change and what makes them resist change.

One of these concepts was how to define a Christian Worldview. They had some examples we'll share here.

Using the Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration perspective, participants made a simple exercise on worldview analysis. When we look at anything (tangible or intangible) in this world, we know three things about it.

1. It is part of God's good creation.
2. Yet it is fallen and affected by sin—distorted somehow, broken, falling short of its original purpose.
3. But it is being, and can be, redeemed.

The plan of God is to wipe all creation clean of the effects of sin until it is restored to wholeness, beauty and glory: (reconciled by the Blood of Christ).

This is the basis of Christian Worldview, and without these three perspectives, people have a distorted view of reality.

More points were: Language in the Plan of God, Culture in the Plan of God, and The Dynamics of Change.

The Blaans learned about identifying common barriers to Scripture Engagement and then discussed theological foundations.



Teaching about the Christian Worldview to Blaans mother tongue translators



Koronadal Blaans translators working on making God's Word clear for Blaans



Praise 'n Prayer

- Praise for the Blaans church. God is growing them and increasing their witness.
- Praise that our trip to the Philippines this past summer allowed us to give our encouragement to the Blaans. We learned first hand what they will need to begin Old Testament translation.
- We saw they are ready to translate the Old Testament. Pray they'll fully trust God as they step out of their comfort zone.
- Praise that the Blaans escaped the wrath of Typhoon Haiyan. But please stay in prayer for the thousands of Filipinos still suffering from the massive destruction.
- Pray for us that our light will shine strong for Jesus.

Continued on the next page...

Looking Ahead

According to a recent e-mail from Pastor Cuma, the team of Blaen pastors is encouraged to get underway with the translation work. It is hard for them, with limited resources and a lack of confidence. Please pray that God will help them with their first steps, as they organize themselves and plunge into this God-sized task. We believe that as they move forward they will see God meet their needs and build confidence in them.

We are grateful for those who have committed to pray for the Koronadal Blaen team. There has never been a time when they need spiritual support as now. It will take some funding, but as we learn what they need in the way of computing power, we plan to help make these purchases. Their list of needs is extensive.

Our Quiet Lives

We continue to serve the Lord here at the JAARS Center and at Metrolina Christian Academy. We love our involvement in the work of the Lord, using the gifts and talents He has given us. We do not take for granted the blessing we have in our world involvement—here at JAARS and in the Philippines. Each day when we both get home we take a 2-mile walk to reconnect and reflect on our day and God's countless blessings.

We are glad that God has kept us in good health. We have our minor aches and pains, but all in all, we are doing well. Sally had oral surgery recently to perform a bone graft in her jaw, but she snapped back the next day. So God has blessed us with good, resilient health.

Our family of children and grandchildren continue to do well. We stay in touch through phone calls and Skype and watch the growth of our grandchildren with pictures on Facebook.

The Season Around Us

This time of year can be the source of great joy but also great distress. We read about people standing in shopping lines on Thanksgiving Day instead of spending time contemplating thankfulness with their loved ones, of people fighting over purchases, and stealing Salvation Army kettles. It can cause us to lose faith in what is good, but then we must redirect our thinking to

what really is good: the arrival on Planet Earth of the Savior for all of mankind, transcending time. When the world seems to be spinning out of control, and it feels like everything moral has become immoral, we need to turn our eyes and hearts back to the Savior and allow Him to fill us with hope for what will surely come.

We remember how well the Filipinos celebrate all of Christmas. The Christmas star seems to fire up their gift of imagination. The parol is a handmade image of the star. Here is a *picture of what we enjoyed every Christmas for the 30 years we lived in the Philippines.



This year will be hard for Filipinos caught in Typhoon Haiyan's fury. Pray for the rescue work happening even as we send this letter out to each of you. Some from

JAARS have gone over to help Samaritan's Purse with the relief effort through aviation. We are very thankful that none of the Blaen believers we work with were caught in this storm, since they live far to the south of the typhoon's path.

Dear family and ministry partners,

Year by year, we celebrate as Christians have for two thousand years. The older we become, the less we are interested in the trappings the world pushes upon us. We love the age-old story in the Scriptures of Jesus' birth and His life lived for us. The true ornaments for us are each of you who love us, who pray and give to keep us in His service.

By His Grace,

Leon & Sally

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.
(2 Thess. 3:16, NIV)

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

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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



www.Wycliffe.org

Send support for our ministry to:

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