

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. *Psalm 43:3 (NIV)*



Winter **JAARS** Report

March - 2011



God directed change makes waiting a good thing

Change is our most common companion. It's not always easy to handle, but some are pleasantly received. Take the change from January 10th when we were shivering in the below-freezing temps, and Mr. & Mrs. Cardinal did the same at our snow capped bird feeder. Then just this morning I snapped the picture above of the daffodils that are blooming under the same feeder. Now there is a welcome sight! It is amazing what can change in seven weeks.



Since 1996, the Koronadal Blaans have had the complete New Testament to read, leading to a growing church. Still there's been need for another change—a way to make God's Word understandable to the many Blaans who do not read or struggle to read. God has answered with another welcome change.

In our last letter, we gave some wonderful details on the new audio Bible players that are arriving in the Philippines. These are still coming—about 50 we know of to date. We shared in that letter about our upcoming trip to the Philippines in July to help the Blaans with



Proclaimer Player

using their new players in structured, group Bible studies.

As if that was not enough change, we have more good news in regard to the Blaans audio work. After several months of negotiation, we have received the 4 DVD master disks for the Koronadal Blaans New Testament audio. Having these DVD's is a direct answer to a prayer request we gave in our last letter. This is different from the Blaans Audio Bible, which is the spoken Word of God with dubbed background sounds that fit the passage being read. Examples are the sound of a raging sea and wind when Jesus calms the storm on Galilee. Another would be the sound of an angry crowd in Pontius Pilate's court when Jesus is being sent to the Cross.

The DVD masters are the recorded New Testament audio—word for word—without other sounds. Just like when you read God's word aloud. Why is this important? Having these audio files will make it possible to produce Blaans audio study books for children and adults using Scripture portions. This will further enhance the structured Bible studies in the Philippines. We can do this with the help of the Vernacular Media Department here at JAARS. More about these tools in future letters.

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Praise 'n Prayer

- We praise God all goes well with Pastor Cuma his family.
- Praise for the release of the plain language version of the audio New Testament. Pray for its use in future projects.
- Praise that Metrolina Christian Academy students donated about 150 t-shirts. With printing added, Pastor Cuma uses them in Scripture reading contests.
- Pray for our travel plans to the Philippines in July. We are ordering tickets now.
- Praise for a wonderful Christmas with our family in California.
- Praise for the safe though early arrival of Olivia MacKenzie, our newest family member.
- Pray for our sister-in-law Barbara who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- In June, we are traveling to Israel with a group of linguists on a Biblical study tour. We joyfully anticipate this blessing.

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

Haiti Ministry Trip

The week of February 6, I (Leon) went with 12 others to Haiti. We were known as “Team 60” from the North Carolina Baptist Men. We were housed at the Samaritan’s Purse compound about a 45 minute drive north of Port-au-Prince.



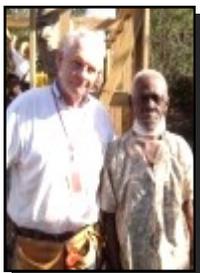
Very soon after landing in Port-au-Prince, the capital city, we began to see evidence of the earthquake with the many cracked walls and

piles of rubble—a year later. Then our host took us to see the mass grave where some 280,000 bodies are buried. We just stood there, not really able to comprehend that number.



Jerry and Betty, a delightful couple, were the coordinators who welcomed us and began our orientation. Our group was divided into three teams: two medical clinic teams and the construction team where I worked.

We built small temporary houses and most days could build two houses in the morning and two more in the afternoon. When each house was completed, the



family receiving it would be there for a short dedication service. They were presented with a Bible in Creole and some household items. We then sang songs, and a dedication prayer was given by one of our group through an interpreter.

While the construction team was out building houses, the clinic teams were working in various locations. Sometimes the clinics were held at an orphanage, or a town center, or even an elementary school. One of our group was a paramedic. The rest filled in where needed. Some did triage with the help



of an interpreter, recorded the patients health concerns, took blood pressures, and checked blood sugar levels. Each day, the clinic started with a devo-



tion, hymn, and prayer.

One team member spoke of how moving it was to hear “How Great Thou Art” sung in Creole. The clinic teams ministered to more

than 1,200 people, mostly mothers and children.

Welcome Olivia MacKenzie

We welcome to our family Olivia MacKenzie Osbekoff, a new daughter for Kristy and Dennis. Olivia surprised us all by arriving five weeks early, weighing in at 4 pounds 5 ounces. After nearly a week in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) she is now home and growing quickly. Big brother Gabe is very attentive and gentle with his little sister.



In April we will be welcoming our newest family member when Sheri has her baby. This will bring our grandchild count to 10 and our family count to 20! Sally is going to California later this month to meet Olivia and be there when Sheri gives birth. Just thinking of going makes her smile!

We marvel at the varied service God brings our way. Working in Haiti in 95°F heat, we were as tired as we have ever been but felt a wonderful joy. The Lord had let us be His tools to help others experience His love. Pray that our tiny influence for Him brings souls into His Kingdom.

In His service,

Leon Sally

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

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