

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1b – 2 (NIV)



Winter **JAARS** Report



March - April - 2012

Spring in January, February, and March

There are few places in the US that are having “normal” weather. Ours has been so warm when compared with the last three we’ve experienced since taking up our assignments at JAARS.

We love walking at the close of the day and find it to be a blessing as we reconnect after not seeing each other all day. Last evening, we saw a Bradford Pear in bloom—*like in the upper left*. This should not be happening for another month or so. It’s evidence of the extra warm winter we are enjoying.



We had a house guest for a week in February. Elisabeth was down from New Hampshire to attend important meetings related to her role as a JAARS advocate where she lives.

Elisabeth was especially impressed when we showed her our Proclaimer with the Koronadal Blaan New Testament audio. With Sally’s help, she was able to follow the words in the Blaan

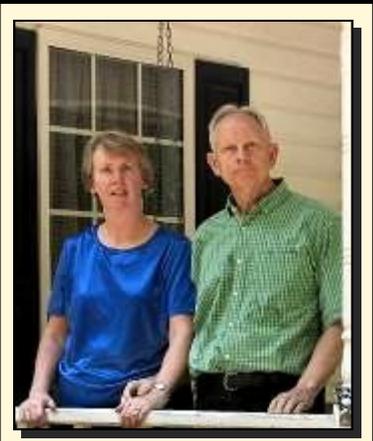
New Testament. She discovered that the recorded audio is truly word for word the same as the written Word of God in Blaan. Watching and listening to her got us excited all over again, too. God’s Word in any language is something to get excited about. This reminds us yet again to give a word of thanks for our faithful team for keeping us able to stay at our Kingdom tasks.

Sally counts it a great privilege to be using her gift of teaching in a Christian school environment. Her class of 5th grade students enjoys the history and science lessons she brings. Currently, Sally has been teaching about the 50’s which includes the Korean War. Her next section will be the 60’s and, of course, the Viet Nam War.



By far the students’ favorite classes are Sally’s science subjects. They love the hands-on way she teaches. These students are constructing simple “cars” that are rubber band-powered.

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Praise ‘n Prayer

- Praise for God’s evident care as we live our daily lives. Especially for protecting Sally when, on rounding a turn, there were three deer standing in her lane.
- The unusual weather has caused some tragedies. Pray for recovery for the many who have lost their homes in the tornados this year.
- Pray for safety for Pastor Cuma as he does ministry with his motorcycle on many mountain trails.
- Pray for grandson Dominic as he will matriculate in the South African school system leading to graduation. A lot of work is ahead for him.
- Praise God for safety for Leon, but keep praying as he is in some precarious places from time to time.

News from Blaan Country

We wish the news were more exciting in this area. We are trusting that God is moving according to His plan. From our 30 years working in the Philippines, we are ever aware that things move more slowly in other countries.

In January, Pastor Cuma and leaders from several church groups got together and discussed the need for the Blaan Old Testament. All these leaders are very enthusiastic about having the Old Testament and some even said, "Can we start now?"

Word has been forwarded on to our SIL colleagues, in particular about training the team in the basics of translation. For now, we wait patiently for things to begin happening. Please pray with us that this great desire among the Blaan to have the Old Testament will not fade as they wait to receive training. These Blaan pastors do have many other things to do. They are busy with preaching, evangelism, and teaching in their own churches.

Otherwise Pastor Cuma stays very busy supervising the new churches, distributing New Testaments and hymnals, and generally staying in touch with church leaders among the Blaans and other neighboring language groups. We pray for his safety as he travels around the hills on his motorcycle.

Leon keeps busy in radio and communication



work at the JAARS Center. In the picture here, he is mounting a test beam antenna to be used to show the ability of our team to do emergency communication in a field situation. We do this with portable power only. This will be from a gasoline generator and also from solar panels. Each system will be completely self-contained. The kinds of radio

transmissions will be in the HF, VHF and UHF frequency range and with both voice and digital modulation. We will also be using low power computers with the solar system.

Family news

We keep tabs on the kids and grandkids from across the country and across the Atlantic Ocean. All are well and busy with their lives.

Grandson #1, Dominic, is in his last year of high school in South Africa. It is hard to believe this as he was a little boy of two when we married, and now he is a fine young man with college decisions to make. Pray for Dominic as this will be a tough year. His school uses a British-type system of schooling which means some very important testing happens in the final year of high school.



The younger grandchildren are growing like weeds. Chloe graduates from 8th grade this year. Sally remembers rocking her as a baby. Olivia turned one on Valentines Day. She has developed a milk intolerance so Kristy is trying to find an alternative that Olivia likes and tolerates. She is tiny and needs to grow and gain some weight. Her older brother Gabe is being homeschooled and is reading books, including his children's Bible. We are so grateful that all of our grandchildren are growing up attending church and learning to love the Lord.

Dear family and partners,

Our biggest prayer request is where our hearts are always most deeply drawn. That is, the work among the Koronadal Blaan. Pray! Pray! Pray!

Thank you for your many prayers and generous gifts. Our work continues as our needs are supplied by faithful partners.

Joyfully in Christ,

Leon Sally

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

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