

The translation work is completed, the dedication program is planned, and preparations were being made when I left to go study in Kenya. As now, it is a celebration of what has been done—a thanksgiving to God for what He has done. My pleasure is that the task is completed, the people of God there (the churches in Bandi land) are involved and will this day handle God’s communication to man in the very language that is their own. Now, the Bandi people have Heaven’s door opened wider, as the veil is removed now—that is my pleasure and celebration. If literacy will succeed and the churches will make the most use of the Bible and the literacy program, that will be my pleasure and actual celebration even more than the celebration now. I pray that nothing will hinder the entire program.

*Ngaima Kawala
Liberia*

Sebastián

In San Andrés, Ed had many opportunities to take neighbors, friends, and passers-by to church events. Our neighbor and caretaker, Sebastián, went along on many of Ed’s trips, visiting several churches. Although he was unwilling to commit himself to Christ, he had asked Ed to pray with him when he was frightened by the spirit of his dead mother.

Sebastián never did pray with us to receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life, so when we learned of his death we felt really sad and empty, thinking we’d never see him again.

A few weeks later, however, I telephoned a friend from San Andrés to chat, and she told me an amazing and heart-warming story.

Fernando, a man for whom we had been praying but had not recently heard anything about, had become a Christian. He visited Sebastián several times before he died to talk about Christ. On his last visit, he took along the pastor, and they prayed with Sebastián for him to come to faith in Christ.

Ed and I wept for joy, and the kids were thrilled too. We’re all so happy that we’ll be together again some day in Heaven with Christ! It is one more example of “...servants who helped [someone] come to faith. Each did what the Lord gave him to do. [One] planted, [one] watered, but God made it grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have the same goal ... God’s field...” (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).

*Ed and Mary Fox
Guatemala*

Each of the workshops we have done in the past few months were focused on using God’s Word in the language of the people. Pages could be written about how God has blessed our workshops, but due to lack of time and space we can only share one example of how God’s Word can impact the lives of people when they hear His Word in their heart language.

The workshops Alvina did in rural Liberia drew a lot of observers in addition to the participants. The bishop of one of the largest church denominations in the eastern part of Liberia was among many who came just to see what we were doing. He was so intrigued that traditional stories could be used to teach Scriptural truths from the Bible, that he ended up staying for the entire workshop.

Sexual immorality is a serious problem in Liberia. Therefore Dale had the participants read I Corinthians chapters 5:1-7:11 from the Bible in their language to learn what God says about the seriousness of this sin and how to prevent it. This exercise has always generated a great deal of discussion in the workshops. However at the workshop the bishop was attending, Alvina noted that the entire group of about 45 people sat spellbound as they heard God’s Word, and then she noticed uninhibited tears flowing from the bishop’s eyes. This man who has had a western education equal to most pastors in the States, for the first time felt the impact of God’s Word, because he was hearing it in his mother tongue. Many other exciting things happened as a result of this incident, but foremost was the fact that the bishop has committed himself to ensuring that all the pastors within his authority will learn to read Scripture in the language of the people.

*Alvina Federwitz
Liberia*

Praise God for Bible Translation

Wow! If we were to ever wonder how important a single translation could be, let that doubt be put to rest. We have been given ... no ... blessed with the responsibility to see that God’s Word passionately and clearly speaks to all people. In fact, if you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the work of a translator has impacted your life. We have many translations in English and we should thank God for all of them. We want translations that will speak to a variety of English speakers. But we ask that we not stop there. We’d encourage rejoicing in prayer and in the support of Bible translation ministry. It’s not easy, but to use Luther’s time as an example, the fruit of the work is beyond what any of us can see.

*Shawn and Jill Boylan
Namibia*