



2005 Annual Report on Activities, Goals and Finances Kyle and Kathy Harris

*Lower Ramu Bible Translation Ministry
Pioneer Bible Translators
Papua New Guinea*

2005 Activities

As missionaries we are constantly learning to be flexible as plans and programs change. Last year was a perfect example of that need for flexibility. Our year began on the Tennessee River sailing our way to the Gulf of Mexico. The plans were to get to Mobile Alabama, complete the refit of our boat, and begin our voyage back to PNG with the goal of arriving there some time in the late summer.

All went according to plan until we were half-way across the Gulf where we encountered a severe storm with gale force winds and high seas. While the boat did very well, the stress of the storm caused Kathy's diabetes to take a turn for the worse and it was several weeks before she could completely get her glucose levels under control again. That presented us with a dilemma. Should we assume that she would be okay and continue the trip from Mexico or should we return to the US to allow her to get some tests run while consulting her endocrinologist about the wisdom of continuing the lengthy voyage. We finally decided to temporarily delay the trip and return to the US.

In May we arrived back and were able to get in quickly to see the doctor. The tests showed that everything was back to normal and the doctor was able to give Kathy some encouragement and advice about how to handle the diabetes on passage. We were ready to continue the trip but unfortunately the start of hurricane season was only days away. Therefore, we decided to change gears again and remain in Mobile until the end of the hurricane season before continuing on.

This unplanned layover actually proved to be one of the most productive periods we have had in the past few years. We took the time to work on continuing the development of translation manuals to be used in our workshops. These manuals are written in Melanesian Pidgin and are designed to be used by any educated Pidgin speaker as a guide for doing a rough draft translation into any Papuan language. During the time in Mobile we were able to complete manuals for most of the book of Mark. We also started a manual covering the Christmas and Easter stories. The draft versions have been sent off to other PBT members for suggestions and comments. We hope to be able to incorporate those suggestions into finished versions as soon as we return to PNG. The opportunity to move this project forward is exciting to us. It has the potential of expanding our ministry far beyond the five lower Ramu language groups.

By November we were ready to resume our trip back to PNG but as you may know the hurricane season was still alive and well. Finally by the first week of December we felt that it was safe to head out again so we left Mobile, followed the coast of Florida around to Fort Myers Beach, and departed the US from there on our way to Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, and Panama. The trip so far has been good. We completed our transit of the Panama Canal the third week of March. The first week of April we will be leaving for a fast transit of the Pacific.

Besides the work on the translation manuals, the extra time in the US allowed us to attend the wedding of our son in September and it also allowed us a few extra visits to supporters. In all, even though it was disappointing to be delayed, we could see the Lord's hand at work.

Goals for 2005

We have four main goals for 2006:

1. **Complete the trip to PNG.** We left Mobile Alabama in December 2005 and are currently preparing to leave the west coast of Panama for Papua New Guinea. Our goal is to arrive in PNG some time around the end of July. So far the trip has been challenging but with the Lord's help and protection none of those challenges have been dangerous.
2. **Make contact again with all the Lower Ramu language groups.** As soon as possible after arriving in PNG, we will travel out to the lower Ramu area to visit with each of the five language groups. Because we have been gone from PNG longer than expected, our purpose for this trip will be to evaluate the general level of interest in each group for Bible translation and literacy and to determine who among the original workshop participants are still interested. This first visit will allow us to determine the next steps to be taken in each language group in order to get the program up and running again.
3. **Attend Peacemakers Seminar in Madang.** Pioneer Bible Translators is requiring attendance at a conflict resolution seminar for each of its personnel. This seminar will be held in Madang in September.
4. **Complete Jonah workshop in Marangis language group.** Just before our furlough we were able to do alphabet and writers workshops in Marangis. At the end of those workshops the people of Marangis were very excited about continuing with Bible translation. We were disappointed in not being able to conduct the first translation workshop there before our furlough. If it can be scheduled, we would like to hold the Jonah translation workshop there before the end of the year.

2005 Financial Report

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Contributions ¹	\$43,690.90
Personal Expenses	
Salary	\$28,250.00
Benefits – Health Insurance	\$6,491.73
Total Salary and Benefits	\$34,741.73
Ministry Expenses	
Legal Fees	\$75.04
Tech/Prof Services	\$0.13
Supplies General	\$294.28
Supplies Office	\$14.46
Telecommunication	\$854.30
Postage	\$616.51
Promotion	\$161.07
Rent Equipment	\$443.71
Printing Promotion	\$44.71
Travel General	\$178.02
Travel Promotion	\$1,769.04
Travel Int'l Relocation	\$256.92
Non-Capital Equip	\$861.76
Insurance Property	\$986.75
Team Ministry ²	\$5,233.91
Total Ministry Expenses	\$11,790.60
Expenses over Income	(2841.43)

Notes:

¹ This includes \$2,250 that was designated for upgrades on the boat.

² Team ministry is the 12% assessment that goes towards administrative costs in the US (4%) and group expenses in PNG (8%).