

Lewis and Judy's Labours of Joy November 2022

Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. Habakkuk 3:18

Translating Scripture, Preparing Bible Lessons, Writing Tracts and Booklets, Training National Missionaries

"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." Ezra 7:10

Our heart's desire is to see Owena men who, like Ezra, will prepare their hearts to seek the law of the LORD, and not only to seek it, but to do it, and then be able to teach it! So many Owenians who have been churched for many years just "serve the Lord" according to their own ideas because they have not been taught and they have not sought the law or how to do it. The leaders of the churches have turned their backs on the Biblical teaching Lewis gave them in years past and has strived to give them in more recent days, and they have accepted the teaching of others because "that is the way everyone else is doing it." They have publicly pronounced Lewis to be wrong and have decided that "we'll just let him do his own thing, and we'll do our own thing."

Still we ourselves endeavor to be like Ezra, preparing our hearts to seek God's word, to do it, and to teach it. Of great importance in relation to that is the need to put the written Word into the hands of PNG people. The Owenians have been begging us for the past few years to hurry and get the Scriptures printed for them. The Melanesian Pidgin New Testament is ready for printing, and we thought we had a good contact for getting it printed. However, the lack of efficient e-mail service was making it difficult to communicate, and thus we faced a lot of frustration. This problem, however, has caused us to look at things from a different angle, and we are now looking into publishers here in PNG (or perhaps Australia) with whom the PNG people themselves can communicate in the future and have new printings done as needed. Please remember this need as you pray.

The missionary training program gives us another opportunity to follow Ezra's example. On August 26, classes ended for the second year of Soldiers of Christ Missionary

School. Ana still had catch-up work to do as she had missed the first couple weeks of school, but she put her heart to that task and did it cheerfully.





On October 12 we were able to hold the graduation exercises. It was a joy to us and a blessing to the guests to hear the testimonies of our two graduates, Ana and Anna Jean. Since our space is small, there was only room for immediate family to observe the graduation. One representative from each of the three Owena churches (one from each village) also attended the program as they wanted to learn more about the school. As we look toward the future of SCMS, we ask you to pray for God's clear direction in several matters:

1. Whether we should continue looking for facilities in town, or if we should add on to existing facilities.

2. That the Lord will raise up faithful men whom we can train to be teachers and to oversee this ministry.

3. Opportunities for making the ministry known to other churches

4. That the Lord will send us students with hungry, teachable hearts.

One young lady has already expressed her desire to be a part of next year's missionary training program. Her name is E'avare (pronounced 8-avah-ray) and she is newly saved. Her parents and siblings are all unsaved and so is her husband. However, her husband is in favor of her attending SCMS. Please pray for E'avare.

We have been preparing our hearts, too, to find more ways to minister to those who come to our door day by day. The majority of them come to have their phones charged, but most do not stay long enough for us to carry on a lengthy conversation. Therefore, we have begun printing out and giving out small cards with Bible verses to give to each one. We praise the Lord that these are readily received, and we pray that they will open the door for a greater witness. There are still many Owena souls, especially youth, who need to be saved.

A young man named Enoch thanked Lewis for the Bible verses, saying that they are a big help to him in translating the Bible into the Owena language. Enoch is a member of a mission that believes in following the law for salvation. However, the Baptist churches in Owena have shown no interest in translating God's word into their own language. We pray that, as Enoch applies his heart to doing that work, the Scriptures will speak to his heart and bring him to a knowledge of the truth.

## Because He is worthy,

Lewis and Judy Young <u>http://laborsofjoy.weebly.com/</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>owenaopportunity</u> lwjlyoung@earthlink.net In September, Lewis completed the Pidgin translation of the Old Testament and has begun proofreading and making corrections and revisions. This is just the beginning, however, and the task of proofreading and revising will need to be done many times before it will be ready for printing.

## <u>Praise God</u>

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 For His provision of grace for trials, daily strength and health, wisdom and guidance to do His will and work, encouragement from His Word, joy in serving Him
For the completion of another year of SCMS and the

> growth and changes we have seen in the lives of the two students, Ana and Anna Jean

 For His help and guidance for Lewis in completing the first draft of the Pidgin translation of the Old Testament

4) The Lord has sent small amounts of rain, but much more is needed to make the ground tillable for gardens which the people depend upon for their sustenance

5) For all of you who share a part in reaching the Owena people and the world as you pray, give, and encourage your missionaries in many ways.

## Please Pray

1) For more laborers to be raised up from among the Owena people and believers throughout the world

2) For the printing of the Melanesian Pidgin New Testament, and the completion of the Old Testament

 For the salvation of Enoch and many other Owena souls as well as souls in neighboring people groups all around us

4) For the needs for the future ministry of Solders of Christ Missionary School (see above)

5) For Mike and Taqita and family as they seek the Lord's will for their future ministry. They spent most of this year in Minj, and they learned much about trusting the Lord for their needs and serving the Lord even through trials. However, the man who had called them to come and help him was seeking to control every aspect of their lives and gave them no freedom to minister as the Lord should lead them.

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