



THURSDAY

GOD SO LOVED...

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(OUR MISSIONARY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA)

Read John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9

These are two key verses that we hear in the church often. In fact I remember John 3:16 being one of the first verses ever learned as a young child. Ephesians 2:8 has been one of Rowlie's favorite verses for as long as I have known him and he has shared it several times over in church services. You say, So what? This week we are partaking in meals of just beans and rice to grow an awareness of what the least of these of the world experience every day. We are participating in eating these meals because we want to raise an awareness of how difficult it is for some people in the world to buy much more than the basics of beans and rice.

Today, I want you to consider the least of these in another perspective. Pray for them in the context of Spiritual suffering. In the country of Papua New Guinea I am partnering with an organization (Pioneer Bible Translators) to translate the Word of God into 15 different languages groups. Currently 13 of the 15 languages groups do not have John 3:16 or Ephesians 2:8-9 translated into their mother tongue language (their first language, language of best understanding). So what? The translation that the speakers of the 13 language groups use in their church services, if church services or Bible studies occur, use a very vague translation. The word used to roughly translate love in the translation is "laikim" the same word used in conversation if one person is to say they "like" something. Slight difference in depth of meaning don't you think? The word for grace "God is kism bek yupela" roughly meaning God has "got us." Again, huge difference!

Can you imagine not understanding the depth of Christ's love and grace? Can you hear the cries of the men and women of this world wanting to hear the Good News? Think about not being able to communicate your favorite passage of Scripture to someone because the lack of resources to compare it in someone's heart language? I think about it constantly as I pray Ephesians 3:14-21 (sit down and read it) for the least of these. I pray that one day God will grant me the opportunity to sit in the mud of a village in Papua New Guinea and read this passage of Scripture with men and women of the ApMa language group and see their eyes become open to the depth of Christ's love for them. For you see the men and women of Papua New Guinea do have words that display the depth of the word LOVE in their heart language...but there is something missing from the equation, the translation has not been done in these languages. They are waiting for someone to come and help them. Some of the language groups we work in have had work started but for some reason or another the person helping them had to leave. They are praying and asking the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into their harvest field.

Join the men and women of Papua New Guinea on your knees. Plead with the least of these to the Heavenly Father for more workers. Hear their cries and let your heartbeat become one with the heartbeat of those in need of Spiritual nutrition.