

December 2012

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.’ ” Luke 2:10

Dear Friends,

December 6 is the 40th anniversary of our first contact with the Kobon people. We were very happy to find that they were just the kind of people the Lord had already laid on our hearts before we left home. They were living in a very isolated location and had not yet had any opportunity to hear the good news of great joy for all people.

It is interesting to reflect on how different it would have been for Jesus being born and growing up in Galilee 2000 years ago than it is here in the US today. And when we compare Jesus' birth and childhood in Galilee with life in Kobonland today, the differences are also amazing. For example, Jesus would have used metal tools in Joseph's carpenter's shop but until recently the Haruai, Kobon and Minimib people had no metal tools; they were "stone-age" people who used stone axes. To plane their bows they still use a pig's tusk. Jesus used metal coins, but these people's currency is shells. Jesus could read and write because his language had an alphabet, but these people could not read or write because they did not have a written language.

It is only because the Word became flesh that there is good news of great joy to be shared with all people everywhere, including the Haruai, Kobon and Minimib. In fact, they have responded to the Good News so enthusiastically that all the Kobon New Testaments are now gone, and we are having 1000 more copies printed.

Another exciting development is the AudiBible which makes it possible to bring the Word of God to people who can not read. The whole of the New Testament can be recorded onto the AudiBible. Simple buttons enable the user to navigate from book to book, chapter to chapter. It is powered by solar. We plan to record all three New Testaments so that people who can not read can nevertheless hear the good news of great joy.

Thank you for all your prayers and support without which this work would not be possible. A Blessed Advent and Christmas to you.

Peace and Joy!

Pastor John and Maila

