

October 2013

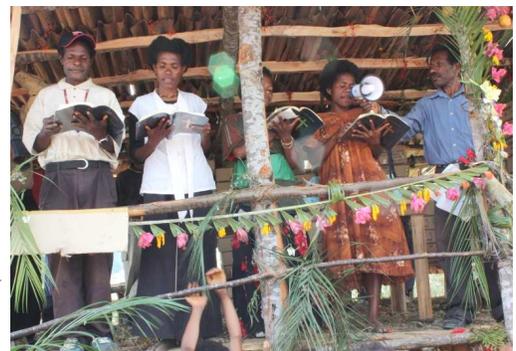
On the front cover of the Haruai, Kobon and Minimib New Testaments is a large gold cross which summarizes the precious content of the Scriptures – salvation through the Cross of Christ. There are also two words warning of the highly inflammable material contained between the covers: “Living Word” – the Word that is alive and the Word that gives life. As our Minimib New Testament translation assistant Lindon put it so well: “Jesus comes to us through his Word.”

It was because they knew the transforming power of the Living Word in individuals and whole societies that the 16th century leaders of the Catholic church hunted down copies of this dangerous book to burn them. They also hunted down people who dared to translate it so that their fellow English-speaking and German-speaking citizens could read it for themselves and experience the transforming power of the Word of God in their own lives. The leaders of the Catholic church were all too well aware that unless it was ruthlessly stamped out, the transformation of individuals could have only one result — the transformation of entire societies and countries.



Kobon New Testament Celebration

Over the past 40 years we have had the joy of seeing Jesus coming to Haruai, Kobon and Minimib people through His Word. As people whose lives were previously filled with fear, hatred, vengeance, and killing have been transformed by the Word of God, the communities in which they live have also been transformed. Previously they had no concept of forgiveness and no word for forgiveness, but once they grasped that Jesus expects us to bring our lives into line with His Word, they had to learn what it means to forgive as Jesus Christ has forgiven us. Hatred, vengeance and killing were no longer an option. For example, all but one member of the Kobon community in which we lived for the first 27 years is now a Christian, and the whole foundation of the community has changed.



Minimib New Testament Celebration

As this same process of transformation by Jesus through His Word has taken place throughout the Kobon language group, the foundation of the whole of Kobon society has changed. And as this process of transformation by Jesus through His Word has also taken place in the neighboring Haruai and Minimib language groups, the relationship between people from the three language groups has also changed since they all now have a common foundation to their lives – Jesus and His Word.



Haruai New Testament Celebration

Thank you for being part of the team through your prayers and gifts—without you this work would not be possible.

In His Love and Grace,

John and Maila

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Any gift for the Kobon work should be made payable to “LOC - Kobon Ministry” and placed in the church offering.