

*The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit.... – Hebrews 4:12*



Andy's shirt represents an amazing work of God in the Solomons. The government has agreed to call this year "Yia Blong Baebol" or "Year of the Bible" in honor of three Bible dedications. T-shirts like Andy's are just the beginning. The newspaper has given a page each week for a Bible story and devotion. The government is sponsoring a few Pijin Bible verses to play on the radio each day and has even agreed to pay for some of the printing of the Pijin Bible. What an amazing way for Solomon Islanders to hear the Word of God. Only God could have made this possible!

### *The Work—The good and the hard*

Andy's main job right now is to learn Pijin and learn about key people and places in town. In the midst of his orientation, he's also been able to help with the finances for the branch for this month and begin shopping for the literacy workshop that will be held in May. He's enjoyed doing the job he came to do but is disappointed that his Pijin teacher hasn't been available yet to work with him as he really wants the practice.

Julie has been helping Andy learn his way around town and has been working to jump start the translation project again. After months of no contact with George and David, it is nice to talk to David via radio again. She is enjoying reconnecting with Kwaio friends, meeting new Kwaio people in town, and meeting the neighbors, but she forgot how long "normal" things take here and is struggling to readjust her expectations to that part of life.

### *A Glimpse into the Solomons*

When we stepped off the plane after 32 hours of travel, we were greeted by a blast of hot, humid air and a chorus of Wycliffe members singing "Happy Birthday" to Andy from the tarmac. As we traveled to our flat from the airport, we saw small stands with people selling their produce, groups of boys playing soccer, and the ever present fishing rigs in the ocean.

The next morning we woke to the sounds of neighbors scraping coconuts for the morning meal, a rooster choir practicing in the neighborhood, people talking on the road outside our house, and dogs fighting over some scraps. Already the humidity had caused our paper to go soggy and our pictures to curl, a reality in a country that averages 138 inches of rain per year. As we began our first full day in the Solomons, we took a moment to thank God because whatever the day holds, we are back where God has called us to be.



*Japanese fishing boats are always in the waters outside of the capital city, catching fish to sell in Japan. It's an ever present reminder of Jesus' statement, "I will make you fishers of men." Our prayer is that we will be as diligent in seeking the lost as the men on the fishing boats are at seeking fish.*

The last few months of furlough went really well. We were thrilled to be able to help with a variety of projects at our supporting churches. At Julie's home church in Chicago, we were able to help build the set for the "Passion" play and hand out thousands of invitations for people to come (see picture on right). All told from January - April, we traveled more than 3500 miles, visited seven churches, and met with hundreds of people. We are truly thankful for the chance to see so many of you before we left!



### Praises

- God worked out our visa situation with the perfect timing, and we were able to enter the country.
- We have found a new person who is willing to help Andy with his Pijin.
- We have met a lot of Kwaio people in town.
- We were able to see Julie's parents for 10 days when we got to the Solomons.
- Julie remembers more Kwaio than she thought she would after being gone for a year.

### Prayers

- Pray that Andy will quickly feel comfortable with Pijin.
- Pray that some of the Kwaio people we have met in town will be willing to help with the translation project.
- Pray for the trip to the village that we are planning in June. Pray for protection and good contacts as we tour around the Kwaio area to promote the Bible and check Key Terms and dialect issues.
- Pray for the literacy workshop in Honiara in May. Pray also for Andy as he will be taking care of all the logistics for the workshop.

*Jesus said, "From now on, go and do nothing but sin." John 8:11*

What?? That's not what that verse says. However, that's what a Solomon Islander would hear if someone read this verse in English. When this verse says to "sin no more," it sounds just like *nomoa*, which is the Pijin word for "just" or "only" and gives the completely wrong meaning. Can you imagine hearing a pastor say the verse as stated above? How hard it would be to understand the Bible! That's why people need the Bible in a language that truly speaks to them. That's why we are here!



*A traditional village welcome in the Solomons.*

Serving with you for the glory of God,

Andy and Julie Pierce

For Correspondence: c/o SITAG PO Box 986  
 Honiara Solomon Islands  
[andy\\_pierce@sil.org](mailto:andy_pierce@sil.org) or [julie\\_pierce@sil.org](mailto:julie_pierce@sil.org)

For Gifts: Wycliffe Bible Translators PO Box 628200  
 Orlando, FL 32862 (note on a separate paper:  
**For Andy and Julie Pierce #214597**)