



Lutheran Bible Translators *Messenger*

Two Kinds of Gold

The Ipili people of Papua New Guinea are learning that there are two kinds of gold — and why one is far more valuable than the other.

The Ipili live in Payam — Enga Province, an isolated, mountainous region in western Papua New Guinea. They can now begin to read in their own language and understand for themselves why the gold of God’s Word and Christ’s love is more precious than the metal found in the nearby gold mine.

On August 13, the Ipili New Testament, a translation that took more than 30 years to complete, was dedicated in front of a large, enthusiastic crowd. The ceremony, pageantry and celebration surrounding this joyous event overflowed the athletic stadium in which it was held.

The Ipili people, numbering about 26,000, work as subsistence farmers or in the nearby gold mine. They are a minority in the Province, where Enga is the largest group of people and the primary, “official” language. The Ipili had waited a long time to hear the Word of God spoken in their heart language.

Rev. Terry Borchard began serving as an evangelistic missionary among the Ipili people through LCMS World Mission in 1970. At that time, several Ipili men tried to

translate the Scripture readings into their own language during church services, but the translation was lacking in quality. In 1976, Rev. Borchard

began translating the New Testament into Ipili. After the death of his wife in 1997, he married Janet Kunkel, a missionary with LBT, in 1998. The Ipili translation soon became an LBT project.

The dedication ceremony was planned, implemented and managed completely by members of the Ipili community. It included a helicopter descending from the heavens carrying Rev. Borchard and one copy of the Ipili New Testament to symbolize God’s Word coming down from heaven. After Rev. Borchard placed the New Testament into a large white box, four men dressed in white robes carried it to the main stage, almost as if they were carrying the Ark of the Covenant into battle.

Rev. Borchard and Rev. Martin Wayne of the Ipili Council of Churches led the procession. Clergy in full regalia and other invited officials followed, processing between lines formed by members of local clubs and associations dressed in uniform, waving national flags and banners. A visiting Enga ladies group played traditional drums and sang.

The Borchards and LBT Executive Director Marshall Gillam played key parts in the dedication ceremony and



Three thousand people gathered to celebrate the dedication of the New Testament.



Rev. Borchard led the procession to the main stage.

Continued on page 6

The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators [LBT] is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

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a heart
for missions

Precious Truths

Gold and diamonds — what could be more precious? That is certainly the perspective of many people around the world. “Invest in gold” is a common pitch these days. “Diamonds are forever” as one jewelry company expresses it. But we know there is something more precious and longer lasting than gold or diamonds: God’s Word.

When I attended the Kono New Testament dedication in Sierra Leone, I knew I was headed into “diamond country.” I was surprised to learn that I would be heading into “gold country” when I participated in the dedication of the Ipili New Testament in Papua New Guinea.

It is no surprise that gold and diamonds do not solve social or economic problems. Quite often such discoveries create new problems. Such is the case with the Kono and Ipili people. Crime and disease became more prevalent after the discovery of the precious minerals and stones. Any economic benefit that trickles down to the common people or improvement in their circumstances is virtually imperceptible.

Gold and diamonds may seem to satisfy — in the short run. But the truths of Scripture satisfy for an eternity. Things begin to change when the Word of God becomes available in peoples’ heart languages, and when the truths of Holy Scripture are applied to their lives.

That is certainly the prayer of Jim and Susan Kaiser, LBT missionaries with the Kono New Testament project in Sierra Leone and of Rev. Terry and Janet Borchard, LBT missionaries with the Ipili New Testament project in Papua New Guinea.

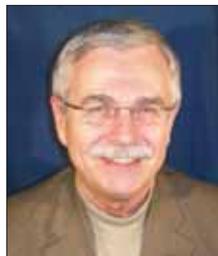
The dedications of these New Testaments are most certainly a time for a joy. But the celebrations are just an important benchmark in a much longer journey — the journey from having the Word of God *in their hands* to having the Word of God *in their hearts*.

In this issue you will read about and celebrate with those who have just received God’s Word in their hands. Please continue to pray that the *Spirit* of God will use the *Word* of God to work and strengthen faith. Only then is a project truly completed. 📖

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Marshall R. Gillam

Dr. Marshall R. Gillam, CFRE
Executive Director



Interested in Becoming a Missionary?

If you, or people you know, are interested in the possibility of becoming missionaries, consider attending I.D.I.O.M. (In Depth Investigation of Missions).

I.D.I.O.M. is designed to encourage and advise individuals and couples who are considering missionary service. A wide range of topics and issues are covered, including training requirements, living standards and expectations on the field, cross cultural engagement, and the role of nationals in the translation process. There is no cost for the workshop. LBT provides for transportation, housing and meals once you arrive in Chicago.

Two I.D.I.O.M. events were held this year. Several of the participants are currently considering service with LBT.

For more information about upcoming I.D.I.O.M.s, contact Peter Slayton at PSlayton@lbt.org, or call him at 800-532-4253 extension 23.

A Heart for Giving

LBT staff and missionaries continually rejoice in your faithful stewardship and generosity...and thank God for your prayers and donations. We always strive to be good stewards of your gifts to God’s glory.

This is the last Messenger you’ll receive from us this year. For many of you it may be the last formal opportunity in 2008 to financially help us fulfill God’s Mission and share His message with those hundreds of millions who don’t yet have His word in their mother tongue. If you are so moved, we would be very grateful for your donation. If your end-of-year financial and tax reckoning enables you to consider making additional charitable gifts, we pray that you will consider LBT as a recipient.

We realize you are not used to getting requests like this from LBT. 2008 has been a very difficult financial year for many people. LBT is not exempt. At this writing, we have received significantly less in donations compared to last year at this time. Obviously, this has implications for our present and future ministry efforts.

With God’s help, prudent spending, and your support, LBT will continue to bring Scripture to those many souls who have not yet learned about Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your past support and your prayerful consideration of an additional gift to help God’s Mission through LBT. 📖

New Testament Comes to the Kono People

Freedom and Hope through God's Word

by Jim and Susan Kaiser

Leaders danced in the street to the energetic beating of drums. A parade led by a banner and featuring a hammock marched through town. Were the Kono people welcoming a new chief? No, they were joyfully welcoming the arrival of the Kono New Testaments by carrying them in that hammock! At the ceremony, choirs sang enthusiastically, hours of speeches were given along with many, many thanks. And God was praised!

The long journey to bring God's Word to the Kono people is finally over!

In October of 1985, we traveled to Sierra Leone, beginning the journey to provide the Kono people with God's Word in their own language. The Kono people, who number around 190,000, live in the eastern hill country of Sierra Leone. They are mainly farmers, growing rice, cassava, and many other fruits and vegetables. Some mine diamonds, which are found in the central part of Kono District. The diamonds attract many

people from around the world who try to "strike it rich". The diamonds were also a major part of the long rebel war in Sierra Leone, as was shown in the movie *Blood Diamond*.

For so long, most Kono people lived in

fear: fear of illness, of death, of crop failure, of a curse from an unhappy ancestor, and fear about adequately providing for their families. Most Kono people are animists who believe in a God who created the world, but is now separated and far removed from them. They believe that they must go through their ancestral spirits to reach God. They also believe that there are many witches and evil spirits at work in their lives who must be appeased or guarded against.

To a Kono, everything has a spiritual cause. If your child is sick, it may be that a witch has attacked her. If your crops are not doing well, it may be because the spirit of your dead mother is not pleased with you, or that someone has cursed you. Their lives were controlled by fear...until now.



The Kono joyfully welcomed the arrival of the New Testament.

Working among the Konos for over twenty years, we've seen the charms parents have put around their young children's waists for protection from evil. We've seen sacrifices offered in the fields to protect the crops. We've seen charms hung in house doorways to prevent witches from entering. Yet all these things fail. So there is fear at every turn.

Now is the time for freedom. Now for the first time, Kono men, women and children can hold in their hands the Word of God — the Kono New Testament. Now God has begun to talk Kono. They can learn that Jesus has set them free from the power of the devil, and experience freedom from that fear.

Komba Ngekia, the Kono translator, recently wrote us and said: "I want the Kono New Testament to be like rice. No matter what other food a Kono man eats, if he does not eat rice, he has not had any food for that day. Is there anything that is food more than the Word of God? Let us hope and pray that this book will make more and more Kono people hunger for the Word of God day after day, until eternity."

Thank you, all of you, who were a part of making this happen through your faithful prayers, your generous gifts, and your words of encouragement. Your help has blessed the Kono people...and us. The Konos have a proverb. It speaks of many people working together to achieve a big result:

Konde fanka fanka an kanban dɔ kuit koo.

(The wings of many birds produce a loud noise).
Thanks for flapping along with us! 🐦



For the first time, the Kono people can hold the Word of God in their hands.



We're Not in Kansas Anymore!

Flipping a light switch...flushing a toilet...switching on a computer...turning a faucet...punching a microwave button to heat lunch — daily actions we take for granted in our North American homes.

But many missionaries preparing for overseas service don't have...or can't count on... the presence or reliability of electricity, running water or adequate waste disposal, much less air conditioning or cable television.

That's why missionaries like Kory and Cara Fay, preparing for LBT service in Cameroon, are wisely learning some basic home repair and set-up techniques and skills. This can be especially important when the nearest handyman may be days or a country away over bad roads, and the only person you can turn to is yourself.

Kory recently completed a course offered by Pioneer Bible Translators that teaches those heading for the mission field how to deal with some of the challenges of setting up and maintaining a home in remote overseas areas. After all, it's hard to focus on your primary mission of helping bring people to faith by making the Word of God available to them in their heart language if your family is experiencing severe difficulties with basic living conditions.

"I grew up in Topeka," Kory said. "I never had to worry much about these things and frankly don't have much

experience. But our family's safety and basic ability to live and function can depend on knowing what to do."

- "These things" included lectures and "hands on" classes:
- about AC and DC electricity and solar power...including setting up solar powered electrical systems and soldering electrical wires
 - dealing with repairing lawn mowers (part of small engine maintenance and repair)
 - using a multi-meter
 - canning food, from vegetables and meat to butter or cheese
 - setting up bush kitchens, maintaining lanterns
 - determining how and where to drill a well and where to place a disposal place for human waste (always put your well uphill from your septic tank!)

"While I've completed the course, I want to say I'm far from an expert in any of these fields," Kory said. "But when the time comes to build or repair something in our Cameroon home, I won't be totally clueless." 📖

Kory and Cara Fay, along with one year old Sam, are currently building partnerships in preparation for their translation assignment to Cameroon.



Missionaries need to be prepared for the unexpected!

A Simple Invitation

by Rick Allmon

The simplest gesture...and I was surrounded by dozens of little kids. I didn't know that waving my hand with a little undulating wrist action would communicate, "Come here, join me!"

I was in Yoko, Cameroon, for the dedication of the Vuté New Testament. Nonchalantly walking through the village, a six foot white man wearing a Hawaiian print shirt, I came across a pre-school. Dozens of kids were at play. Although I was a stranger, I waved to them in greeting as I normally would here in the States. Before I knew it, I was engulfed in children, each trying to grab my hand, smiling as big as can be. After the initial surprise, I began to enjoy the attention and interaction.

What had precipitated such a reaction? My simple wave was intended to say, "Hi, how are you?" I later learned that such a gesture is interpreted quite differently in Cameroon. The children saw my wave and their response was to join me, laugh with me, and embrace me. Their innocence and joy was heartwarming.

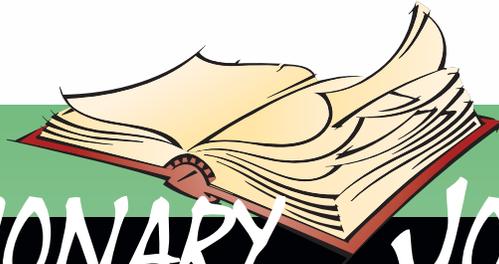
A simple gesture of invitation and dozens came. It was so easy. I could only think how God invites us each day to be His own, and how we often turn Him away. We run and hide, turn our backs — and yet the invitation continues through His Word and through His Grace. God, quite simply, offers us redemption through Jesus Christ. And His guidance, comfort, and provision are daily reminders of His unending love.

God not only invites us to be His children, He encourages us to invite others to join the family. LBT is privileged to help bring God's Word to people around the world in the languages they understand best. And we are privileged to have your support. Working together, we have issued God's invitation to millions of people, and they have responded by embracing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

God bless you for all the ways you have answered the invitation to be a child of God. You responded to God's gesture, made through His Son, to come and join Him. Your prayers, financial gifts, and words of encouragement to missionaries and national co-workers help spread the Gospel message. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with God's children around the world. 📖



Rick Allmon



MISSIONARY JOURNAL

The How and Why of Translation

by Kory and Cara Fay

These are two of the most frequently asked questions we hear when we talk about what we're doing with LBT. The *how* needs several books to be thoroughly answered but, in a nutshell, here's what happens: LBT missionaries are invited to come and live in a community to join with the local people to learn and participate in God's mission together. Missionaries begin by learning to speak and communicate in the local language. This is no easy process since, most often, there are no written materials to use. Friendships and working relationships are established during this time.

The missionaries analyze the grammar of the language and establish an acceptable writing system after consultation with community leaders. With the guidance of church and community leaders, individuals are selected to be part of the Bible translation team along with the LBT missionary. Together, the team strives to find words and phrases in the host language that most accurately reflect the original Greek or Hebrew Biblical texts. Translation drafts are checked multiple times by different people within the community. After checking and revising, more checking and revising and checking again

(I think you get it), the translation is published. The whole process usually takes 12-20 years to complete.

Why go to all of that trouble? First of all, we are commanded in the Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations." The Bible is one of the primary ways God teaches us about Himself. We translate the Bible so that God can speak to people in their own language, the language of their heart. Why not just hand out translations in the languages of wider communication (languages used by larger numbers of people to buy and sell and communicate with surrounding people groups)?

There are many answers to this, but let me leave you with a quote from a graduate student whose first language is Hawaiian Pidgin, but who also speaks English. After receiving the Hawaiian Pidgin Bible he said, "The English Bible speaks to my head, but the Pidgin Bible speaks to my heart." God wants all the nations of the world to know Him in their hearts, not just in their heads.



Rev. Terry Borchard worked with the Ipili translation team to produce Scripture in the Ipili language.

Need More Information?

Return this coupon to:

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Associate Director for Development
Lutheran Bible Translators, 303 N Lake Street, PO Box 2050,
Aurora, IL 60507-2050
Phone: 1-800-532-4253 or 630-897-0660 Fax: 630-897-3567
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Additional on-line giving opportunities and information about LBT are available on our web site: www.LBT.org



Glorious Word

by Rev. Shawn Boylan

The Khoekhoegowab translation of a simple, everyday word has given us a fresh perspective on God's Word.

Words often have multiple meanings. In English, for example, the word "run" has well over a dozen different meanings. It can mean physical exercise, to have a cold (runny nose), to enter politics (he's going to run), and many more.

In Khoekhoegowab, the word "#khai" means to wake (someone) up. For example, in Matthew 8.25, "the disciples went and woke up Jesus." This occurs when he was sleeping in the boat while the disciples were worried about sinking in the storm. In Khoekhoegowab, this word means to get up in the morning or wake up from a nap.

However, I noticed in the translation that this word is also used for "resurrection." Oddly enough, the root of this word is the same one used for "glory." In translation checking of the resurrection of Lazarus in John 11, Khoekhoegowab uses the same word for wake up, come back to life, and glory. Indeed, it's an unusual combination of meanings in one word.

However, from a Christian point of view, the team thought it was interesting, and we had some fun connecting the meaning.

For example, when I wake up in the morning, on a beautiful, quiet, sunny day with a friendly face (like my wife's)

greeting me—that's glorious. True, there are Saturday mornings, at 6:30 am to be exact, when we hear the "pound, boom, boom" of workers renovating a house in the neighborhood. That might not be too glorious, but we can all recall pristine and perfect mornings that we've been able to enjoy. For us, sunrise on the savannah while seeing two leopards playing on the mountain high above our campsite—that's a pretty cool morning. But now on a deeper note, we, as Christians, can think of morning in a very unique and beautiful way:

"You will make his people know that they will be saved by having their sins forgiven. With the loving mercy of our God, a new day from heaven will dawn upon us. It will shine on those who live in darkness, in the shadow of death. It will guide us into the path of peace." Luke 1.78-79 (NCV)

With the precious gift of Christmas, and the glorious hope of Easter, a new day broke for everyone who believes. And in that hope, there will come a day when Jesus will wake each of us up, personally. That day could be a very long way away, or it could be tomorrow! I'm glad that the Khoekhoegowab translation gave me a fresh perspective on it. Without a doubt, what a glorious day it will be! 📖

Two Kinds of Gold

Continued from page 1

celebration. "Much of the proceedings and speeches leading up to the dedication were conducted in Pidgin," said Dr. Gillam, keynote speaker at the dedication. "But when Rev. Borchard spoke to the people in their own language, the constant hum of the crowd stopped. The murmur of excitement and exhilaration that swept through the crowd was electric and moving."

Rev. Borchard, speaking in Ipili said, "People want to get earthly gold, but that kind of gold causes people to die because they fight over it. If you buy an Ipili New Testament and read it often, God's Word will cause you to live forever."



The Ipili are eager to read God's Word in their own language.

Then Lutheran Pastor Mandita Kunuma read passages in Ipili from the book of Revelation that spoke about how God's Word is like true, pure gold...contrasted with gold from the nearby mine.

A crowd estimated at 3,000 gathered to celebrate their New Testament, their faith, their language and their legitimacy as a people. Representatives of 11 different Christian denominations attended the ceremony. All are eagerly greeting this new translation and are anxious to use it.

More than 240 Ipili New Testaments were eagerly purchased by individuals attending the dedication that day—a record number. Supplies of New Testaments have been left at seven different locations in order to give others access to God's Word.

"Up to this point, congregations in the Ipili area have been reading God's Word in other languages. Our hope and prayer is that they will start reading the New Testament in Ipili so that the Ipili people can really understand what God is saying to them," Janet Borchard said. "We pray it will touch their hearts and change their lives in a way that brings glory to God." 📖

The Borchards hope to continue their service in Papua New Guinea. They are currently looking into the possibility of translating the Old Testament into Ipili and Enga.

Season's Greetings!

It's hard to believe that 2008 is rapidly drawing to a close. It was a noteworthy year, marked by New Testament dedications, the addition of new missionaries to the LBT family, and significant progress in many translation and Scripture Use programs.

As this Christmas season approaches we take joy in knowing that many people are now able to read and hear the Nativity story for themselves, in their own language.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We look forward to 2009, and the wonderful work God has in store for us as we work together to bring His Word to people around the world. God's richest blessings to you this Christmas, and may He be your comfort, guide, and strength in the New Year. 📖

Gift Designations

Your gifts in support of Mission Projects and Programs are applied to the designated project or program. When a designated project is fully funded, surplus funds are applied to comparable projects. When a designated program is fully funded, surplus funds are applied to the general fund.

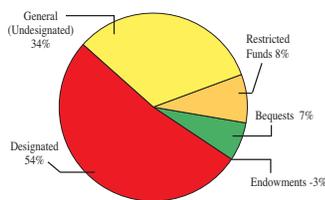
LBT Partnership Support

July 1, 2008 — September 30, 2008

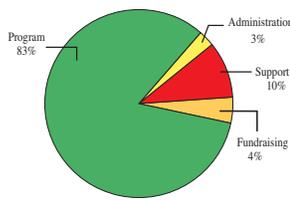
INCOME

	Unaudited 3rd Quarter	Unaudited Year-to-date
Designated	\$370,322	\$1,278,304
General (Undesignated)	232,850	766,774
Restricted Funds	59,196	98,908
Bequests	45,333	90,656
<u>Endowments</u>	<u>(23,914)</u>	<u>(135,316)</u>
Total Income	\$683,786	\$2,099,325

3rd Quarter Income



3rd Quarter Expenses



EXPENSES

	2008	2007
Program	\$784,035	\$2,402,108
General & Administration	26,719	98,290
Support	90,607	298,374
<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>41,809</u>	<u>160,360</u>
Total Expenses	\$943,170	\$2,959,132

NOTE: During the third quarter of 2008, LBT was able to purchase a 10K Generator for our LIBTRALO partners in Liberia. The total cost was \$6,000. This amount is not reflected in the expenses above.

CUT HERE

CUT HERE

Birthdays

DECEMBER

- 2 **Allen Larsen**
United States
- 6 **Hailey Konrad**
(2005)
United States
- 9 **Larry Johnson**
United States
- 9 **Jill Boylan**
Namibia
- 11 **Cindy Buhrke**
United States
- 12 **Rachelle Buhrke**
(1993)
United States
- 14 **Paul Federwitz**
Ghana
- 18 **Joan Weber**
Cameroon
- 19 **Moses Schroeder**
(2006)
United States
(LOA)*
- 22 **Thomas Larsen**
(1997)
United States
- 25 **John Davies**
Papua New Guinea

- 29 **Terry Borchard**
Papua New Guinea
- 30 **Matthew Konrad**
(1995)
United States

JANUARY

- 6 **Karen Tessaro**
Nigeria
- 7 **Wilma Rupprecht**
Nigeria
- 11 **Erin Kinney** (1991)
United States
- 12 **Joe Dunsey**
Service Center Staff
- 14 **Mike Buhrke**
Service Center Staff
- 14 **Michael Elliott**
Service Center Staff
- 15 **Alvina Federwitz**
Ghana/Liberia
- 20 **Tim Boylan** (1996)
Namibia
- 22 **David Federwitz**
Ghana
- 24 **Karen Campbell**
Service Center Staff
- 24 **Josiah Kinney**
(1995)
United States
- 27 **Aaron Beckendorf**
(2005)
Botswana

FEBRUARY

- 3 **Susan Kaiser**
United States
- 16 **Cindy Rodewald**
South Africa
- 17 **Michael Megahan**
Botswana
- 19 **Matthew Boylan**
(1993)
Namibia
- 23 **Donald Jensen**
United States
- 27 **Mary Gruell**
United States
- 27 **Wendi Schroeder**
United States
(LOA)*

*Leave of Absence

FOLD

LBT MISSIONARY Currents

Prayer partnership is the backbone of this ministry. Here are several prayer concerns for which we ask your support. May God bless you abundantly!

BOTSWANA

Pray for planning for the dedication of the **Kalanga New Testament** and Psalms, which will take place early next year.

GHANA

Pray for peace in **Ghana** and for wisdom for its citizens as they hold elections on December 7, 2008.

Praise God for the service of volunteers **Christina Riddle** and **Jessica Pillman**. Christina tutored the Esala children, Jessica assisted Valerie Federwitz with household needs and home-schooling for Michaela.

Pray for **Sarah Esala**, who is expecting a baby in November.



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Dr. Marshall R. Gillam



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Lutheran Bible Translators is an independent mission group, founded in 1964, which is dedicated to helping bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. It is the only Lutheran organization totally devoted to this specialized ministry. LBT actively recruits Lutherans to serve as Bible translators, literacy or vernacular media specialists and support missionaries. The LBT ministry is supported by the prayers and contributions of fellow Christians. It is not subsidized by any church body or sponsoring agency.



Wish you knew how to pray more specifically for LBT's missionaries and ministry? Sign up for LBT's monthly Prayer Calendar! Call Karen Campbell at 1-800-532-4253 for more details.

NIGERIA

■ Pray for peace in Nigeria, and that LBT missionaries **Chuck and Karen Tessaro** will be able to visit language projects in areas that have been too unsafe for over a year.

TOGO

■ Praise God for the October 19th dedication of the **Moba New Testament**.

UNITED STATES

■ Pray for **Allen and Sheri Larsen** and family as they complete their service with LBT on December 31.

■ Pray for **Cara Fay**, who is expecting a baby in the Spring.

■ Pray for **Ruth Lee** as she finishes her Partnership Development and prepares for her first field assignment in Nigeria, beginning early in 2009.

■ Praise God for good treatment results for **Terry Borchard's** multiple myeloma. He is doing well enough to plan to return to his ministry in Papua New Guinea for several months in 2009.

■ Pray for increased **financial support for LBT** and its missionaries. Income is significantly below expectations for 2008.



■ Pray for **LBT administration** as planning and budgets are completed for 2009 programs.

■ Praise God for two successful **I.D.I.O.M.** (In Depth Investigation of Missions) events held over the summer. Several who attended are pursuing service options with LBT.

■ Pray for International Scholarship Recipients **Samuel Cooper, Zhang Li, Lamin Kargbo, and Eugène Kpengapsé** as they continue their studies this year.

