

March 2017

Part of being human is having the conscience with which our Lord created us. As we read in Romans: “The Gentiles ... show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 2:14-16, RSV)

The first Kobon initiation ceremony takes place when the children are a few years old. They are dressed and decorated in colorful clothing, bird plumes and valuable shells. During the ceremony the children hear lots of traditional stories and teaching that is very similar to the ten commandments as far as their behavior is concerned. Because traditionally the Kobon had no knowledge of any supernatural being except the malicious spirits, the first four commandments about the children’s relationship with God are missing. The goal of the Living Word Schools is to fill that huge gap.



First Initiation Ceremony

Ten of our Living Word Schools had graduations at the end of 2016, three in the Kobon-Gebrau district at Goimbam, Flower and Yern; five in the Kobon-Kaironk district at Ainong, Angaplay, Dusin, Hangopa and Halemp; one Minimib at Ainong; and one Haruai at Urbu. As usual each of the children received a New Testament in their own language and a virtually indestructible racquetball as their graduation gifts.

Over the past year or two we have opened several new schools – three Kobon schools at Ambia, Alnangum and Aulana, and four Haruai schools at Bualip, Dangu, Ringi and Undpas. Last month we opened another new Haruai school at Lala with 18 girls and 23 boys. Several communities in Joel’s district have asked for a school, So we need more teachers, and Hibru is organizing a training course for new teachers starting March 13.



Morning Roll Call

We received a message from Hibru on February 1 that his 5-year old daughter Lydia was very sick. We immediately arranged for a plane to bring her to the hospital near Mt.

Hagen. At 5:00am on February 2, less than two hours before the pilot was to take off to bring her to the hospital, Lydia went to be with Jesus. Please remember Lydia’s parents Hibru and Linaros and their family in your prayers.

Thank you for your prayers and support without which this work would not be possible.

In His Love and Grace,

John and Maila

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Address for gifts for the Haruai, Kobon and Minimib ministry: Lutheran Bible Translators,
PO Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020 (Please mark gifts “for John and Maila Davies ministry”)***