

*Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God! Isaiah 40:3*

“Kong kong!” Papa Batista called, from outside our apartment door in **Guinea-Bissau**. When I, Lynn, opened the door, he said, “There will be no work today. Luis’ baby died last night.” My first day of working with the Bayote team on July 2 came to an abrupt halt. The next day, the Bayote mother-tongue translation team finally met together, including Luis. They are passionate about translating Scripture clearly and accurately in Bayote. Over the next two weeks we were able to complete checking the first two chapters of Acts, as well as put together an abridged version of the book of Mark, called *Jesus Christ Has Power to Save Us*.

Sadly, on the next to the last day of our time there, another of Luis’ children, a 12-year-old boy, died from an enlarged heart. The entire Bayote team spent the day with his family, first to mourn and then to bury the son. Papa took me to express my condolences and say goodbye as well. Some of the family, who follow animist practices and beliefs, were critical of this Christian family who did not seek help from a traditional healer or follow animist rituals for the burial, but placed their hope in Christ.



Kriol language learning with Joel

When we left Guinea-Bissau on July 22, we had completed our assignment, which was to spend a week of learning the trade language, Kriol, and then two weeks checking translation and helping the Bayote team put together an abridged version of Mark. It was difficult to say goodbye. Our hearts ached for Luis and his family, yet we were thankful to get to know our Guinean team members better and thankful for all that was accomplished.

Recently, we learned that several translation projects in Guinea-Bissau have been put on hold due to lack of funding. SIL staff there now are

helping to print up *Jesus Christ Has Power to Save Us*, so the Bayote team will be able to distribute it to their community. They are also printing portions of Scripture in Kriol, Bayote, and Caravela Bijago that have been consultant-checked and tested in the community. We will not be returning to Guinea-Bissau in the near future, but we are thankful that the Bayote and Kriol translation teams will have the Good News in print to share.

Even though we are not able to be with the teams in Guinea-Bissau at this time, there is still plenty to do in **Waxhaw**. I am still editing a dictionary of a language in Vietnam that was first published in 1979. There are over 10,000 entries now, and the author has added articles about the phonology, morphology, grammar, and culture. I’m working with folks here and in Dallas who are trying to make it available online. This dictionary will hopefully encourage the Pacoh people to read the Scriptures and to learn more about their language. I have also been editing profiles for SIL consultants in the fields of

sociolinguistics, anthropology, language assessment, and linguistics, which will eventually be posted on the SIL website ([www.sil.org](http://www.sil.org)).

**As editor of the *Journal of Translation*, David** has been selecting articles to place in the next issue ([www.journaloftranslation.org](http://www.journaloftranslation.org)). It was encouraging when a colleague who is a translation consultant for Indonesia recently told us he found it to be a useful tool for consultants and all involved in Bible translation.

In family news, we are very happy to announce that our granddaughter, Katya, was born September 16! She is a wonderful blessing to our family, and we are looking forward to having her with us this Christmas, along with her parents (Mark and Maria), our daughter Kimberly, and son Michael.

We are now preparing our hearts and our home for Christmas! I am thankful for beautiful music to prepare for worship services too; some as piano accompaniment for the choir and some which we will sing a capella. We are thankful for the generosity of many of you and for your prayers for our work and for our family. We are thankful most of all for God's gift to us all, Jesus, who has provided our deepest joy and peace. May He bless you with His joy and peace now and throughout the coming year.

In Christ,



Our son Mark's wife, Maria, and Katya

*Praise:*

- ◆ *Christmas—Christ has come and is coming again!*
- ◆ *The birth of granddaughter Katya Kashnova Frank*
- ◆ *Near completion of Power to Save booklet in Bayote*
- ◆ *Near completion of Pacoh dictionary*

*Prayer:*

- ◆ *Peace and comfort for Luis and his family*
- ◆ *Funding for Guinea-Bissau translation projects*
- ◆ *Next issue of Journal of Translation*
- ◆ *Final steps of Power to Save booklet*
- ◆ *Progress in making Pacoh dictionary available online*

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