

“Come and listen, I will tell you what he has done for my soul”

VANUATU NEWS FROM LOUIS & JANE FAULSTICH

March 2018



Friend's in Christ,

In the past month Jane and I have been continuing our rounds to the area churches encouraging the use of Scripture in the vernacular language. We've been spending a bit more time on literacy than in the past because we want people experience how clear the meaning of God's Word can be in their mother tongue. A young man who is especially well educated bravely confessed that he often hears the English Bible being read in church, but as the sermon unfolds it becomes clear to him that the preacher misunderstood the meaning of the passage. The hazards of using English sources have also been exposed through some studies we've asked people to help translate into the trade language Bislama. While those we've asked so far have been educated in English and have a good base of vocabulary, it's still proves hard for them to understand English grammar. A single mistake in comprehension has major consequences in the way a sentence translates. The most frequent mistake I've noticed seems to happen with statements about the utterly helpless situation humans are in to save ourselves from sin. These have a peculiar way of coming across as very strong works-based salvation statements, and we can only know this by detecting the mistranslations.



originally written in Africa as a 100 program radio series, and do a good job of addressing the problems of works based religion. Our hope is to make this available in audio format as a teaching resource for rural pastors.

Apart from sometimes misunderstanding Scripture, there is something present in the churches of Vanuatu that many American congregations could use a little help with. As part of the Sunday service the members are encouraged to give a testimony about something God has recently put on their hearts. Yes, it makes the service longer, but it functions as an important reminder of God's activity and interest in our lives. Last Sunday an elderly woman gave a fiery warning to young



people about throwing away their lives with marijuana abuse, and another young woman gave an interpretive dance to express God's love toward his people. It can also be a time to confess individual offenses and seek forgiveness from the church family. Whether they be men or women, there's never shame in crying. Perhaps congregations stateside are too large for such activity to take place during worship. However, it would be a

valuable part of our Christian life to express ourselves more before other believers as a witness to what God does in our lives.

Because the Christian faith is greatly dependent on knowing God through His Word taught in truth and purity, there's a great need to provide vernacular materials to non-English speakers that will both deliver and encourage this principle. The studies we are beginning to work on will hopefully steer many in the right direction. They were

MARCH PRAYERS

Our prayer request for this month is that God would find the right people to work with us on preparing and editing study material to be distributed to churches around Tanna, and that we could start getting church leaders together regularly to learn, appreciate, and grow in God's Word.

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