



Janet's Journal

January 2024

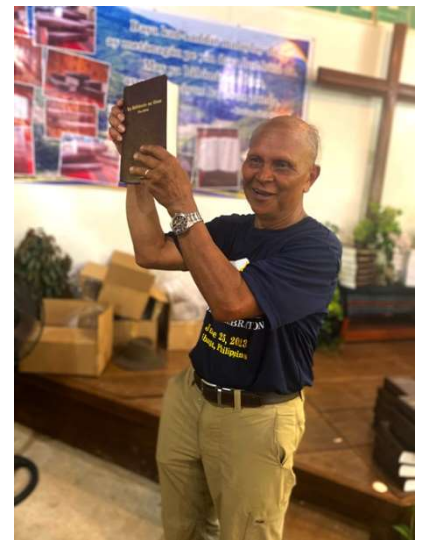


Dear friends,

Throughout our lifetimes, we're given countless opportunities to say "yes" to God. The first "yes" begins with His invitation to enter into relationship with Him. After that, God invites us throughout our faith journey to say "yes" over and over again.

The journey to the full Isnag Bible started with a "yes." Among the Isnag community in the northern Philippines, many people have participated in God's call in unique ways over the years. The president of the Philippines and Cameron Townsend approved work to begin in 1953. A missionary moved into the community in 1956. And God was faithful to each person who obeyed His call.

Nard Puygao was 7 years old when a missionary, Dick Roe, moved into his village of Dibagat, Philippines. In the remote northern reaches of the country, Nard became a believer when he encountered Jesus through the Gospel of Mark in Isnag. From the moment that he said "yes" to God's invitation for a relationship, Nard has been on a journey of walking with the Lord and encouraging others around him to do the same. He joined JAARS(our technical partner) after training to be a pilot and has served many years flying and sharing his testimony.

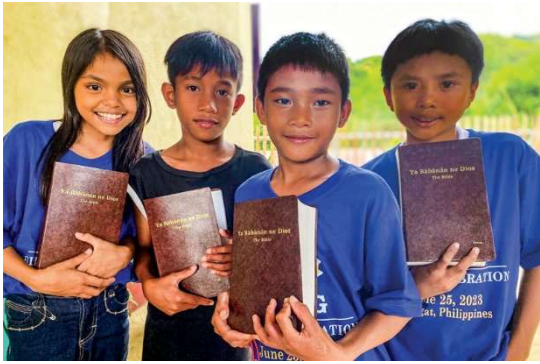


In 1971, Rudy Barlaan moved to Dibagat to do a year of language learning for a Bible translation consultation role with SIL Philippines. Rudy hadn't intended to stay in Dibagat, but God had other plans. Rudy ultimately joined Dick in the translation work and in 1982, the New Testament was dedicated. In 2006, a revised New Testament, plus Genesis and Exodus, was dedicated. At the time, Old Testament translation wasn't part of SIL Philippines strategy, so it seemed like the work was done. But God had other ideas and brought in someone to help Rudy with the work: Mark Puygao, Nard's nephew.

Mark pastored the Dibagat Bible Church for a year when Rudy invited him to join in translating the Bible for his community. Mark ultimately said "yes," and after completing school, translated the Old Testament while Rudy served as a consultant.

On June 25, 2023, more than 66 years after the gospel first arrived in Dibagat, the full Isnag Bible was dedicated!

At the celebration, it was abundantly clear that not only had God been faithful to the Isnag, but His people had been faithful to Him too. Nard, Rudy and Mark have each invested their lives in seeing the Isnag people reached with the gospel in their own language. They have persevered — in Nard and Rudy's case, for decades — and have invited others to join them along the way!



As the Bibles were being handed out at the celebration, people could swap out their New Testaments for the full Bible. Copies of well-worn Scripture, filled with notes and highlights, were replaced with beautiful, fresh pages. Looking around the room, you could see the joy and excitement across many faces at this priceless gift they'd just received.

As the dedication ceremony wrapped up, 34 Isnag believers were baptized in the river, proclaiming their faith in Jesus Christ. This public "yes" is a testament to

their community that God's invitation is for all of us, no matter where we live or what language we speak.

The theme verse for the Isnag Bible dedication was Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever" (NLT). God has been faithful to the Isnag, and now they're able to hold His complete Word in their hands — something that will stand forever. Nard has waited his whole life to read the full counsel of God's Word in Isnag. Today we rejoice that his wait has ended, and praise God for this generation of children who won't have to wait to encounter Jesus personally. I hope you are inspired by this story, just one example of how translation happens and the results. To watch a short video of the highlights of the dedication, click on this [link](#).

I trust you had a very happy and blessed Christmas. I enjoyed Christmas dinner with a family from church. The next day I traveled to the Philadelphia area and had nice visits with my three nieces and their families. My life has been very busy caring for my foster kittens and looking for forever homes for them. Please **pray** I find the right home for them. I plan to keep two of them—I may be crazy since they are quite active, but I'm hoping that reducing the population to two will make it a bit less chaotic.



My health check-ups have been good except for a recent eye doctor visit. It seems the pressure in my good eye (left) is getting a little high. The doctor recommended a laser treatment, which sometimes works to bring the pressure down, so I have an appointment in early February to have that done. I continue getting injections in my right eye, and the pressure is staying low.

My work continues with data entry, job postings on the web, as well as writing tutorials on how to use our computer programs. My car repair, mentioned in my last letter, turned out to be very minor and inexpensive. My bowling skills have improved, and I look forward to starting back to my community Bible study at the end of the month. I also teach two and three year-olds at church on Wednesday nights. You have my heartfelt gratitude for your prayer and financial support. Your partnership means you share in the blessings in seeing God's Word reach people like the Isnag.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet".

Janet Morris
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Praise:

*For the dedication of the whole Bible translated into Isnag.
For a nice holiday and enjoyable family time.
That kittens are neutered, vaccinated & ready for adoption.*

Prayer for:

*Transformed lives as a result of the Isnag Bible
That the laser treatment reduces my eye pressure
Finding forever homes for the kittens*