



MARCH 2018

## Mudges In Mattawa

*BROTHERS, WE DO NOT WANT YOU ...TO GRIEVE LIKE THE REST OF MEN WHO HAVE NO HOPE.  
1 THESS. 4:13*

Our country and our community noted and celebrated the death of several fellow believers in February.

**Jim Downing**, was a co-founder of The Navigators, a discipleship ministry both of us were involved with in the mid to late 70's. It was 38 years ago this month, that a blind date and God's call to serve together in Bible translation and literacy moved us in a new direction. We have many good memories and friends from our time with the Navs.

**Billy Graham**, a great evangelist and a humble servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, affected our youth and encouraged our walk with God as an example of how to trust Him daily and let the Holy Spirit use us 'just as I am'.

We didn't know **Bill Richards** personally, but he and his wife were early settlers of the farming community here in Mattawa, Washington. His long active life reflected Christ and he was instrumental in helping to begin the Mattawa Community Church, now called Saddle Mountain Bible Church. This is the church where Jim is actively serving as elder/preacher and Carolyn is a Sunday school teacher and church clerk.

**Joyce Leitz** was only a name we heard in conversation from family as we made short visits to Mattawa during furloughs in the late 80's and 90's. When we made Mattawa our home in 2005, Carolyn got to know Joyce through the community women's bible study. As an elementary teacher for 20 years in the area, Joyce knew and cared about the whole community – the native Wanapum Indians, the Mormon farmers, the Hispanic farm workers and even the more affluent retired folks who come here to enjoy the golf course and water activities on the Columbia River. She wanted them to know Jesus Christ as Savior. While giving presentations of our work in Bible translation in the Solomon Islands several times in the last 13 years we got to appreciate Joyce and her husband Myron as supportive partners. In late January we showed Joyce the completed Roviana Bible and shared about God's blessings to get the message of salvation to the Roviana

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Joyce in 2007 is 2nd from the left

people. We received her usual big smile, a warm hug, and encouragement to keep serving God through Bible translation. A month later she passed unexpectedly but quietly into His presence.

In all these deaths, we do not grieve as others who have no hope. Jesus' death and resurrection which we are celebrating this week gives us salvation and eternal life. The rest of the verses in 1Thess. 4 tell us more about the future of being with Jesus and ends with "... encourage each other with these words."

**He is not here; He has risen just as he said. Come and see...then go and tell...** Matt 28:6-7.

## Translation News

We were not surprised when we did not hear anything from the Solomon Islands once the "summer" holidays began there in mid-November. The school year ends, and families return to their language areas to celebrate Christmas and New Year by resting and enjoying time with extended family. It is very hot, so sitting under a tree or by the beach is the most ambitious people get except for the young men who have soccer competitions. February is usually busy getting back to school and work and this year it was exceptionally rainy weather. As hoped, we did hear from Wilson Gina and Ezra Tupiti earlier this month.

Wilson is continuing his study of biblical exegesis with Island Bible Ministries in Honiara. He hopes to use his training to help others in Bible translation.

Ezra is now in New Zealand. His wife, Riby, is studying for her master's degree, so Ezra has taken a temporary job at a meat packing plant. He is still interested in working on Hoava as soon as possible. He and Jim are planning to work through the internet to help him learn translation principles as they apply to Hoava.

Jim is working on producing English back translations of Roviana for Ezra to use as well.

## Family News

We were blessed with a mild winter here in Eastern Washington (contrary to all of you back East who have had more than your share of snow!) and are now beginning to implement planned improvements to the yard.

Emily was here for a short visit to celebrate her birthday March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jeffrey is planning to come in early May. We are so thankful for the children God gave us and love anytime we get together.

Jim had bouts with colds this winter which has reduced his energy. Carolyn is also still feeling a bit drained as well.

***Pray for our physical renewal and well-being.  
Pray for Ezra and Jim as they study translation principles.  
Pray for Jim as he works on the back-translation of the New Testament.***



Our peach tree is about to blossom

**Rejoicing in the Resurrection, Jim and Carolyn Mudge**