



Van Der Deckers' Weekly Prayer Requests



Please Join Us in Praising

- 5 Primers are completed
- 5 Graded Readers are completed
- A kazillion flash cards are completed

Please Join Us in Praying

- A teacher's Manual and Library books are still underway
- That we rest in his mighty strength

Want more details? Read below:

How do you want us to pray this week, Lord? We know that our praying is all about your **getting our will in line with yours**, rather than what we unfortunately too often see it as: getting your will in line with ours. **So, Jesus, how do you want us to pray?**

The **Literacy program we are working on** involves a number of aspects:

1. Creating (writing and illustrating) **5 Primers** - books that **introduce in small quantities at a time each syllable that exists in the language**. We have **580 different syllables in the Kaulong language(!)**, with an additional 59 that we are teaching so they will be able to read the trade language. After each page of introducing a small set of syllables, there

is one or more reading pages with stories, which we and our partner, Helen, have developed with the help of some of our believers, made up entirely of only the syllables that have been taught up to that point. **PRAISE the Lord**, these 5 Primers are completed!

2. Creating (writing and illustrating) **5 Graded Readers** - books that are handed out to the students after the completion of each Primer. These books have stories which our team has developed, made up entirely of syllables that have been previously taught, and are **given to the students as extra practice at home** to reinforce the syllables that have been taught. **PRAISE the Lord**, these 5 Graded Readers have been completed!

3. Creating (translating or writing, and illustrating) **many Post Literacy Books** - books that become **the basis of a small library**. These would-be books that have the full gamut of syllables in the Kaulong and Pidgin languages and give further practice for the new readers to strengthen their newly acquired reading skills. The length and difficulty of the books will vary. **We need to have at least 10 books**, but we would like to have many more. **Our partner Helen** has done preliminary drafts on more than 5 of these books. **Please PRAY for her** as she continues to work on them.

4. Constructing a **Teacher's Manual** - a manual that will give **step-by-step instructions to the Kaulong teachers** as they teach new Literacy classes. **Pam has been tackling this project**. **Please PRAY for her** as she works away at it. There are challenges with having to express foreign concepts in a language that does not have the natural vocabulary for expressing those ideas. There are challenges with the many details that are repeated with different tweaks each time, and each time a change is decided upon it needs to be made throughout **various ones of the 83 lessons**.

5. Constructing **various Flash Cards** - three different types of cards are used in this program. **Syllable Cards** (639 of them) are used each day both with teaching the new syllables and to review previous ones. **Word Cards** (256) are used heavily in the first primer and tapers off to nothing by the end of the third primer. They contain each new word that is encountered in the reading pages of the primers. **Picture Cards** have a picture along with a key word that is associated with each new sound (72 cards). **Peter has been working** primarily on these. **PRAISE the Lord** these are now completed.

6. **Publishing all these materials** - once all the required materials are completed and checked out by a literacy consultant, **Pam & Helen** will potentially be the ones to **work on printing out all these materials**, putting the books together, cutting up and laminating the Cards, etc. We look forward to the day when we can start doing that!

Peter will likely still be involved with helping out with formatting questions and other

issues that may arise from time to time, but we are wanting the **focus of his time now to be on preparing rough draft material for translation**. Our desire is that when Pam & Helen have completed the literacy materials, Peter will have rough draft translation for them to begin the tedious process of bringing that rough draft to a clear, accurate, readable end product.

As they say, **95% of all missionary work is just plain work!** Please pray for **strength for us as a family and as a team** as we press on with this aspect of the ministry to the Kaulong. Honestly, we **NEED** your prayers! Our **DAY** runs out before our **DREAM**. Our **STEAM**, both physical and emotional steam, runs out before our **DAY**. But **our Lord never runs out!** Praise him that he never "slumbers nor sleeps." **He is the source of all energy**. Paul in Col 1:29 refers to his laboring, his straining, his striving, his putting forth all, but doing it with Christ's power, which Christ himself so powerfully works within him. **Jesus can handle this!**

Please pray this passage for us:

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the **LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary**. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And **to those who have no might He increases strength**. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, **But those who wait on the LORD** Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isa 40:28-31 NKJV)

Thank you for praying that for us. **We needed it!**

*Spreading His Glory,
Peter, Pam & Bithyah*



"Prayer is not a preparation for the battle; it is the battle!" – Leonard Ravenhill



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