Unger Update

I wonder how many of you wonder how we are already in March, and how many still wonder when spring will finally come? I also wonder how many of you would say your glass in life is half full or half empty? Some say it's a matter of perspective, but maybe it's more about how it got that way.

We experienced a lot of ups and downs, highs and lows in this last trip to the Solomon Islands. Our glass is definitely half full, but is that because things have gone down to half from full, or up to half from empty...?

First the highs! **Paul** was able complete the consultant check of Genesis chapters 1-25. That's half way through the book! Jimmy was not able to be there for the whole check because of further family health issues, but thankfully another man, Roland, was able to help the full 2 weeks. They solved many language / meaning issues, and printed copies of those chapters are now in the community for feedback. [See **page 2** for examples of some of the things that the consultant check helped us fix!]

Cathy slid back into life in the Solomons (pace, language, relationships) and remembered that almost all tasks (shopping, cooking, laundry, communication) take more time than they do in Canada. She really enjoyed her morning coffee and devotions on the porch with the ocean view and the birds (...though less so the gnats and the mosquitoes).

Almost everything was a high for **Rachael** :) who enjoyed the people and place of her early years and didn't particularly want to come "home" to Canada! She did struggle with a foot infection the whole time, but continued to participate in outdoor activities with the other kids and join us on a couple excursions out of town. Hearing from shore as she hooted and hollered through her snorkel tube pretty much summed up her trip!

Sadly, our biggest low is the state of the Solomon Islands Translation Advisory Group (SITAG); its internal and external relationships. Our Pacific Area director gave us the following **public statement**:

"There has been an unexpected leadership transition within SITAG and the early departure of the director has been a disruptive experience. Please pray for comfort, peace and grace to abound, and for discernment as an interim director is appointed [an interim director has since been appointed to begin on 11 March]. Please pray that the good work of SIL will continue to bear fruit in the Solomon Islands."

Many of our colleagues, ourselves included, are working through trauma and trust issues as the result of this turmoil. We appreciate your prayers as we seek the Lord for a way forward.

We know that God is at work. He has brought something from nothing, and he will not abandon us whether the glass is half full or half empty.

Under grace,

Paul and Cathy

A **huge thank you** to everyone who prayed and contributed financially to make this latest trip possible! We feel upheld and enabled to serve by the many who partner with us (and that includes those who looked out for our boys while we were gone!)

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Paul hopes to return to the Solomons in October to help teach a grammar course for local translators, as well as to continue checking Genesis with a consultant—hopefully through to the end of the book!

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A consultant check is one of the last checks that a book goes through. After we as a team have done our best with a book, a consultant tries to help us make it one level—or more!—better. Consultants do this with the experience they bring to the table: additional knowledge of the original languages (Hebrew and Greek); knowledge of the biblical and / or wider local culture; and often extensive experience in a translation program themselves.

A consultant check allows us as a team to reflect on—and sometimes defend—the translation decisions we made, but it also opens up news ways of conveying the intended meaning that we might not have considered earlier. We certainly had our share of those in this most recent check! A couple of examples follow (we'll use a back translation, as we do with a consultant, to make things easier for you):

Genesis 11:30

original	revised
And Sarai she was barren.	And Sarai she was not able to have children.

What's the problem? Well, the word we had for 'barren' was a word for a female who doesn't have fully developed reproductive organs. So 'barren' is part of the semantic range for that word, but it's definitely not the word we want to use for Sarai!

Genesis 16:13

original	revised
"I really saw him the one who **saw / sees** me!"	"I really saw him the one who **watches over** me!"

There's a play on words in Hebrew that we we were able to reproduce in Doku: we changed *bere-ngi-u* 'see-transitive.marker-1singular' to *bere-tao-ni-u* 'see-follow-transitive.marker-1singular', which means 'watch over, care for me'.

Genesis 21:10

original	revised
"This servant girl's child he won't take any share in all the things you have **with my child Aesaki**!"	"This servant girl's child he won't take any share **with my child Aesaki** in all the things you have!"

It's a subtle shift, but by moving 'with my child Aesaki' forward in the sentence, the contrast between Aesaki (Isaac) and the servant girl's child (Ishmael) is highlighted.

Genesis 24:65

original	revised
"Who is that man up ahead?"	"Who is that man up ahead **who is walking this way to meet us**?"

We simply missed the second part of Rebekah's question. Oops!

Genesis 25:31

original	revised
"You give me [first] your power / authority that our two's father gave you—let's trade."	"You give me [first] his share the firstborn's—let's trade."

We decided that while the first born did receive the father's authority as part of his inheritance, our rendering was too restrictive in that it didn't also include 'stuff'. We feel 'the firstborn's share' can include tangible 'stuff' as well as intangibles.