



Couples Counseling with Local Leaders &amp; Ladies Studies

**II Thess. 3:3 “But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you...”**

## WHAT'S NEW...

❖ We are thankful to God, that in the midst of all the natural disasters, we did not experience much damage.

❖ We continue to progress in the Tiale language, getting closer to one day having a Bible in their language.

❖ **Praise God:** Many of the men we disciple are taking great steps in their faith; taking their Christian walks more seriously, while desiring to be godly husbands and fathers. Also, several young men feel led into full-time ministry!

❖ **Praise God:** We cannot express the work God is doing, nearly every wife in the village is coming to Nicole's Bible studies; many are getting saved, while others are experiencing true joy in their marriage because of their walks with God.

❖ **Praise God:** As Bible school approaches, many are eager to hear God's Word and grow in their Spiritual walks.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pray:** That we would continue to learn the Tiale language and culture and develop an even deeper relationship with the Tiale people.
- **Pray:** For wisdom to be able to balance the 3 full-time ministries; Language/ Translation, Discipleship, Bible School.
- **Pray:** For wisdom and discernment as we invest in others.

## One Last Cyclone?

One of the major reasons why we “hunker down” from November through the beginning of May is the uncertainty; cyclones come and go, and the rivers flood in a moments notice, a river that was once calm and serene, in less than 3 hours can become a murky impassible place of terror, which has claimed numerous vehicles and the lives of several indigenous people. Needless to say, being flexible and patient are common place, while also knowing to be prepared for about a 6-months of food and supplies. We have not slept outside the village since before Thanksgiving and are looking forward to going to town next month for a few days and speak English with other people. Outside of your spouse and calls home, imagine not using your native tongue for 6 months, isn't that a rather an interesting thought? We plan to go to town, say hi to some other missionaries, restock our supplies, and get ready for Bible School, which starts mid-May.

## Understanding & Going Deeper

We cannot express the joy we have in discussing with the Tiale people the various nuances of specific Biblical terms, in many ways, their world-view is being realigned and they are understanding more fully God's Word and Who He is. Before we arrived, their experiences of the Bible were not done in their heart language, this left them trying to put many deep truths into a framework they couldn't grasp, much like putting a square peg in a round hole. As they begin to understand God's Word more in their heart language, they are seeing that salvation is “much bigger” than *just* going to heaven, there is much more to the Christian life than just getting a “ticket punched”. A local pastor said, *“Before you (Seth & Nicole) came, I thought salvation was only about being in God's family, but now I see that it is only the beginning, my walk with God is much more important and the greater focus in God's Word, I never thought about it until now”*. We are nearing the 60% marker of New Testament terms for our lexicon, and we are hoping to keep up the pace, even in the midst of Bible school. We will see how many hats we can wear at one time.

## Lights are Being Turned on

We have a saying here, *“whatever seed you plant, expect that thing to grow”*; in short, plant cucumber seeds, in a few months you'll have a few fruits, plant a nut tree, yes, it will take years, but it will feed you for a long time. We have been serving the Tiale people since 2016, and we are now getting to see some of the harvest from our time here; people are coming to the Lord regularly, and Christians are looking more like Christ-followers. God is too good!

-Your feet to the Tiale people & the country of Vanuatu, Seth & Nicole Stokes



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“The antidote comes from understanding our proper role as simple tools in the hands of God”.- B. Smith