

Zabana Net Testament Dedication Report

The Zabana New Testament Dedication and Launching was held on a rainy Sunday, 2 July 2023 in Kia, Santa Isabel Island in the Solomon Islands.



The day began with a time of reflection and preparation for the Eucharist from Romans 6:1 with the reminder that we should not choose to go on sinning.

The start of the Eucharist service was followed by a singing choir processional outside that was accompanied by the blowing of a conch shell announcing the arrival of the Zabana NT. A table bearing books covered by white cloth and a fish net was carried to the front of the church where a retired Bishop from the language community dedicated the Zabana NT to be holy and used by God. He told all attending that the fish net represented that the books would be used to catch people for the kingdom of God.



The service was mostly held in the Zabana language with Old Testament (Ezekiel 37:1-10) and Psalm (119:9-16) readings in English. The New Testament (Rev 2:1-3) and Gospel (John 1:1-14) were in Zabana with the readers using previous trial editions of the NT books that were well used.



The sermon was on Translation where the following points were made:

- Translation is not easy and must be done carefully. The Bishop relayed a story where in seminary the Bishop had a foreign teacher who liked to try to use Pijin. When talking about Jesus feeding the 5,000, he said, “Jesas hemi kaikaim 5,000 people.” That meant that Jesus ate 5,000 people.
- Translation is not something to do alone. The New Testament project began with 60, then dropped to 30, 20, 10 and then finished with one. Now two more have joined the translator to work on the Old Testament. The community also needs to help review and then use the Bible.

After the service, the congregation walked to the community center where a ribbon was cut to start the launching celebration. After the ribbon cutting, the people went home for breakfast.





People returned before lunch for the launching program where:

- food was eaten,



- music was played,



- speeches were made - When Greg Jones gave his speech in Zabana, everything stopped and all listened intently.



- different groups did traditional dances,

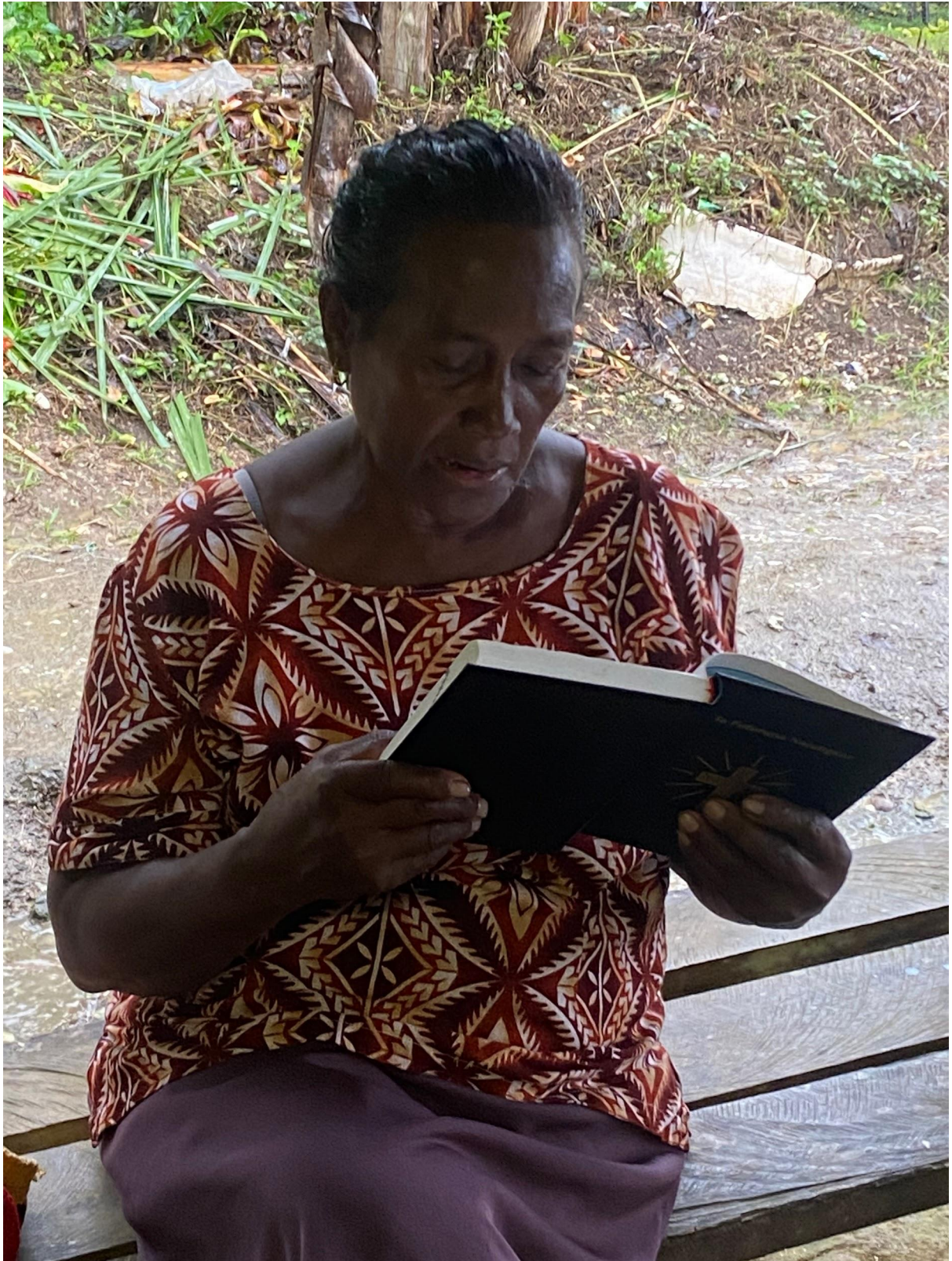




- and people purchased and began reading their Zabana New Testaments - more than 200 books were sold at the launching. The translation committee will be taking books to sell at each village of the Zabana language area.







A group of people from Honiara took a 28 hour ship trip to a “nearby” village and then took outboard motorboats another 45 minutes to arrive in Kia.

Attendees from Solomon Islands Translation Advisory Group:

- Greg Jones (Zabana Translation Advisor who started the work)



- Paul and Anita Nelson (Director and wife)
- Jack and Mahi Snell (visiting friends from Hawaii)
- Adveint Sikou (Gao translator)
- Theresa Dola (Recording team lead)
- Aaron and Abbie Goshert (MK teens of Operations Manager)

Attendee from Islands Bible Ministries (currently overseeing the Zabana OT translation)

- Katena Tarakabu (Islands Christian College School Principal)

