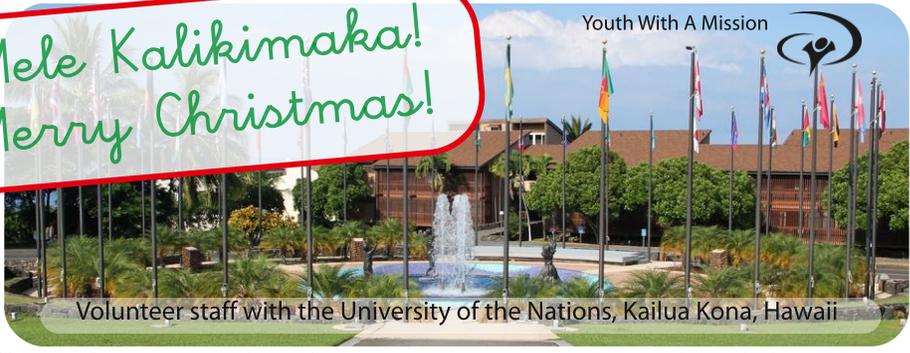




Mele Kalikimaka!
Merry Christmas!



Youth With A Mission



Volunteer staff with the University of the Nations, Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Michael and Lori Johnson — bringing the Word of God to people in their own heart languages and teaching missionaries
<http://MLJohnson.org> 808-333-6921 December 2012

Minority languages are getting more access to the Word of God and Bible study aids

by Lori and Nate

When people refer to a 'majority' language, they often mean one that is the official language of a country and spoken by the majority of the country's population.

Can you put these 10 top majority languages in the order they are most spoken throughout the world? Arabic, Bengali, English, German, Hindi, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish (see the bottom of the next page for answers).

When we refer to a "minority language" we mean where a language is spoken by the minority of the population of a territory or country.

How many languages do you think are spoken in the world and how many of those are 'minority' languages?

Well...there are roughly 6,500 spoken languages in the world today. About 2,000 of those languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers. Those are definitely minority languages, but others can also be minority languages.

How many English Bible translations do you think there are? Well... hard to count but there are well over 100 English whole Bible translations. We have seen over the last several decades that our technological advancements have made the Bible more accessible for English speakers. We not only have many English Bible translations to choose from, but we can run a variety of Bible study programs on our computers that can help us quickly find passages, compare different translations, see Greek root words, and see various

commentaries on a single verse. Free versions of such software exists, but many have been produced because English speaking Christians form a massive market, willing to spend the money on tools that will aid them in their Bible studies.

In many cases, these software programs, even the free ones, allow users to add new Bible translations into the program. Theoretically, this would allow someone who speaks a small, minority language (such as any language indigenous to Papua New Guinea) to use free versions of these software tools to study the Bible in their own language **if their translated**

Bibles or Bible portions could be put into the right format. Up until now, this has been unlikely to happen because these languages have both fewer speakers and less financial resources.

One of Michael's most recent projects has been to **write software that will automatically convert files of translated New Testaments into other file formats that can be used in these Bible study programs**, thus enabling people of minority languages to have access to Bible study aids. Once that is completed, he will be able to put all the Bible translations that he has put on the internet (241 so far) into a format that is used by at least 5 different Bible study programs. **People will be able to read and study the Bible in their own language on computers, smart phones, and tablet computers running Windows, Mac OSX, Android, iOS, and Linux.**

What would you do without the Bible in your language? Would you miss having an electronic copy of your favorite Bible translation?

More ↘



Paper Bibles are great, but a library of Bibles and study materials on a smart phone is easier to carry and less expensive to copy.



Rachel's Column

I love my family! I have really been enjoying having my big brother Nate around. At the end of December, he is moving back to Papua New Guinea to volunteer as a teacher in a Christian school for two years. His address will be:

Nate Johnson
c/o St. Fidelis College
PO BOX 827
MADANG MP 511
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

I had fun visiting with Grandma Carol when she came for Thanksgiving.

I'm looking forward to my big brother Evan coming for Christmas!



Basic Health Care Knowledge

by Lori

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." —Benjamin Franklin

When our family lived in Papua New Guinea, I was struck by some of the sicknesses people had because I knew that many were preventable **if** they would have known some basic health care. Many times in PNG I cleaned the wounds of my National friends, gave them health care advice and/or sent them to a nearby clinic or hospital for further care. It is because of those experiences that I am thrilled to teach "primary health

Prayer points: effective ministry, protection, provision, wisdom, understanding, and health.



care" to the students at the University of the Nations (YWAM) every quarter.

Most of the students taking my class are heading out to developing countries (third world) for a 3 month outreach after they have finished a 3 month lecture phase at the University of the Nations. The purpose of my class is for these students to gain knowledge to keep their outreach team healthy AND to learn some 'hands on' skills to teach basic health care to the people they are serving while on their 3 months outreach.

I love teaching this class and enjoy the variety of students from different countries. This quarter my 23 students represent 8 different nations and will be leaving for their outreach to mostly developing countries at the end of December. I teach on a variety of health care subjects and try to customize it to the countries they will be serving in. This quarter I've focused on: ways to purify water, dehydration and rehydrating with oral rehydration solution, hand-washing, water-borne diseases, wound care, basic first aid, hands-only CPR, HIV/AIDS, tropical diseases, worms, skin infections, and nutrition. Though many of these health care teachings are basic to us Westerners, it isn't always common to those in developing countries.

Next week my students will present a health care teaching they've learned this quarter—a practical way for them to demonstrate what they will teach on outreach and also a practical way to share God's love.

"I was sick and you looked after me."—Matt. 25:36b (NIV)

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Michael & Lori Johnson

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Answer:
1. Mandarin Chinese
2. Spanish
3. English
4. Arabic
5. Hindi
6. Bengali
7. Portuguese
8. Russian
9. Japanese
10. German

Please send personal mail to:
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