

A Step of Faith

By: Marilyn Laszlo

Marilyn:

Good morning. This will be my last time here and I'm going to leave after I speak to go back home to Indiana. But I just want to say this. I'd like to do an honor system concerning my table back there. They can take whatever you want and don't keep track of it and pick up my business card and when you go home, give the bill to your parents. My business card has the address on it. But yes, I would like to certainly like to see most of you take that book. And I know there's not enough for all of you there, so whoever's in the back probably will get most of them. But anyway, I just want to do that for you. You can take a DVD or you could take one of everything and send the money whenever you get it together. It's an honor system. The message that I would like to give this morning is a couple of miracle stories. But one is when I had the privilege last night of praying with so many of you and I'm just on a high about that. That prayer meeting was just really special and I don't know how many people sat down beside me and I prayed for you.

Thank you for that privilege. That's part of my ministry. And I also said to most of them that if they want me to pray for you down the road, pick up my business card and email me because that is part of my ministry. I get a lot of emails from teenagers and parents and thanking me for talking to the young people and so that's also available. Just let me know and I'd be happy to pray for you. It would just be a really privilege to pray for you. One of the questions is how did you know you were supposed to go to New Guinea? How did you know you're supposed to join Wycliffe Bible Translators? How did you know that you're supposed to go up this river 500

miles? Well, we will only know for sure by taking a step and following that passion and the desires that God has put in your heart. It is walking by faith, there's no question about it. We will never have a visual picture of tomorrow. We like to have it all laid out. Lord, just tell me just how all this is going to be. We have the Holy Spirit within us and he's going to guide us, he's going to convict us.

If you're going the wrong direction, he's going to set up a barrier. And I started to go the wrong direction. When I resigned from teaching, I went to my pastor and I said, you know, pastor, I feel it's really time for me to follow my dreams and be this missionary and go to some place where they've never heard the name Jesus. And so my pastor said, well where do you want to go? I said, well, I really don't know. He said, well, you got to write to submission boards. Well, I went to every mission conference there was when I was down at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee, and I went to all the mission conferences and Moody Bible Institute because I'm not that far away from Chicago. I collected a lot of brochures. It's interesting how God leads you, because it was through a brochure. And I was just at a big mission conference just last week, and there were 17 different mission organizations and all their tables and everything. And I tried to challenge the students and the people in the congregation to pick up the brochure. If you're not sure where God is leading, you, just go through each one of those tables and pick up a brochure and read about it, because we got to expose ourselves to reading books and brochures and talking to missionaries, and God uses people well.

So I wrote five letters. This was March 1965. I hadn't resigned from my teaching position yet, but I was taking a step, and it was a really scary step. And the other thing is, I had just gotten a

brand new car. It was a white Galaxy XL convertible. Whoa. It was just a beautiful car. And if I was going to be a missionary, I was going to have to get rid of that car. But anyway, I was on my way to prayer meeting at my church in Valparaiso Indiana, in my convertible, had those five letters, and I pulled up to the corner where there was a mailbox on the corner, and got out of my convertible, and I stood in front of that mailbox with these five letters. And then all of a sudden, I was think, what in the world am I doing? I'm going to resign from my teaching position? Where am I going? We just want to know we want to know about tomorrow. We want to have this picture, but we're not going to have this picture. It's walking by faith as I stood there holding these letters. And then I thought, well, okay, what do I have to lose by throwing these things in the mailbox?

What do I have to lose because of fear? If I don't throw those letters in the mailbox, I have a lot to lose. And that was I was just standing there just going through this, okay, am I going to throw these things in there? And I said, Well, I don't have anything to lose. I really don't. But I have a whole lot to lose. If I don't, I wouldn't even be standing here. My whole life would have been different. I dropped him in there and said, Oh, golly, Lord, I can't get my hand back in there and get them out there's no way. So I went on to prayer meeting. Well, Wycliffe Bible Translators were the first to answer a letter. I don't know what five mission boards I wrote to, but Wycliffe was one. And they said, well, they called me and they see that you are a school teacher, and so you probably have the summer off. And we would suggest then you go down to the University of Oklahoma and take our linguistic and anthropology courses. And what I found out is they bring the translators home from South America and Mexico to teach the course.

We have that agreement with the University of Oklahoma. Well, I was so excited, and so I was just telling my parents, I was telling my friends, I was telling my church, I'm going to be a Bible translator. I'm going to Mexico because it's close. And also that's where our work started, Mexico, Guatemala, and South America. And I just love that culture. I love their music. They're so colorful. Well, I get down to the University of Oklahoma and the whole focus had changed. And it was no longer Mexico, South America, or Guatemala. Wycliff doesn't tell us where to go. They give us all the options and, well, what happened is the South Pacific really opened up. There's major languages, I mean, thousands of languages in the South Pacific. I'm going to show you a little video clip of my stubbornness and how God will set up a barrier. It's just like Jonah. He didn't want to go to Nineveh what happened to him? Well, you're going to find out what happened to me if we just see this little video, Oklahoma. And that has to do with the football stadium.

[video plays] In 1965, I went to the University of Oklahoma. I resigned from my teaching position, and I decided to follow my dreams and become a missionary. Well, I was led to Wycliffe Bible translators. And during that summer, Wycliffe suggested that I go down to the University of Oklahoma and start taking the training courses in linguistics and anthropology. And so I remember telling all my history classes, all my Phys. Ed classes, that I was going to be a Bible translator and I was going to Mexico. When I got down to the university, the whole focus had changed. And so Wycliffe was encouraging all of us to consider the South Pacific, consider the Philippines and [inaudible] and Indonesia, Papua New Guinea. And so I was praying with all the students there, lord, just move some of these people to the South Pacific, and praise God, I knew where I was going. I was going to Mexico. Well, in the middle of the summer, Wycliffe

handed us all an application paper, and they asked us to pray over the weekend and then hand it on Monday. Well, on the application paper, after your name and address and everything, it was this question, where do you feel God is calling you?

Well, first choice, Mexico. Second choice, Peru. Third choice, Columbia. Well, at this point, it's very interesting. I became very irritated. I was grumpy. I really didn't want to talk to anybody I cut all my classes. I cut all the meals. And you know, that night I just tossed and turned. I couldn't sleep. And the next morning I woke up with a headache. And you know what we do at that point? We take Tylenol. Now it says write on the bottle initially, take two pills, and if that doesn't quench the Holy Spirit, wait 4 hours and take two more. I remember going up to my room and getting my laundry bag, and I decided I'm not going to any of my classes on Friday. I didn't even go to breakfast and started to go down to the Laundromat. It was full of people and it was too noisy. So I started walking down the campus. Now, in the middle of the campus is the football stadium. I don't know what that says about their focus, but right there in the middle of the campus, the football stadium, of course, nothing's going on during the summer, June, July, and August actually Wycliffe, kind of takes over the whole campus.

But as I was walking by the football stadium, I noticed the gate was open just a little bit and I just kind of pulled it open and walked in 60,000 empty bleachers. Oh, great. This is just exactly where I want to be. So I went to the top bleacher and sat down there with my laundry bag. And I'm just arguing with God, you know, Lord, I gave up my teaching position. I mean, I gave up that paycheck every month. I gave up this beautiful apartment. And the most painful thing was I gave up my brand new car. The first time I ever had a brand new car. No, it was just gorgeous.

And I really believe there's going to be convertibles in heaven or else I'm just going to be in trouble. So I'm sitting there arguing with God and I'm reading my Bible. I was reading in Jeremiah. And God reminds me, Marilyn, I don't need your paycheck. I don't need your apartment, and I certainly don't need your white convertible. I need you. I need you to be obedient. Well, this became a really struggle and talk about a competition from Mexico versus Papua New Guinea.

I remember just walking around that stadium and then I went to the top bleacher and just lay down on the top bleacher up there and fell asleep. And when I woke up, it was after lunch and I was pretty hungry. Haven't had anything to eat or drink for a day and a half. It was like a fast. And so I looked up there at the top bleacher, I could see a hamburger stand. And I thought I would just come down to the bleachers, go out the gate and get a hamburger and Coke, come back in there, because I really wasn't ready to go back to the dorm or talk to anybody. Well, I went to go out the gate and the gate was locked. Well, I didn't think anything of that because I thought, well, it's around noon and they're going to come back a little bit later. Well, 01:00 came. 02:00 came. 03:00 came. 04:00 came 05:00. I knew they weren't coming. And of course, I'm becoming dehydrated, and I haven't had anything to drink. And I had circled all around that whole football stadium, and there was no way I could get out of there.

I looked up at the fence, 12ft fence, and three rows of barbed wire coming out of the top. And the interesting thing, they were remodeling, and all the water facets had been turned off, and some of them had actually been removed. So I go clear up to the top bleacher, and I could see my colleagues off in the distance, going to the dining room. So I'm waving and I'm yelling and I'm

waving, and somebody waves back at me. And that was the end of that. And I knew that I was going to be there for the night. Now, I really wasn't afraid that evening. I just took all of my laundry and made myself a little bed and had no problem going to sleep. It was a nice, beautiful Oklahoma night. All the stars were out. Next morning, I could see all my colleagues going off to breakfast. Now I am becoming really dehydrated. I'm starting to get dizzy. I just haven't had enough to drink. And I've been out in the hot sun, so I know I'm in real trouble. If nobody comes on Saturday, nobody's coming on Sunday. And I know that I'm going to be a martyr right here in this football stadium before I go anywhere.

Well, I went down the bleachers and got under the ramp. That's where they sell all the concessions, coca Cola, hot dogs, and all these different fast food things. And I'm just looking at pictures, and I know I'm in trouble. And I finally, out of desperation, I went down and just knelt down there on the 50 yard line, and I said, Lord, I feel very small here, but I will go anywhere, anywhere you want me to go. Just get me out of this place. Well, I really surrendered. I really did. When people ask me, how did you know? How did you know you're supposed to go to Papua New Guinea, well, it was very, very clear. And I just say, Thank you, Jesus. Thank you for leading me to Papua New Guinea, because God never makes mistakes with our lives. [video ends]

Well, how did I get out of there? Well, it was a few more hours. This was Saturday. And underneath those ramps on that side of the football stadium, there was a tennis court. I said, well, surely somebody's going to come play tennis on Saturday. And I had written a note, and I was standing by all the different gates waiting for somebody to come by so I could get their attention.

But it was very quiet Saturday morning. Now it's almost 100, and I'm in serious shape because it's two and a half days without food or water, and I've been in the hot sun. And so I stood under the ramp waiting for somebody to come play tennis. And I'm looking at my watch, at about 01:00, somebody came to play tennis a man and a little girl. He was at the Farthest tennis court. I'm on the dark shadows. I'm yelling, I'm waving, and either they can't hear me or see me. But the ball starts to roll towards the fence. And I said, Good. Just a little bit further. So I got the attention of the little girl. I said, Honey, is that your daddy? She said, that's my daddy. I said, I need to talk to him. Would you have him come over here and I can talk to him? And he came over, and I said, sir, you'll just not believe this, but I've been locked in the stadium for two days and a night without food or water. He says, Oh, my goodness. He said, well, he was a track coach for the University of Oklahoma.

He says, Well, I don't have a key, and all the staff are gone. I said, don't worry about a key. Get the fire department, get a ladder, get a rope. Just get me out of here. I said, have you ever heard of Wycliffe Bible Translators and the Summer Institute of Linguistics? Oh, yeah, they take over the whole campus every year. Well, I'm one of them, and I think they're still in the dining room. And I wrote this little note. If you could just before you do anything, just give me something to drink and maybe a sandwich or something. And so he took my little note. He said, Well, I know where the cafeteria is so he got his little Volkswagen with this little girl, went off to the cafeteria, comes back with a girl that was a translator in Mexico. Now, that is like rubbing salt into a wound. But anyway, she came and she had a sandwich. Of course, I'm under the ramp. I'm not by

a fence. You can't throw it over. So she smashed it and slid it under the fence well I devoured that sandwich. Well, then she had a carton of milk, and there was no straw.

I said, Oh, my goodness, I'm so thirsty. So I put my face up right at the fence, you know, she pulls off my lower lip and just posed. How did I know I was supposed to go to New Guinea? Oh, yeah, it was really very clear. Well, he did find a key, actually. So I got out of there. But it really caused an incredible stir on that campus about me locked in the football stadium. But it is true. God does not make mistakes with our lives. Take the step. Don't be afraid, because God will set up a barrier just like he did for Jonah, and he ended up in a whale. Well, I don't know what was worse. I think it was better to be locked up in the football stadium. These 14 little boys that were following me around all over the village, five, six and seven year olds became my translators along with the old man. And as they became teenagers and we started to translate Genesis, which is the creation story, the foundation. Now, every language group in the world has a creation story. Now, there's four clans in our village. One clan came from the crocodile, one from the python, one from the wild boar, one from the Cassowary bird.

Now, through those four creation stories, they can explain every part of creation. Well, it's interesting when you learn their language. It's really not that far off from Genesis. But anyway, so I'm working with these young boys. Now. They're teenagers. After Second World War, a lot of things got introduced into Papua New Guinea colds, measles, whooping cough. We lost 23 babies in two days because of whooping cough, the wailing that was going on in that village, because it's all about children. And for a mother to lose a baby mother could have maybe 15 children. Maybe only three are living. A lot of it was because of the water. Dehydration is what

these babies were dying of. And until you develop a rapport with those medicine men, until you can learn the language and explain why so many babies are dying because of dehydration. When a baby got diarrhea, the mother stopped all the liquids because that was the problem. A very simple solution. And, boy, you're really motivated to try to get on top of this and learn the language and develop that rapport with the medicine man. Our medicine men are called Ingam hussugi, which means the man who spits the spitter.

I mentioned that the other day. They cut your skin and let out the bad blood and wherever that pain is, and they spit and blowing spit and blow. Well, so we're translating I think we're translating in Mark right now. And we do a little bit of the Old Testament that we do some of the New Testament. So here these young boys are sitting around this table now in My, Thatch-roofed house. And they all have colds. Every one of them have a cold because there's so many people that live in one big house. All the brothers live together. If your father has brothers, you'd be living with your father and all of his brothers and their wives in one big house. And so when one person gets sick, they all get sick colds. And they know that colds are brought in by the white skinned people. And so they're sitting around, 14 of them, 14 well teenagers. And it's just hanging there. You know what that's called, just hanging there. That's called snot. And I'm looking at 14 little young boys with snot. And our word for snot is slope. And so I said, Why don't you boys just go out and just blow your nose?

Just blow your nose. So they'd get up and go out and blow their nose. And they did it like my grandparents used to do it like this, and then they rub it into the dirt. Well, it was just so distracting because they're up and down and up and down. We're trying to concentrate on

translation is a huge job. I said, Okay, this has been going on for a couple of weeks. They've got colds and they just let it hang there. And so finally I decided, okay, we're careful what we introduce, just like the clothes and everything. But I decided to introduce a handkerchief. And so I got on the radio and called Mike Oscar. Mike Oscar? Thirty-six alpha Juliet. And I was giving a list of things that I needed the plane to bring. And I said, I want two dozen handkerchiefs. He said, what? Yeah, never mind two dozen handkerchiefs. So the handkerchiefs came, and so I passed them all around to all 14 boys. They said [something in foreign language] what is this? It's not big enough to wear. What is it? Well, I had to take two of those young boys to our mission station and to get my uh grammatical papers checked by our translation department or something.

Well, it's the first time anybody had ever been in a plane. Our word for plane is flying canoe. Anyway, these two young boys were just absolutely petrified. I mean, they just so stiff because they thought if they leaned over, the whole plane would turn over. But when they got to our mission station, they saw lights, they saw cars, they saw different kinds of houses, and it was pretty good. And so these two young boys said, well, I know what this is. It's a white man's thing. What do you mean, it's a white man's thing? They blow their shlope in it. They blow the shlope in it? Yeah. Well, yeah, we solve the slope in it. Then they fold it up like this, and they put it in their pocket and they save it. And we saw the women. The women just fill a whole purse with the shlope. They blow them. They open the purse, and they're carrying shlope around all day long. And so when you're little, your parents were trying to teach you how to blow your nose. That is a skill. And so they'll say, well, how do you do it? Well, they said, we just saw it.

They just blow. So they're all trying to blow them, and they say, look how much I got. How much you got? Look at how my gosh. And then they folded it all up like this and gave it all to me. Because we're the only ones that save it. You're going to have a hard time blowing your nose and putting it in your pocket. I can tell you that right now after this story. Like any teenager, they want to learn how to drive the outboard motor. We were very anxious to show them how to run the outboard motor, because the river is really tricky. It's also full of crocodiles, and it winds around like a snake. And if you can't read that river, you're going to be in trouble. Like, if logs underneath the water, you can sometimes tell. And then there's sandbanks that go way out, and then you get your canoe stuck on a sandbank. Oh, my goodness. You got to get out and get into that mud. And, you know, there's crocodiles out there try to pull this. So we were really anxious to teach some of these young boys how to drive the outboard motor, because they know the river like the back of their hand.

So I was training eight of those 14, eight of them. I told them we practiced in the village. I said, Okay, you got to know how to change the spark plugs. You got to know how to change the propeller and the pins and the fuel line and just all those kinds of things. Every three months, we left the village to go shopping. It takes us about ten to 12 hours to get down to the airstrip where we can get some food. So now we're on our way. They are so excited, and so they're all taking turns, and it was just a natural thing. They didn't have any trouble running that outboard motor. So I was telling them, okay, here's the checklist. You got to have a checklist to make sure we don't forget anything. First of all, if you're going down river, you got to have 20 gallons of gas. Four of those five gallon tanks have to be full. Now, we're coming back upstream against the

current, and we're going to have a lot of supplies. Two tons, actually. This is a long canoe, and so we need all five of those tanks filled, all five to go up river.

Okay, so we get down to the patrol station, where Wycliffe has a guest house. We spent the night there. Now we're heading back to the village. We cannot get to the village before dark, and so we've been traveling about 2 hours in the dark, and we have our torches, which we call the flashlights. Now they have flashlights, and we're spanning the river to look for logs and things like that. And it kind of winds around. And it's interesting because when you're traveling at night and you got this flashlight and the flashlight hits the head of a crocodile, their eyes light up bright red. I mean, it's a very interesting journey. Well, we passed the village of Cupcain. Cupcain is the last village before we come to our little tributary. And then we have I know when we pass this village, we only have 45 minutes to an hour to get to our village. And cupcain is always an enemy village. They're always forever fighting with that village. Well, we passed the village of Kukin, and the motor dies, and I'm waiting for them to change the tank of gas. And we're just being pushed down now because the current is three to 5 miles an hour.

And I said, [foreign language 00:27:34] come on hurry up. The mosquitoes. The mosquitoes are just like the one you're just drifting there just like a cloud of mosquitoes all over you. And then one of the boys said, [foreign language 00:27:46] there's something wrong with the motor. I said, something wrong with the motor? Well, then change all the spark plugs. [foreign language 00:27:55] All spark plugs? Not the spark plugs. I said, well, then maybe it's the fuel line. Maybe there's a kink or dirt at the fuel line. Just put a new fuel line. All fuel line, one day. [foreign language 00:28:05] not the fuel line. Now I'm sitting there thinking we're being pushed back

downriver if we don't get that motor started. If we don't get that motor started, we have four and a half days to drift back to the airstrip. I'm getting really nervous about this. And then finally one of the boys said, oh, [foreign language 00:28:29] we're out of strong water. What? That's the word for gas, strong water. We're out of strong water. How many tanks did you fill? Four. Oh, yeah, four. Okay, four. I want to tell you something. I'm getting really angry right now, and I just can visualize.

We're going to be drifting for four and a half days. Four? We had a checklist, it says five. How could you just did four tanks? Well, we were just trying to save some money. Oh, that's just great. That is just great. Now what are we going to do? I want to tell you something. When you get angry, you speak the language very fluently. It just rolls off of your tongue. And I won't even tell you what I said to those boys, but I was really upset and I was very angry. You know what they said to me? Hata du koro yaitangi marilyn, you just sit down and be quiet. Oh, well, that's just great. I can sit here and be quiet. But what are we going to do? There are no gas stations along the river. This is jungle. Well, you told us in papa god's book that papa god can see us. Can papa god see us right now? I said, yes, of course, papa god can see everywhere. He can see us. Well, can't papa god see that we're in trouble? Oh, yeah. Papa god can see that we're in really big trouble because you guys were stupid.

Well, doesn't papa god know anything about outboard motors? I hate those kind of questions. I said, papa god knows about everything. Well, we're just going to [foreign language 00:30:06] well, we're going to pray. Oh, well, that's just great. That's just great. Go ahead and pray. I want to tell you something. Those young teenage boys put their hands on all five empty tanks, put

their hands on the motor, and they started to pray, [foreign language 00:30:31] and they started to pray. Oh, papa God, you've created everything up in the sky the sun, the moon, the stars. And Papa God, we're in a whole lot of trouble with Marilyn. They didn't have to tell God, but they had that right. But papa God, you created all that up there, the moon and the sun and the stars, and none of it ever falls down. And so, Papa, that's a lot of power. So, papa, you're enough. You're enough. We don't need any gas. And they pulled the rope on that motor. That motor started. I thought, yeah, well, it'll go a little while on fumes, my friends.

We went for 45 minutes to 1 hour without one drop of fuel. Whoa. How does that work? How does that work? We read about all these miracles, not only in the old Testament, the new Testament. I'm still trying to figure out, how did Jesus heal the blind, turn the water into wine, innocence, innocent childlike, faith. They don't know any better. They don't know about 911 and AAA and telephones and all that kind of stuff, but they knew about papa God, the kind of faith that God really would like us to have. You know, when the disciples went to Jesus and they said, well, who's going to be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Know what Jesus did. He got a little child and stood that little child among all of them. And he says, I tell you people the truth. Unless you people can humble yourself as a little child and have the faith of a little child, you will never please me. No, they didn't know about all this other stuff that we know about that messes up our mind. And it's really hard for us to walk by faith in this country. We're so blessed with everything.

It would be foolish not to call 911 if your house is burning down. But how do we as a nation that's so blessed? And God makes it very clear in many portions of scripture, you must walk by

faith if you're going to please me. If you're not walking by faith, you will never please me. So I would just like for you to tell me, how are we walking by faith in this country? We have everything just like that. It's hard, but there are many things that we can do, like your future definitely going to be walking by faith and taking some steps because you don't know where God's going to put you. Well, as we started translate, some of the words are very difficult to find. How do you find the word for righteousness, justification, sanctification? Well, we get them through, actually, a lot of stories. I remember how I found the word for salvation. Somebody nearly drowned. They got caught in a whirlpool. Well, that's not an everyday situation. So I have to tell the story on the tape recorder. I know that I'm going to get some new words. Well, I got this word, [foreign language 00:33:59]

I said what does that mean? Oh, that's why when you ask a question, they give you a whole story. It's like Papa God, he sees us, we're in trouble, and he throws out his fishing net and pulls us in, rescues us. I said, Whoa, what a powerful word for salvation. Yeah, he rescues us. Incredible word. Well, another word that was really hard to find, the word for s i n sin. Now it has to match the Greek meaning. And I forgot what the Greek word was, but this is a hard word to find. They can name sins. But I said, Okay, S-I-N. Well, we found this word, [foreign language 00:34:47] . It means a whole lot of things in English. It means like stinking, rotten garbage. It's no good, it's bad, it's awful, it's wrong. It means all those things, all those things in English. And I said to them, well, okay, what do you consider bad or wrong in your culture? And one of the young boys said, well, one of the things in our culture shouldn't lie. And another one of the boys said, Another one? You shouldn't steal. And then the old man said, well, you shouldn't kill.

Killing is wrong. We're so grateful for Australia and the missionary stopping all this killing.

Killing is wrong. He said, and then the old man said, you should never, ever sleep with another man's wife and commit adultery. And then he said, they said, you know you know what the most important in our culture? You should never, ever, ever show disrespect to the elders and especially to your mother and your father. I said, Whoa. I mean, where did you get this? Who told you this? Where did this come from? Oh our ancestors, they've been passing it down for generation to generation to generation. Oh my friends, how encouraging this should be to us. How is it that Christianity is so powerful throughout the whole world? How is it because the laws of God are written on the hearts of all men. And like I mentioned last night, the fields are ripe unto harvest. Yeah, that's why it makes it easy for us to just go, because that's all that Jesus said. Go. I used to think, what's the qualifications? I mean, do we have to go to college? Not really. But you're not going to get into a lot of countries without an education because a lot of things have changed.

Way back, way back when some of our pioneers were going to China, India, they traveled with their caskets. They had no intentions of coming back to the United States. The casket was their suitcase. And back then, no they didn't even have to graduate from high school. But today the world has changed. There are places in Indonesia that if you don't have a master's degree you're not getting in. You're not going to get a visa. Because they want educated people coming into their countries not to do the job but to train their people to do the job. And we kind of work our way out of a job. We train them to run their own program. And that's how it is with New Guinea. That's Wycliffe's policy. The medicine men, the spitters. So when we were translating and we

were translating in Genesis and I said to the young boys, I said, okay, somehow, somehow we've got to involve the leaders, the chiefs of the village, the medicine men. And I said under my mosquito net last night, this is what God told me to do. God told me to ask you boys, when you sit around the men's house at night around the fire, ask some of these men if they would just come in the evening and listen to what we have translated for that day.

And at first we average about ten verses a day. And they said, well they're not interested. They don't know how to read or write. I said, well you didn't either. I said, you didn't know anything either. I said, well, just ask them. That's all I'm asking. You're all from four clans, when you sit around the fire, ask them if they would come in the evening. We'll give them rice and mackerel or whatever. We'll just give them something to eat. Well, to their surprise, one of the most powerful, 24 of the most powerful medicine men in that village came. Sitting on the bark floor, bones through their nose and headdresses and paint and they're gourds and some didn't wear gourds. That's the picture they're sitting there. We were translating in Mark now with all that Satanic power, 162 medicine men, all of whom are capable of demon possession. But there's no history. There's no history of somebody healing a blind person and we have blind people. There's no history of Satan healing the deaf and mute and we have two women that are deaf and mute right now. There's no history of Satan healing the deaf and mute with all that satanic power.

Crippled people, I don't know where it comes from. There was a couple of crippled people when we arrived. Polio. I don't know what it is. But there is no history of Satan healing a crippled person. These men will spit and blow and spit and blow and become demon possessed in their whole body shaken. And so now we're reading these verses in Mark, 24 of the most powerful

medicine men in the village and this is what the verse we were reading that was so powerful and they came to Bethsaida and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. Of course I'm saying it in the language. [foreign language 00:40:34] And so Jesus takes the blind man by the hand and leads him outside the village. And when Jesus had spit right in the man's eyes and Jesus put his hands on him, and Jesus said, do you see anything? And these men said, he did what? He spit. And they said, Whoa. Jesus must be the most powerful spitter in the whole world. Now, do you ever think about the methods that Jesus used to healing? Hey, he was spitting all over the place.

He was spitting on the ground and make mud and put it on the blind man's eyes. The deaf and mute spit on his finger and put in his ear, in his tongue, and spit in the blind man's eyes. We need to do more spitting. [laughter] One after the other. More and more people came every evening. More and more of the medicine came every evening. And my friends, one verse, one verse from the word of God brought that entire village right to their knees. They all became believers.

So when we were translating Genesis, they got so excited about this creation story, how God created everything up at the sky, the sun and the moon. But those young boys would say, when are you going to tell us how Papa God created man? I say, well, we're not there yet. He's got to create the whole world first. It's in chapter two. Well, they didn't know anything about chapter two verses. And every day we'd gather. And every day one of the boys would say, is this the day? Is this the day you're going to tell us how papa God created man? I said, this is not the day.

I said, we're not there yet. Well we finally got there I said, Okay, this is the day. And they were so excited. This is the day. I'm going to tell you how Papa God created man. It goes like this. [foreign language 00:42:45] Papa God created man from the mud and the dirt, the ground. And Papa God, he just formed this dirt and mud. And then Papa God, he just blew into it. Oh, it was so quiet. And these boys were looking up at me with the dark eyes and their mouths were open. And then one of the young boys said, Is that it? I said, Oh, my gosh, they're not going to believe this creation story. And then they started to buzz and talk with the old man. And the old man says, Marilyn, Marilyn, we've always wondered, we've always wondered, did we really come from a python? Did we really come from a crocodile or wild Cassowary bird or boar? My friends, I don't know a single person in that village that's ever doubted that this creation story, that is the power of this book. Well, we finished. Took 24 years, but here it is. They chose the color, the color's green, the color of the jungle.

It says, [foreign language 00:44:11], Papa God's carving. My friends, my friends, there is no way that I can explain to you when boxes of these Bibles are coming up the river in a dugout canoe. Every single thatched roof house was beautifully decorated. Leaves and flowers and branches and orchids. Now there's 900 and some people in the village, and they're on both sides of the river waving palm branches and leaves and orchids and flowers. And as that canoe came into the village, they all started to shout, the word of God has arrived. The word of God has arrived. All 900 people shouting, the word of God has arrived. Wow. What a moment that was. What an incredible moment. I know what it took to get this done. 24 years. Malaria, several times. Typhoid fever, hepatitis, trigonosis. My friends, I would do it again in a heartbeat. Nobody can destroy the word of God. [clapping] And when we finished, the young boys wanted to come to

the United States and say thank you to all of our supporting churches. I said, what? I said, It's clear on the other side of the world. Well, they didn't know how big the world was.

I said, It would cost a whole lot of money. So? What do you mean, so? Yeah, well, we'll just pray. Here we go again. I had them write letters to all my supporting churches because I had to interpret it and wrote the English part of it. They were writing it in their own language. Six. Six churches decided to sponsor six. Six of these 14 boys. I said, Oh, Lord, we're taking six people to the United States of America. From the jungles to landing in Los Angeles. My sister and I spent one whole year preparing them for the United States of America. We said, Okay, first of all, you got to wear clothes. You got to wear shoes. And so we set a table and had knives and forks, so they don't you know they just eat out of green leaves. And so we practiced eating with forks and knives. And I said, now, when we get to the United States, you just watch your hostess, and you start from the outside. You move in. So we practiced that, and I said, Then you pull the chair out for the woman, and you seat the woman. When there's a line, you let the women go first.

You always open the door for the women. They said, that's the dumbest thing we have ever heard. I said, Women are first. They're not first in many of these countries, that's for sure. Well, now we're getting ready. They are so excited. I don't know if you know the logistics of this. I'm telling you, we were going in December. That's their summer. But that's our winter in Chicago. We'll be landing in Los Angeles and then Chicago. And the temperature in Chicago was 20 below zero. The coldest it gets in our village is 85. There was no way to prepare them for cold. We don't have any refrigerator with ice or anything like that. Anyway, we're getting into a small plane to fly to the capital. They didn't know they had a capital, they didn't know they had a

government. And so we spent some time at Port Morsby before we got into this huge plane, a 747. We're going to be flying to Sydney, Australia. Well, of course they're pretty excited, but this is their summer, so there's a lot of Australians in that plane because a lot of Australians go to New Guinea to be teachers and some are working in business and stuff like that.

So that plane was packed. Now there's eight of us, my sister and I and these six men. There's no way that we can be inconspicuous. Two white women and these six black guys, and we're speaking this different language and we're right in the center of the plane, eight seats. And so we take off. Now, they were really excited. They weren't afraid. Because if there are all these people on the plane, why should they be afraid? Anyway, it's always amazing to me that these planes can stay up in the air. I mean, it is an amazing thing. So we're cruising along for about two and a half hours and they're just having a great time. Of course, they bring them food and they brought them this washcloth. They had no clue what to do with that. I said, well, it's like taking a little shower, clean, wash your face, hands and stuff. After about two and a half hours, Jonah at the very end of the row of seats, he needs to go to the toilet. Now, it's very explicit in the language, not bad language. It's also very explicit in the trade language. Number one is pispis

Number two is pekpek. if you have diarrhea, it's pekpek water. Okay? So Jonah in a very loud voice, he says, mama, Marylin, me let go pisspiss. Oh, my word. Every head turned and, that was so embarrassing. And so I said to my sister, I said, Shirley, Shirley we forgot to show them how to use the toilet. And she said, Well, I'm not showing them. Well, Australia did try to introduce toilets, which are absolutely ridiculous. They said, well, just dig a hole. You have small hole that you can straddle. Just a small hole, dig it deep and then build a little thatch roof house over it.

Well, that was stupid because they're always out in the jungle. They're not going to come back to the village to go to the toilet. They go here and there and everywhere. I said, Shirley, what's going to happen if we let him go in there by himself? First of all, he's not going to know how to latch the door. And the other thing is going to try to stand up on the toilet and there's going to be PISCES everywhere. He's going to fall off and there's going to be a mess.

He could hurt himself. Okay, I'm going to show him. White woman, black man going down the aisle together. We go in the toilet together. Do you know how tight that is? We're in the toilet together, and I show him how to latch the door. Okay, now, time you like low pistpis number one, you know, can't stand up. You can't stand up on the toilet. You're going to fall off and piss everywhere. You're gonna hurt yourself now, okay? I'm trying to show them. Okay, now, by me, I've got to show you. You stand up straight, right? Straight here. Right there. Now shoot it straight in the hole, right? Straight in the hole. You can't go to the left or to the right. Right? Straight in the hole. All right. Time you like, go back. You must sit down. Now we move around. Okay, so I sit down. Now, time you like go pekpek. Okay, time you finish. Ok when you finish. Okay. Take the paper and clean ok good. Now throw it in there. Throw it right in there. In the hole. There. Now there's. Push this handle and it'll just go away.

Whoa. Where did it go? I don't know where it is. There's probably some kind of a tank. You mean you save that, too? When we came out of that door, the two of us together, every eye was riveted onto us. I said, Hey, friends, this is going to be a long trip. I was just showing him how to do it. That's it. That's what you call the nitty gritty of mission work. We were in 29 states. We had 200 and some meetings, they get all painted up with their headdresses and everything.

Incredible. They would put on an incredible performance. Two of them can speak a little bit of English. And we were also in the White House. When Barbara and George Bush was in the White House, they probably saw more of the United States than most of you. But they said that when we were coming back to California, where our headquarters was at that time, the director says, Okay, what are you going to tell the people about our country? They were just so amazed by all the stuff that we had and all the clothes. But their favorite store was anyway, where they have all the shovels and stuff like that.

Hardware stores? Yeah, hardware stores, yeah. They weren't interested in malls. They didn't like malls because it's so ridiculous to have all those clothes. It's just so ridiculous. They just didn't like it. But they said, you know the thing about the United States of America, you really are like slaves. You have no freedom. I said, what? We're the freest country in the whole world? Oh, no. Because you're controlled by this thing here. The watch. Tells you when to get up, tells you when to go to work, tells you when to eat. Even if you're not hungry, it's time to eat. And then you have to eat because it says to eat. It tells you when to go to bed. I mean, they said, this thing drives us crazy. Sometimes we're only late five minutes, and Marilyn you get upset. There's a whole lot of five minutes. Throw that thing away. They hated the watch. We are controlled by time, and they could see that this thing brings a lot of stress. We're running late. What's the big deal? Aren't they going to wait for us at church? Wait? How long? Well, what if we're only an hour late?

Hour late? Well, it's over with. Well, that is so stupid. They wait for each other. They don't go by this thing. They don't buy the calendar. The other thing that controls the entire United States that

they absolutely hated was stoplights. We invented the stoplight. And, Marilyn, we know if it's red, you are going to stop. We know when it's green, you're going to go. We have no clue what you're going to do with yellow. Sometimes you slam on the brakes. Sometimes you speed up. You know, you got to get rid of the yellow. Nobody knows what to do with the yellow, and it's dangerous. [laughter] The third thing that controls the entire United States of America is money. They saw that we could not do anything without money, and they said, Marilyn, we will never be controlled by watches or stoplights or money. Everything in the jungle is free. Everything in the river is free. Very interesting perspective of our country, isn't it? But they love the country, but they would not want to live here. Well, we got invited to the Billy Graham Crusade, and I end with this. They had never heard of Billy Graham of course, we were going to Little Rock, Arkansas, and they thought we were going to Arkansas to speak in a little country church until Cliff Barrows leads us out on the platform and they see 150,000 people. They turned around and they were getting out of there. I was behind them, Franklin Graham was behind me, and Billy Graham was behind Franklin. Two of them are going to give a testimony. Now, I want you to remember how we started. These were little boys running around the jungle naked, five, six and seven year olds. Now they're standing before 158,000 people giving a testimony. My friends, this is nothing but the power of God. You can tell they're nervous because they keep clearing the throat. Jonah is going to be the first one to speak, and he was the one I took to the toilet. Let's see the video now. [video starts]

Our special guest, Wycliffe Bible translator Marilyn Laszlo.

One week before we left the island of Papua New Guinea to come home to the United States of America, we finished. We finished the New Testament in their language, and it arrived just three weeks ago. And here it is for the first time. I remember when these men were opening the box, I could see the tears. Actually we all had tears in our eyes. And the first time that they had ever held the word of God in their own language, in their own hands. And one morning I got up really early in the morning and saw one of the men just holding their Bible like this. Have you ever held your Bible like that? We often take this book for granted. But this is the first time these men have ever held their own Bible. And I'm going to call a couple of them to come now and give their testimony. And they're going to give their testimony in English. My sister has been teaching them English for the past ten years and they're doing very well. Jonah, would you come and share with these folks?

Jonah: Good evening. My name is Jonah Mayak. Don't you think I'm Jonah in the whale, no. This is Jonah from the Jungle. I was saved since 1975 and also I've been working with my two missionary here to translate in this New Testament for past 20 years. Today I have a memory best to share with you. I mean tonight. First I'm going to read my own language, CPG one than English. Before I'm going to read, I would like to say that the people like you, you had the Bible many years ago, but the people like us, we don't. Tonight I'm very proud because I have my own Bible and I can witness my own people. [applause] Praise God. You know, on the very best first day when I have this Bible, my hand was shaking like this because I'm afraid. And also I'm very proud because I've been working very hard and I didn't know what I'm going to do. But today I understand. I'm going to read my own language and I could be able to follow the what God

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wants me to do, same as you. I'm going to read now the Bible verse. I'm going to read this on first John chapter four, verse seven and eight.

It says [foreign language 01:00:39], dear friends let us love one another because loves comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever does not love whoever does not love, does not know God for God is love. Thank you. [applause]

Marilyn: Thank you, Jonah. I'd like to have another one of my faithful translators, Paul Hoonie to come and just share just a bit of his testimony. Paul.

Good evening everyone. My name is Paul Hoonie. I was saved in 1975. And the very first time when Marilyn [inaudible 01:01:51] came to [foreign place name]. I was six years old that time. And when I was seven years old, I accepted Jesus in my life. And also I've been working with her for past 20 years to translating Bible in my own language. So tonight I have a memory verse to share with you, which is a memorize. It's on Luke, chapter six, verse 27. 1st I'm going to say in cipican language. And then in English, this verse it say [foreign language 01:02:20], it says, Listen, everyone. Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.

Wow.

It's a very hard verse. How we can handle it? People like you, you can drive ten or 15 miles without enemies. But we cannot do that. If we do that, we go into enemy tribe's boundary.

Because many years ago, our ancestors have been fight against those enemy villages surrounded

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us. And today, it's very hard and it is difficult for us. We can help them to carry out God's message, to help those people in the jungle because of why we were enemies. So tonight I want to tell you just a little bit about how our ancestors were being fight against those enemies. This weapon, its came from one of the largest birds in Papua New Guinea we call Cassowary bird. You don't have this animal in this country. It's like a Ostrich. It's part of the leg for that bird. And many years ago, our ancestors they were been used as weapons to fight against those enemy villages surrounded us. So we don't do this weapon anymore. This was long time ago. But today, brothers and sisters, we have a new weapon. For we can fight our guns with our enemies, which is word of God.

Thank you. [applause]

Marilyn: And there before me was a great multitude that no man could count. From every tribe, from every nation, from every people, from every country and from every language. [foreign language 01:04:23] Jerusalem. [foreign language 01:04:34] But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be witnessing me in Jerusalem and all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth and to our families, our friends, our community and our country. And my friends, I will never give up on the United States of America. Thank you.