

The **RENTZ** Report

JOHN RENTZ • JULY 2022

Dear Friends

When we sent out **The Rentz Report** last December, you may recall we were excited about our imminent shift to Ngarimu Bay – a dream come true for both of us, and especially for Rosalie who had fancied this magical little bay on the Thames Coast for many years. Those of you who haven't heard from us since then will be unaware of the bewildering turn of events following our shift.



Our haven in Ngarimu Bay

Rosalie had experienced some indigestion and bloating during the three weeks prior to our move on 11th February. Upon arrival here she straightaway sought medical attention. Even though the doctor immediately recognised the gravity of her situation, and even though we had excellent health insurance -- allowing us to 'go private' for medical care-- Rosalie wasn't able to see an oncologist until 31st March. By this time, she was extremely weak – unable to sit up for more than 30 minutes -- as she consumed little food during the previous 6 ½ weeks. Within 24 hours, the oncologist had Rosalie undergoing chemo to shrink the ovarian cancer tumours, but she could only prescribe a mild dose due to Rosalie's fragile condition. Sadly, that was her last treatment, and within a month Rosalie died.

For Rosalie and Liz and me, the experience felt like a wild roller-coaster ride, full of gut-wrenching emotions. But we knew God was with us and would see us through somehow. And we knew we were surrounded by hundreds of people like you, praying for us, encouraging us, and helping us in practical ways. In the midst of the storms, we recognised many blessings. Rosalie was able to enjoy the house and its beautiful gardens for three weeks prior to being hospitalized. She was grateful to be 'home' again, surrounded by familiar faces and places – and far from the hustle and bustle of the city! From the courtyard outside her hospital room, she could see the footpath leading up the hill to her childhood home. Her nurses included some of her childhood friends. Thankfully Hospice Waikato supplied us with a hospital bed, allowing Rosalie to come home to Ngarimu Bay for her final two weeks. District Nurses called daily to change the medicine pump and check on her needs. And God sent us a Wycliffe colleague, a former nurse, who stayed with us those two weeks, giving Liz and me much needed relief.

The traumas we experienced in March and April brought pain like I'd never experienced before. But God's Word ministered powerfully to us, reminding us that death is not the end for those who believe in Jesus... reminding us that the best is yet to come! One evening I felt guilty for enjoying the hospital meal which Rosalie couldn't eat, and I lamented to her: *I'm sorry you can't enjoy this delicious dinner.* She smiled and replied: *I'm going to a far better dinner!* [Rev 19:7] Like the Psalmist I can now say: *How happy I am because of your promises— as happy as someone who finds rich treasure* (119:162 NLT). May all peoples of the world soon gain access to this treasure!

I regret some of Rosalie's close friends on our email list were unaware of her illness; apparently there were multiple glitches with my email software. Or it could be operator error! Anyone can read the health updates here: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rosalierentz>. Or you can request a hard copy from me.



*Rosalie Gaye Rentz (nee Bulmer)
3 Oct 1950 - 30 April 2022*

Solomon Islands Happenings

Äiwoo Translator Luke and wife Anna arrived safely back at Reefs after Luke completed his advanced studies at IBM (Islands Bible Ministries) in December. Unfortunately, flight cancellations meant they didn't get home in time for Christmas. ☹️ Thankfully, since his return, Luke has managed to reconvene the Nila Reviewing Team, helping them complete their review of assigned chapters in **Matthew**. And he has managed to complete a translation of **Acts** and **James**.

Unfortunately, **Edmund** has been unwell and immobile, suffering from arthritis and gout in recent months. He did manage to work with the Balipaa Reviewers on one or two occasions; now that Edmund is well again, **pray that this review will recommence soon**.

Cause for Celebration!

At the end of June, we learned that The Tomako Cluster (project funding for a group of six SI languages, including Äiwoo) has been approved by Wycliffe USA! **Thanks be to God for this wonderful partnership** which will help cover myriad translation costs, including translators' compensation and travel.

Translation Consultant Training

Though I haven't managed to give much attention to Äiwoo translation since early March, I was able to participate in further translation consultant training. This involved participation in an online consultant check of **Exodus** in a language of South Asia. Six of us CiTs (Consultants-in-Training) observed a senior consultant conducting a check over three days; then each of us had a chance to check 50 verses over three days. I, however, managed to squeeze three days into five! 😊 **Ask God to open the door for more practice consultant checking for me.**

What's Next?

Praise God that the Solomon Islands Government officially opened their borders to commercial flights on 1st July. A number of our SITAG (Solomon Islands Translation Advisory Group) teams are returning in July. **Ask God to guide me in planning my next trip in the coming months.**

Many thanks to all of you who are part of our team. Some of you began partnering with Rosalie and me back in 1986. During the past 36 years (nearly all of our 39 years of married life), we were incredibly blessed through your generosity, kindness and prayers. And during these past four months, I feel like we've been carried by the prayers of God's people. Please keep praying for me, that I might continue in the work God is calling me to fulfil.

Ever grateful,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for the gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus!
- Pray for Aidan and Emily as they grieve – may God give them a hope for heaven.
- Praise God for the approval for the Tomako Cluster!
- Ask God to help me deal with the backlog of Äiwoo translation checking.
- Ask Him to give me wisdom to meet the challenges of each new day and grace to yield myself afresh to Him in this new chapter of life, so that He might be glorified.