



so that my salvation
may reach to the
ends of the earth.
Isaiah 49:6



A Missionary Story

Five year old Elinor Young was sick with polio – so sick that the doctors weren’t sure she would live. “Even if she does live,” they said, “she will be an invalid for life, hardly able to move on her own.”

Polio is a disease that kept Elinor’s muscles from hearing what her brain said to do. Because of that she couldn’t walk, move, or even breathe on her own.

But God’s plan for Elinor was different from what the doctors thought. She didn’t die! After many months in hospitals, surgeries, and lots of hard work, Elinor learned to walk again, although she had to use braces and crutches.

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GREAT COMMISSION KIDS aims to plant and grow a vision for mission in children’s hearts - a vision that will last a life-time.

This **quarterly** publication is mailed **free** to individual children and adult leaders of children. To financially **contribute** to this project or for other matters, **Contact the editor:** elinor.young@worldteam.org

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Still, many people thought Elinor was too weak to do much for God's kingdom.

But when she was twelve years old, Elinor heard a missionary from China speak at her church. He said, "If you think God wants you to be a missionary some day, please walk up to the front here to say so."

Elinor stood up in her braces and with her crutches slowly walked up to the preacher. For a long time she had known that God wanted her to be a missionary.

However, some people in the audience were embarrassed that Elinor wanted to do something so impossible for her to do.

After the meeting, one man apologized to the preacher that the only person who answered his question was a little lame girl who could never do that job. But the preacher said, "Whom the Lord calls, He WILL use."

Many years later, Elinor sat on a plane as it dipped and flew over the mountains of Papua, Indonesia. What others had said was impossible God had made possible – Elinor was on her way to the small mountain valley of Korupun to begin Bible translation work as a missionary! The language of the people there and nearby

valleys is called Kimyal.

For the next seventeen years, Elinor worked to learn the language of the Kimyal people better and better.



Elinor also worked hard to translate books of the Bible into the Kimyal language. She taught Kimyal people Bible stories and showed them God's love through the way she lived her life.

One day Elinor sat talking with a small group of boys.



She told them the story about her polio. "The doctors

★ Think About It ★

1. Which layer in the garden mound is most needed for the vines to grow? ___ top layer ___ middle layer ___ bottom layer ___ all layers are needed just the same.
2. The middle layer of grass in the mound heats up as it turns into plant food. The sweet potato vines need that heat and plant food to grow and make a harvest.
3. Which part of the Bible is most important to read so we can grow as Jesus's followers? ___ Old Testament ___ New Testament ___ both parts the same _____
4. The H_____ S_____ teaches us and helps us to become God's child and to use God's Word to learn true and right ways to live for Jesus.

The answers in the yellow box explain why Jesus told us to

“Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone.” Mark 16:15 (Easy-to-Read Version)

Psalm 119:130 says, **“As people understand your word, it brings light to their lives.”** (Easy-to-Read Version)

In this world there are many, many groups of people who don't know the light of the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus Christ.

WHOM THE LORD CALLS, HE WILL USE!

**will you invite Him to use you to help
TELL THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT JESUS?**

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more



Did you draw something like this?

Before the Kimyal people had any whole books of the Bible, they said, **“We hunger for God’s Word like we hunger for sweet potatoes.”**

That is how the Bible says we should be. It says, **“Like newborn babies hungry for milk, you should want the pure teaching that feeds your spirit. With it you can grow up and be saved.”** (1 Peter 2:2, Easy-to-Read Version)

A Korupun sweet potato mound is a good picture of how learning the Bible helps us believe in Jesus and learn how to live as His children. We can label the mound’s parts this way:



told my parents,

‘Somagdoblag.’ (‘She might die’),” she said.

“Somagdobso,” one of the boys corrected her, (“She will likely die.”)

“But you didn’t die,” the boy continued, “because God wanted you to come here and give us His Word.”

After Elinor had lived at Korupun many years, she heard the Kimyal people use a new name for her: Yan Meeli (Bad Legs).



Elinor asked Pastor Siud, “Why do you all call me Bad Legs? I know my legs are bad, but what is the real reason?”

He answered, “Your bad legs are important to us. Our people with bad legs can’t get out of this valley. But even with your bad legs God brought you all the way here to give us His Word. And God has helped you stay here with us. He did all this to give us His Word. That is how much He loves us.”

Elinor saw that to the Kimyal people, her bad legs were a symbol of God’s love for them. What a wonderful name and what an amazing God!

After almost 18 years, Elinor’s body became too weak to stay at Korupun any longer. Even though she had to leave Korupun, God worked through other missionaries and Kimyal people too, to finish translating the whole New Testament into the Kimyal language.

Some years later, when the whole New Testament was made into a book like our Bibles, Elinor was able to return to Korupun and enjoy a special ceremony with her friends, the Kimyal people. They had a week-long party to celebrate and dedicate to God the Kimyal New Testament. It is called “Eim Ayong di Geid Yubu,” Sky Father’s Holy Word.

That preacher way back when Elinor was still a child was right:

Whom the Lord calls He will use.



Did you know?



Korupun valley

- **Papua Indonesia** (the yellow-green part of the map above) is located on the western half of the world's second-largest island, New Guinea. *Papua Indonesia is not the same as the nation of Papua New Guinea.*
- The Indonesian province of Papua is home to some of the most remote people groups on earth.
- Rugged mountains, dense jungles, and active volcanoes make it hard to reach the more than 300 language groups and the outside world.
- There are long, muddy, full-of-ruts roads to where some language groups live.
- Others, like the Kimyal people of Korupun, can only be reached by walking for days on high mountain trails, or by flying in small airplanes or in helicopters.



Airplane photo courtesy of Malcolm Wilson.

Elinor learned that the Kimyal people eat a lot of sweet potatoes every day. They plant sweet potato vines in large garden mounds. Sweet potatoes sprout from the vines and after about six months are big enough to eat. The inside of a new mound looks like this, except there are a lot more vines.



The bottom layer is clay dirt (the only kind in the valley). In the middle is about 18 inches of chopped grass, on top is more clay dirt. Vines from sweet potato plants are planted deep inside it all. Because it rains almost everyday, if the vines were planted on the flat clay soil, they would rot in the soggy ground.

USE CRAYONS OR COLORED PENCILS TO DRAW WHAT YOU THINK THE OUTSIDE OF A KIMYAL GARDEN MOUND LOOKS LIKE.