

Bible Translation in Overdrive

*Accelerating Bible Translation
Through Innovation and Multiplication*
John and Bonnie Nystrom — Wycliffe Bible Translators

A vision for speeding up the pace of translation

Wycliffe has embraced the vision that by the year 2025 a Bible translation project will be in progress for every people group that needs it. Wycliffe calls this “**Vision 2025.**”

We acknowledge that this cannot be accomplished simply by our working harder or doing more of what we are now doing. It will require us to make significant *changes in our attitudes and ways of working.*

Human tragedy brings translation opportunity

That change in attitude came for us in 1998 in Papua New Guinea where we had gone to translate the Bible for the Arop people. In July 1998, a tsunami completely wiped out Arop village, killing half the Arop people. Knowing that thousands of people who spoke three languages related to Arop were also killed, we asked the Lord to show us how we could include these related languages in the translation process.

Innovation and multiplication

The Lord answered our prayer by providing an innovative strategy using teamwork and technology. First, the Arop-speaking translators who have been working with me for over 15 years revise and polish a translation they have already produced. This could be a whole book or a series of chapters. Then two other Wycliffe members and I check it thoroughly for accuracy (see other side). Translators from three closely related languages then each use *Adapt It* software to quickly produce a rough draft in their languages. That rough draft is then polished, checked and used by churches and public schools in the villages, polished again, checked again, and eventually all four translations are officially published. A slightly more complex process produces translations in seven more languages. Translators from all 11 languages work together using laptop computers on a wireless network in a remote jungle village.

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More information on the web:

Our web site: www.thenystroms.org.

Wycliffe USA: <http://www.wycliffe.org/features/IOW273-4.htm>

Wycliffe Canada: <http://www.wycliffe.ca/wordalive/archive/2004fall/HTML/tragedy1.html>

“Wycliffe in Overdrive” in Christianity Today, Feb. 2005: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2005/002/28.74.html>.

Short story on the tsunami at Christianity Today: <http://www.ctlibrary.com/1877>.

For info on the tsunami, search on the internet for these words: Aitape tsunami.