

Nystrom Field Notes

Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea

September, 2000

Planning for future expansion

Praise points

- **We are grateful for a great support team, including you!**
- Improving health for John
- A good and productive but brief village visit in July-August
- Many people asking for help in translating the Bible into their languages.
- General good health for the family

Prayer points

- A great support team, including you!
- For GRIP students, now studying in England as they prepare to come help us in January
- Village trip 5-20 October
- Brianna in Children's Home at Ukarumpa while we're in Arop
- John's trip rip to the US, 30 Oct.-1 Dec.
- Partner for Deb Larkins
- Development of plans for translation in the Sissano, Sera, and Malol languages
- Wisdom in setting priorities and discipline in sticking to them!

Much of what we have been doing in the last few months has been focused on preparing for expanding our team to include people from Sissano, Sera, and Malol, three languages that are closely related to Arop.

Doing the Dorm

While in the village in July and part of August, we built a dorm under our house to supplement the one that is in our translation office. Now we will be able to host 10 translators, including people from these other languages.

Getting a GRIP

I have started preparing for three young ladies to come join our team for the first 9 months of next year. They are part of Wycliffe UK's Graduate Internship Program (GRIP). This program is designed to give college graduates a chance to take part in a real translation project in order to 'taste and see' if translation is for them.

The GRIPpers will be helping us finish our linguistic analysis of Arop and start analyzing Sissano, Sera and Malol.

Emil is helping us by sending out a grammar questionnaire to some key people in those language groups so we can begin to see exactly what the differences between them and Arop are. One questionnaire is going to Brian, a Sissano-speaking man who also speaks Arop and who has said he wants to translate into his language.

A new neighbor and partner?

Deb Larkins, a new member from Aus-



While in the village, Brianna took a lot of pictures, including this one of Emil's wife Alexia and their daughter Brianna.

tralia, would like to work in the Warapu language, which is linguistically very different but is geographically near Arop. In fact, Deb would like to live in Pou village, which is only a 30 minute walk from Arop. We have many ideas on how we could work together, but Deb needs a partner before she can come and begin working in Pou.

Even before that happens, we want to begin working along with Deb on some things in Arop. Our first project is to try to hold a Translation Awareness Course in January. Our goal is to introduce the leaders of the Sissano, Sera, and Malol languages to what it takes to do a translation program and encourage them to begin to identify potential translators.

Starting with the ABC's

We would also like to see if we can hold a workshop to develop alphabets for these three languages next year. Deb has training in this area and is anxious to help.

A bit overwhelmed . . .

Of course, we can't work in 4 languages instead of one and expect to survive unless we change the way we are working. We are praying that the Lord would show us a way that we can do this. Giving the current Arop translators even more responsibility will probably be one of the main ingredients in the recipe. During our October trip to the village, we intend to spend time with them talking and praying about this.

Right now Bonnie and I are both feeling a bit overwhelmed with all we have to do. Since I don't always have strength to work full days, I have to choose carefully what I do and leave undone. There are many things I need to do before I leave for my November trip to the computer conference at Jaars in Waxhaw NC. I have no idea how I'll get them all done.

Bonnie is busy keeping the family going and working on our Executive Committee here. She is also a member of our School Board here, which is going through a number of changes. She is a long-term member and often the only one who knows the history behind the issues being discussed.

There are other ways to do this...

We have started sending out frequent updates by email so people can have more up-to-date prayer requests. In fact, most of what's in this letter has already gone out on e-mail.

If you want to receive these e-mail prayer updates, **please send us your e-mail address**, and let us know when it changes.



Recently the road to Arop has not been good. We have had to come and go by sea more than we have wanted. Disadvantages include the one-hour walk through the rainforest. But one of the advantages is getting to see the lagoon again, and seeing people working and fishing there. **We have photos on the web** at: members3.clubphoto.com/john234686. (note there is no "www" in the address) I hope to add more photos soon, but considering what I say on the left here, who knows when that will be?

(un)Health Update

My Infectious Disease Doctor says my Lyme Disease is probably dead now. I'll see him in FL in November to confirm that.

But the mono-like virus that causes fatigue is still causing trouble, as we confirmed recently when I was off the medication for a week or so. As I write this I am recovering from a 6-day bout with Malaria.

Contacting us . . .

John and Bonnie Nystrom
SIL Box 365
Ukarumpa EHP 444
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Phone: 011-675-737-4669
Email: john.nystrom@sil.org
bonnie.nystrom@sil.org

Arop translators' email: john.nystrom@maf.org

Or Wycliffe:

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando FL 32682-8200
1-800-WYCLIFFE

Actually finding us:

5-20 October
21-29 October
30 October-1 Dec.

Arop Village
Ukarumpa
John in US, Bonnie, Brianna, and Eric in Ukarumpa.