



# Arop Lagoon Tribune



Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea

November, 2000

## Praise

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

## Prayer

- Improved health for John
- Bonnie and the kids while John is gone in November
- Plans for expanding the translation team
- That we can find effective ways to reach the many language groups asking for help in translating the Bible.
- For the people who will be appointed as translators in Sera, Sissano, and Malol languages.
- That efforts to get grammar information on these languages before January will be successful
- GRIP students preparing to come help with Arop grammar.
- Preparations for Translation Awareness Workshop in January.
- Preparations for Alphabet Development Workshop in May.
- Peaceful relationships with some Arop neighbors who have been causing trouble.

## Four translations instead of one?

Lately we have been focusing our efforts on **preparing for expanding our team to include people from Sissano, Sera, and Malol, three languages that are closely related to Arop.**

Why would we do this when we already have more work than we can handle? Because we think the Lord is leading us in this direction.

We have always thought we wanted to help the people who speak the three languages that are closely related to Arop: Sera (Sarah), Sissano (SIS-a-no), and Malol (MAH-lole), after we had finished the New Testament in Arop. These people cannot read the Arop translation we are currently working on.

But now Pastor Peter, who is part of the translation team, reports that after the tsunami, people are more open to the gospel.

At our 1999 International Conference, Wycliffe adopted a new goal that we are calling **Vision 2025: We aim to see**

**that, by 2025, a translation program is begun in every language that needs one.**

This is an **impossible goal**. At our current rate, we will not finish the task until 2150, and will not even finish figuring out which languages need translation until around 2070. We can't possibly do it without making changes in the ways we do things. We also intend to partner with other organizations share our goals. Still, it won't work **unless God does some new things too.**



Brian is a native speaker of Sissano who is bilingual in Arop. He told me he wants to translate the Bible into his native language.

## New things happening in the Arop area

One of those new things is apparently happening in the Arop area. People have been coming asking us to help them translate the Bible into their languages.

Brian is a teacher in the Arop community school. He is a native speaker of Sissano who is also fluent Arop. He wants to translate the Bible into his language and

says he would quit his job as a teacher to do so.

Two men from the Sera language group are both interested in translating into their language.

We have also had requests from two unrelated languages in the area.

# Requests from unrelated languages

We had a visit from the leader of the people who speak the **Onele** (OH-na-lay) language, asking for help in establishing a literacy and translation project there.

And the **Warapus** want it too.

You can easily walk from our house in Arop 1 to Pou village in 30 minutes. But the language they speak is not just unrelated to Arop. It's a totally different kind of language.

The leader of Pou village has been to see us several times talking about how much he wants to see a translation project started in his language, which is known as Warapu (WAH-ra-pu).

**Deb Larkins** is a new member from Australia who would like to work in the Warapu language. We have many ideas on how we could work together, but Deb needs a partner before she can come and begin living in Pou.

So here we are, finally open to the idea of working in more than one language at once, and in come the requests!



Florian came to see us to tell us that his people, who speak the Onele language, want a Bible translation in their language.

## More innovation, less perspiration

Even before Deb can start living in Pou, we want to begin working along with Deb on some things in the Arop area.

**Step 1:** Our first project is to try to hold a **Translation Awareness Workshop** in January. Our goal is to introduce the village and church leaders from all six languages (Arop, Sissano, Sera, Malol, Warapu and Onele) to what it takes to do a translation program and encourage them to begin to form a committee to oversee the work and identify potential translators. They will be staying in the new dorm we built in July.

**Step 2:** We would like to follow this up with an **Alphabet Development Workshop** in May to help them make decisions on how to write their languages. Of the six languages, only Arop has an alphabet.

**Step 3:** Once the languages have their provisional alphabets and translators have been appointed, we would like to **begin working on translation**, at least with the translators from the languages related to Arop (Sera, Sissano, and Malol). This would first involve giving some instruction on translation principles, but we think they will probably learn best with on-the-job training as we work together.

We are hoping that these four translation teams can work together in producing their translations simultaneously. A colleague in Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides) is working this way with three closely related languages. I don't yet know what to do about the other two languages!

My dad always says, **“Work smarter, not harder, it's easier.”** In Wycliffe we realize that for Vision 2025 to happen, we can't just work harder. We have to work differently. More innovation, less perspiration!

That is our plan for this new larger translation team.

One key aspect of the plan is to have the Arop translators take leadership roles in the new team. They will be doing for these other languages some of the tasks that I have been doing for them. Another key aspect of the plan is to structure the translation process in such a way that, when these teams are done, they can help translation teams in other languages to do it the same way, without a foreign advisor.

The Arop team is excited about the prospect of working with a larger team and helping to train them.

## Is it going to work? Is it worth the risk?

Some people think we're nuts trying to do four translations instead of one. They wonder if it will work.

So do I. It might not work. But it is worth the risk. If it does work, it could be a model that other teams in PNG can follow to reach more than one language at a time, and this method may be a way that Papua New Guineans will feel comfortable using to lead translation projects in other languages. We have the potential to multi-

ply our efforts.

We are not the only ones who are getting requests like this. It is happening all over PNG. So we are looking for innovative ways to meet the challenge of many new requests for help with few new members coming to help.

Even if it does not work, the effort will not be a waste. At least we'll be able to tell others why it didn't work.

## Getting a GRIP

Three young ladies are coming to join our team for the first 9 months of next year. They are part of Wycliffe UK's Graduate Internship Program (GRIP). GRIP 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 to see exactly what the differences are. They are training in England October to December.



**Brianna and Amante:** Owning your own horse is one of the blessings of living in the PNG Highlands.



**Photo finish:** Sports day at the primary school: Eric and his friend Manuel hit the line together.

## Family News

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.

Eric is in 5th grade, loves to play all kinds of sports, and is learning to play Bass Clarinet.

Brianna is in 8th grade and into horses—she now has her own (Amante). She is currently first chair clarinet in the middle school band. She likes music and reading.

In November the family will stay at Ukarumpa while I go to the states for another Wycliffe computing meeting. Along the way I have the honor of escorting Obow Inaru, a PNG Bible translator, to visit his advisor who is on furlough in Holland. I also get to spend two days with the GRIP students in England.

Wycliffe Bible Translators  
 12352 Imperial Drive  
 Seminole FL 33772-3925  
 ADDRESS SERVICE  
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# Arop Lagoon Tribune

Newsletter of John and Bonnie Nystrom and the  
 Arop Translation Team

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## Four translations instead of one?



## Keeping in touch

### E-mail Updates

We are now sending out frequent e-mail updates with up-to-date prayer requests and sometimes a recent photo. If you would like to receive these, please send us your e-mail address.

### Photos on the Web . . .

All the photos from this ALT and many more are at <http://members3.clubphoto.com/john234686>. Note that there is no "www" in this address.

### Mailing Address:

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

**Phone:** 011-675-737-4669

**Email:** [john.nystrom@sil.org](mailto:john.nystrom@sil.org)  
[bonnie.nystrom@sil.org](mailto:bonnie.nystrom@sil.org)

**Arop Translators' Email:**  
[john.nystrom@maf.org](mailto:john.nystrom@maf.org)

### With the Arop Translators

The Arop translators now have e-mail by radio in their translation office. How about letting Emil, Peter, and Linus know you are praying for them? Messages must be text only and under 20KB. Their address is below.



PO Box 628200  
 Orlando FL 32682-8200  
 1-800-WYCLIFFE

### Where in the USA is John—San Diego?

Oct 31-Dec.1 John to US, family at Ukarumpa. Details:  
 Nov. 1 Holland to deliver Obow.  
 Nov. 2-4 England to see GRIPpers  
 Nov. 4-9 Waxhaw, NC for first computing meeting  
 Nov. 5 Harvest Community Church, Cornelius NC.  
 Nov. 10 Weekend in Arlington Hts, IL  
 Nov. 12 Speaking at Arlington Countryside Church on Missions Sunday  
 Nov. 13 Second computing meeting in NC  
 Nov. 20 With parents in Mt. Dora, FL  
 Nov. 26 Share an update at evening service, 1st Baptist Ch. of Indian Rocks, Largo FL  
 Nov. 28 Start flying back to PNG!

**Overqualified?** Ever wonder if God could use you in missions? Wycliffe has positions open right now for people with all kinds of skills, probably including yours. And maybe the Lord wants to use you to do something that's not even your best skill. We have overqualified people all over the place. Call us at 1-800-Wycliffe.