



Arop Lagoon Tribune



Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea

February, 2001

Praise

- **Praise the Lord for faithful partners!**
- Continued Improving health for John
- A very successful Translation Awareness Workshop
- General good health for the family

Prayer

- Improved health for John
- For the Arop team's preparations for the Translation Awareness Workshop in April.
- That local committees will be formed and will appoint godly men as translators for the Sera, Sissano, Malol, Warapu and Onele languages.
- For the GRIP students as they wrestle with aspects of Arop grammar.
- For staff and other preparations for the Alphabet Development Workshop in May.
- Bonnies' EC meeting Feb 20 to Mar 9 as the EC leads the group through many significant changes and prepares for conference . . .
- Our biennial Branch Conference in April. Big issues: Strategies for reaching the rest of the languages in PNG and changing various aspects of our leadership structure.

Burning Bridges, Building Foundations

A friend asked me how our Translation Awareness Workshop (TAW) went in January. I said, "Well, we've burned our bridges. We are no longer a one-language translation team and there's no turning back. We've committed ourselves to working with at least two other languages."

My friend's reply: "Sounds more like building foundations to me."

Delegates from three languages came to the TAW we held at the Arop Translation Center. The Onele (OH-na-lay) and Warapu (WAH-ra-pu) languages, both unrelated to Arop, sent several people each. Of the languages related to Arop (Sera, Sissano, and Malol), only one man came from Malol. We were disappointed that nobody came from Sissano and Sera, but the Arop translators are taking care of that (see page 2).

In the workshop we taught about why Bible translation is important and how these groups could get themselves organized so that we can help them begin

Bible translation projects in their languages. They were excited about the possibilities.

All of the attendees said that they really want to have God's Talk in their languages and are committed to making that a reality. Robert, a Warapu speaker, said, "I feel that God is calling me to be a Bible translator for my people."



First time for everything. Arop translator Peter Marokiki helps Malol speaker Tobias Arorai with his first attempt at translation.

Bad news and good news . . .

We had to tell the leaders who came to the workshop that SIL was not going to send a translator to work in each of their languages. We just don't have that many people, and our directors have received requests from over 100 languages in PNG wanting our help. That's the bad news.

The good news is that we are willing to help them. If they show their commitment, we will work with them on translation. We asked them to do the following by May: 1) appoint local translation committees, 2) appoint translators, and 3) send delegates to the Alphabet Development Workshop.

First translation attempts



Trying it out. On the last day of the TAW, we gave each of the language groups there a chance to try translating a verse into their language. The groups from the Warapu (above left) and Onele languages (above right) found the translation exercise challenging, but they all said they want to come back for more training. Our plan is to help them as long as they continue to show their commitment to the work. Next step: an Alphabet Development Workshop in May.

Arop Translation Team catches the vision

In the last Arop Lagoon Tribune, we said,

“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.”



20-20 Hindsight. We should have built it on taller posts! We are consulting with our construction department here to see if there is a way we can jack up our new translation building so we can put a large dorm under it for translators. Anyone want to help when we do it? We'll let you know when.

The Arop team has really begun to catch this vision and started to implement it. During the Translation Awareness Workshop, Deb Larkins (see page 3) and I taught the first day. On the second day, Emil and Peter took over and did most of the teaching from then on. This is the way we hope things will continue to go: we show the team how to do something and they take the ball and run with it.

After the TAW, I said to Peter and Emil, “If this thing goes ahead, you will have to come up with a new name for this larger team.” They said, “We already have: **Aitape West Translation Team.**”

They were one step ahead of us.

They also came up with the idea of holding another TAW in April for the languages related to Arop: Sissano, Sera, and Malol. They are doing this without help from us.

Later we began to talk about where all these translators are going to sleep when they come to Arop for translation workshops. They said, “We already have that figured out too. Wouldn't it be nice if the translation building were up high like your house? Then we could use the space under it for a nice big dorm.”

Again, they were one step ahead of us.

Getting the go-ahead and a new partner

In the last *ALT*, we mentioned that a new member from Australia, Deb Larkins, was wanting to work in the Warapu language and live in nearby Pou village. As our plans have developed over the last few months, Deb has decided to join with us to form a new team.

She will not be joining the Arop Translation Team, but the Arop team and we and Deb are forming the Aitape

West Translation Team. One of Deb's responsibilities will be to learn either Warapu or Onele so she can advise them in the translation process.

In late January we had a meeting with our Directors here at Ukarumpa. They very enthusiastically encouraged us to go ahead with our plans to begin this multi-language translation project.



It's always teamwork. The GRIP (Graduate Intern Program) students have arrived to help us with our grammatical analysis in Arop. Front row L to R: Deb Larkins, Bonnie, Eric. Back row: Rachel Marsh (GRIP from England), Pieterneel Wigboldus (GRIP from The Netherlands), John, Zsofi Csongor (GRIP from Hungary), Brianna.



Shooting their young. Brianna was able to come to the village with us this time because it was school break. She is starting to get interested in photography and loves to shoot Arop kids in our neighborhood. The baby pictures in this letter are three of over 400 photos she took with our digital camera during January. **Eric's friend Landon's** dad is our regional director. When he came to visit, Landon got to come along. Factoid: Bonnie's family brought the hammock back from Peru around 1968.

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Newsletter of John and Bonnie Nystrom and the
Arop Translation Team

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Burning bridges and building foundations . . .

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. Many of you have **changed your e-mail address** and we don't have your new one!

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.

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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? Text-only messages under 20KB can be sent to: JNystrom@maf.org.



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Got your calendar?

Jan. 29—March 9: Grammar Workshop (John and GRIP students working on Arop Grammar).

Feb. 10: John turns 40.
March 7: Bonnie turns 40.

Feb. 13-March 13: Emil at Ukarumpa working on Acts with John and advises GRIP students on Arop grammar.

Feb 20—March 9: Bonnie's Executive Committee meeting.

March 29-April 11: PNG Branch Conference.

April 2-5: Arop team leads 2nd Translation Awareness Workshop (page 2)

May 28-June 8: Alphabet Development Workshop for neighboring languages.

Itching to travel? In the next year, we may have two building projects you could help with, one at Ukarumpa and one in Arop. Let us know if you think you might be interested.