

# Nystrom Field Notes

Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea

May, 2001

## Praise points

- Emil and Peter ran a successful second Translation Awareness Workshop.
- GRIP students making progress on Arop grammar research.
- Continued Improving health for John.
- General good health for the family.

## Prayer points

- For GRIP students (Rachel, Zsofi, and Pieternel) as they continue to do research on Arop grammar.
- That godly men and women will be appointed to be members of Translation Committees and to serve as translators in these languages: Arop, Sera, Sissano, Malol, Onele, Warapu/Bauni, and Bai Olo.
- Staff needed for Alphabet Development Workshop in May/June
- Bonnie feeding us all and teaching Eric during the Alphabet Development Workshop May 28-Jun 8.
- John's trip to the US April 23 to May 7.
- Brianna in Children's Home at Ukarumpa while we're in Arop May 21 to June 13.
- Preparations for the first Translation Training Workshop in Sept/Oct.
- Ben & Mandy Pehrson as they prepare to join us next year.

## "Papa God is calling me"

*"Mi pilim long bel bilong mi olsem Papa God em i singautim mi tru long mekim dispela wok long bringim tok bilong em i go long ol pipel bilong mi long tokples bilong mipela yet."*

— Joel Malan, Onele Language.

Of course you can't read that. It's not in your language. Here it is in your 'talk-place.'

***"I feel in my stomach that Papa God is truly calling me to do this work of bringing his talk to my people in our very own language."***

Joel was one of around 50 people from 7 different languages who gathered during the first week in May at our new translation center in Arop to learn more about translating the Bible into their languages.

The workshop participants learned what translation is all about, and what they will have to do to work with us on translation in their languages.

Some of the language groups have already appointed translation committees and translators.

To Bonnie and me, one of the most exciting things about the workshop was that the success of the workshop showed that **Emil Ninkure and Peter Marokiki are blossoming in the leading/teaching role** they have in this new multi-language team.

They planned, organized, led, and reported on this workshop all by themselves without any of us expats there to tell them what to do or how to do it.

One local leader said, "I am a Christian, so it is my job to support the work of trans-



Emil Ninkure loves to teach and he's good at it. We are so happy to see Emil and Peter catching the vision for reaching the other languages. Their leadership is key to our strategy for developing the multi-language translation team in the Aitape West Area.

lation in my own language." Another said, "I always say, I'm the 'papa' of the translators, so I will be staying close to them to help them."

These language groups are getting the message that translation and literacy is *their* job and the Arop Translation Team is there to help them to do it. They are taking what they have learned and teaching it to others in their villages.

This is what we hoped would happen, and what must continue to happen if this multi-language project is to succeed.

The next step is the Alphabet Development Workshop, May 28 to June 8. At the moment we are concerned that we don't have enough of our alphabet experts scheduled to come and help.

After that is the first Translation Training Workshop in September/October. Pray for us and our friends Bruce and Glenys Waters as we develop the materials for that course.

## A saner schedule ?

We just finished our biennial Branch Conference here. This conference was a chance to talk about where we are headed as a group and to elect new leaders. Bonnie chose not to stand for re-election to the Executive Committee and the School Board, so her responsibilities on both those boards is over.

As a result, Bonnie is looking forward to a more sane schedule, but she still has plenty to do. One of her big challenges will be hosting and feeding the large group of people coming for the Alphabet Development Workshop in May/June, while at the same time home-schooling Eric in the village.

We still have lots to do with planning and beginning this new multi-language translation project and keeping up with Eric and Brianna. I continue to travel to the US twice a year for meetings.

Amidst all the changes and busy-ness, the Lord remains the same. He is faithful. And we thank him for faithful partners like you!



**More new partners.** Ben & Mandy Pehrson and Josiah are finishing their training in Dallas. They and baby #2 (due in June) plan to come to PNG next year to join with us on the Aitape West Translation Team.



**Pastor Peter Marokiki** is not just a translator. He's also a pastor and church planter. We would like see more church leaders become involved in the translation process.

## Keeping up with the Nystroms, electronically

A lot of what is in this letter has already gone out on e-mail. We have been sending out frequent brief e-mail updates with up-to-date prayer requests and news, and sometimes a photo.

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

### 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

(Our e-mail addresses are good no matter where we happen to be)

Arop translators' email: JNystrom@maf.org



Wycliffe Bible Translators

PO Box 628200

Orlando FL 32862-8200

1-800-WYCLIFFE

### Actually finding us

Now till 22 May  
23 April-7 May  
22 May-13 June  
14 June-27 June

Ukarumpa  
John in US for computing meeting  
Arop Village  
Ukarumpa