



# Arop Lagoon Tribune

Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea

December, 2001

## Praise

- A successful first translation workshop for the new translation team!
- Great cooperation among the translation teams and regional groups
- Continued improving health for John
- For the GRIP students who helped us study Arop grammar this year and have now gone home.
- General good health for the Nystrom family
- **Great partners like you!**

## Prayer

- That local translation committees will be formed in all 12 languages and take their critical role in the translation seriously
- That the Lord would use Jonah, even in first draft, to change people's lives
- That the translators would be diligent in testing Jonah
- For the Lord to lead the GRIPs (Zsofi, Pieterneel, and Rachel) as they each seek his will for what to do next.
- For all the preparations for the second Translation Workshop Jan 20-Feb. 8.

## Jonah finally goes to Nineveh . . . And 12 other villages

For over a year we have been asking you to pray about our expanding the Arop translation project to include the neighboring languages. Little did we know that four would become six and six would become nine and then twelve.

But that's what happened. For three weeks in September and October, 25 men from 12 different languages and dialects gathered to learn about translation and to translate Jonah into their languages.

In the process of the workshop, some of the participants realized that the dialects they thought were the same were

actually different enough to need separate translations. That's how we went from 9 to 12.

*“Working together is helping us to do the translation better and faster . . .”*

We had imagined that if the teams worked together on the same Bible book at the same time, they could encourage each other and help each other find better ways to say things.

From the start of the workshop, we stressed that the whole idea of this multi-language translation project was impossible unless everyone worked together. The teams did, and it worked as well as we had imagined.

Sissano translator Brian Rainbubu said, *“Matthew and I could never have done this on our own. We'd still be on Chapter 1 and struggling to figure out what to say. Working together is helping us to do the translation better and faster than we could on our own.”*

Turn the page to see how they did it.



**It's about people.** Pastor Peter's wife Leonie speaks the Barupu language. The first draft of Jonah done in this workshop is the first scripture ever in her native language. She lives in Arop and understands the Arop language, but Barupu speaks to her heart. The baby is Bonnie's namesake.

# How to translate Jonah . . .



**Get the meaning first.** Each morning we started with devotions and a teaching session in which we explained the passage we were about to translate. We also discussed things that would be difficult to translate and gave the translators a chance to share ideas. Arop translators Pastor Peter Marokiki (above) and Emil Ninkure led some of these morning sessions.



**Do the first draft in regional groups.** The group then broke up into three regional groups of related languages and/or dialects to do the actual translation from the English and Pidgin. The translators discussed the translation together, listened to each other's translations, and helped each other think of better ways to translate things. Often one team would think of an idea nobody else had thought of. Because the languages in each regional group are related, the other teams could often use each other's ideas. The result is a better quality first draft than they could do on their own. Here Serra translators Ignas and Tony (right) read a portion of their translation while the rest of the 'Coastal Group' listens.



**Each translation team refines their translation.** Within each regional group were four translation teams of two men from each language or dialect. Here Ignas and Joel from Wolwale revise their translation after discussing it with their regional group.



**Translate it back into Pidgin.** Goiniri translators Dominic Pusai and Herman Ume work on their back-translation together. This step helps the translators check their work for accuracy. Another accuracy check occurs when the teams compare their back-translations in their regional groups. The back translation also makes the next step possible . . .

## into 12 languages and dialects



**Advisor Check.** An advisor's job is to check the translation for accuracy. Having checked their back-translation against the English, Pidgin and original Hebrew, I made suggestions on how Dominic and Herman could improve their translation. I did this for the "Coastal Group" and the "Onnele Group." Our partner Deb Larkins did this for the "Warapu Group." In the future, we plan to have experienced Arop translators Emil and Peter do more and more of the advisor checking until they completely take over this job. And that is what this project is all about—empowering our national colleagues to take on more and more of the responsibilities in the translation project.



**Type it up.** After the advisor check, the teams took the advisor's comments and revised their translations again. Then several of us helped with the typing and layout of the books so they could be printed on our high-speed laser printer (at left here). Serra translator Tony helped me as I entered the corrections to his book. Each team's Jonah book contained their first draft of Jonah along with some Bible Study questions.



**Prepare a reading book.** Each team also produced a Transfer Primer—an illustrated book that will help people to learn to read in their own languages. The men drew their own illustrations for these books. Here Florian Kroppe watches as Emil scans his drawings.



**Just the first draft.** The translators have taken their translations home to their villages to test them in Bible Studies and check them with local translation committees. Based on the feedback they get, the translators will be revising Jonah again at our next translation workshop.

After the translators went home, we had a short workshop for their local translation committee members so they could understand their critical role in the translation process.

Here Arop translator Linus Wairapu points out something in his translation of Jonah to Arop translation committee member Anselm Katamun.

Wycliffe Bible Translators  
12352 Imperial Drive  
Seminole FL 33772-3925  
ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

## Arop Lagoon Tribune

Newsletter of John and Bonnie Nystrom and the  
*Aitape West Translation Team*

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ST PETE FL 33730  
PERMIT NO 2170

### ***How to translate Jonah into 12 languages . . .***



Who is this woman and why was our recent translation workshop important to her? And who's that kid?

## Keeping in touch . . .

### **E-mail Updates**

Want up-to-date prayer requests and photos of the work we're doing? We'd be happy to add you to our e-mail updates list.

### **Mailing Address:**

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



PO Box 628200  
Orlando FL 32862-8200  
1-800-WYCLIFFE

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

**Email:** john.nystrom@sil.org  
bonnie.nystrom@sil.org

**New e-mail address for the Arop translators:**  
**SILArop@online.net.pg.**

How about sending an encouraging e-mail to them? Please keep messages 'text only' and less than 20KB.



**Peter and Boaz meet Jonah.** Arop translator Peter Marokiki reads his first draft of Jonah to his son Boaz. The godly example of Boaz' name-sake features prominently in the book of Ruth. Ruth will be the subject of our next translation workshop, beginning January 20th. Wondering how relevant Jonah and Ruth are today? Jonah has a lot to say about seeing our enemies from God's perspective. Ruth teaches us that God helps those who cannot help themselves—and does it through people.