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Arop Lagoon Tribune

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

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11 languages no longer Ruth-less



Both getting the food they need

Staying connected, coming home

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.

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(Plain text only—no pictures please.)



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Ready to take off for home. Pastor Peter Marokiki leaves the translation center to go home to Wauroiyn village. We will be on our way home soon, too. Our furlough starts this coming July after a 4 1/2 year field term. **Furlough Prep Prayer Requests:**

- A place to live near our church and the kids' school in the Seminole/Largo Florida area from late July 2002 to late May 2003.
- A reliable car to use for the year.
- That we can finish everything we need to do and be ready to go in-time for our July 9th departure.

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



Arop Lagoon Tribune

Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea

April 2002

Praise

- A great support team, including you!
- A great second translation workshop.
- Great cooperation among most of the teams.
- For the work crew sent by Harvest Community Church to help us renovate our house at Ukarumpa!
- General good health for the Nystrom family

Prayer

- That local translation committees will be formed in all 12 languages and take their critical role in the translation process seriously
- That the Lord would use Jonah and Ruth, even in first draft, to change people's lives
- That the translators would be diligent in testing Jonah and Ruth
- Resolution of land dispute in Arop.
- For translators preparing to teach in the next workshop.
- For the third Translation Workshop, April 9-26.
- More prayer requests inside!

11 Languages no longer Ruth-less

Eleven language groups came to our second translation workshop, and they all went home with a first draft of Ruth with a Bible Study book.

Why 11? Originally, the people of Romei and Barera planned to do separate translations. After checking the translation of Jonah, they decided one would do. So now we are down to 11 languages in the project.

Now what? The next step is to check Ruth and Jonah in the villages. This was the main topic of

“Jonah wasn't very good, but Ruth is really good.”

discussions at the Translation Committees Workshop, which followed the Translation Workshop.



One Committee member from Wolwale said, “Our translators have really improved. Jonah (their first translation) wasn't very good, but Ruth is really good.”

Some of the language groups are checking their translations in Bible Study groups in the churches and are getting good feedback on how the the translation can be improved. But most of the groups are having a hard time getting going on testing. *Pray that the Translation Committees can get themselves organized and find the best ways to test their translations in each of their languages.*

Both getting the food they need. Pastor and Arop translator Peter Marokiki's wife Leonie wasted no time getting a copy of Ruth in her native Barupu language. Leonie's feedback on the translation is especially valuable now. Her uncle, who was the chairman of the Translation Committee in her language group, died last year. The Committee is still trying to get themselves re-organized so they can start checking Ruth and Jonah.

In the rest of the newsletter, we highlight some of the men who are translating and leading in this project.

New Leaders Emerge



Translation can be fun and funny. Leading the Onnele Group, which includes three dialects of his native Onnele language, brings **Dominic Pusai** many opportunities to joke around. During the Ruth workshop, he took a turn teaching the whole group and is preparing to help teach part of Luke 1 in the next workshop. Giving gifted men like Dominic a chance to dig deeper into the Word and teach it to others at various stages of the translation process is a key part of the project. Pray for Dominic as he leads his team and teaches in the next workshop, April 9-26.



Translation committees are a key part of our long-term strategy. These church and community leaders are responsible to choose translators and to make sure the translation sounds natural and is clear. They also need to make sure it gets used in their villages. *Please pray for them—they have a difficult and critical job to do.*



Emil the juggler. Besides teaching and leading the whole team with Arop pastor Peter Marokiki, Emil Ninkure has been **visiting the other translators** in their villages. He has been encouraging them and their committees, helping them start literacy classes and getting them started testing their translations. Now he has a new challenge: trying to mediate between his brothers and his cousins in a **dispute about control of the land** where our house and the translation center are located. *Pray that a solution will be found and that the translation project will not be affected by this dispute.*



Preaching the Word. **Vincent Yove** from Ramo is a church leader in his village and one of our best devotional speakers during the workshops. His Bible knowledge and ability to see and solve translation problems have helped him become a leader on the translation team. The first of the new translators to volunteer to help teach, he is also preparing to help teach Luke 1 in the next workshop. *Pray that Vincent will continue to grow in the Lord and as a translator and teacher.*

Problems and Process



Jack Boipe from Barupu—the man with no Committee. Jack Boipe (left) is one of the translators for the Barupu language, whose Committee is not functioning (see photo caption on page 1). **Clement Tonini** (from Pou) has a similar problem. But Jack and Clement both say they are committed to translating God's Word for their people. *Pray that Jack and Clement will not be discouraged by the apathy and active opposition in their villages.*



Checking it out. On our way home from church one Sunday, we saw this man sitting on a 5-gallon kerosene drum leaning over his fire pit reading Ruth in Arop. *Pray that many more will feed on God's Word in Arop and in the other languages.*



When teamwork doesn't happen . . . One problem we had in the workshop was with "Bob" (not his real name). Bob is one of the translators for the Malol language, and therefore part of our Coastal Group, which also includes Arop. Bob just could not seem to cooperate with the other translators in the Group. This made it very difficult for the group to make progress—they had a hard time finishing their translations of Ruth before the workshop ended. The way we are doing this project just cannot work unless everyone works together. *Please pray that in the next workshop Bob would decide to cooperate, and for a spirit of cooperation to prevail in all the groups.*

Why translate Jonah and Ruth first?

Some have asked, so here are the top 7 reasons for translating Jonah and Ruth first:

1. They are short.
2. They are really good stories that teach important things about our relationships with God and people.
3. They are relatively easy to translate and have many cultural features that Papua New Guineans can relate to.
4. They are short.
5. They have many features that are opportunities to teach translation principles.
6. They are complete stories and books in themselves.
7. They are short!