

Nystrom Field Notes

Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea

May, 2002

Praise points

- The third translation workshop went very well!
- 10 teams finished their 2nd draft of Jonah and Ruth
- A great spirit of unity among the teams
- Good working relationships in the three regional groups
- John's health continues to be good
- General good health for the family

Prayer points

- For the translators to get good feedback from their people as they test their translations in Bible Studies
- Preparation for the next workshop, to be led by the Arop translators (September?)
- My trip to the US, May 7-27.
- Still more construction work on our house at Ukarumpa, that we get done quickly with a minimal amount of stress on the family.
- The land dispute is still simmering.
- More prayer requests on back page!

Really Drafty on the Porch

Most High School students hate it when their English teacher says, "Good first draft. Now, write it again." That's exactly what we said to the translators during this last translation workshop.

So for three solid weeks, 20 men from 10 different languages tore into their first drafts of Jonah and Ruth, cutting out the awkward phrases, putting in more vivid



Bottleneck: Lame Duck Typing Pool. I edited Clement's Pou language translation while Peter did the same for Kenny and Matthew from Sissano. Emil, Peter, Linus and I literally spent days doing this. Translators had to wait in line to get their changes made on the computers. In July the Arop team will begin teaching the new translators to do their own typing.

expressions, and generally making it "cry good" as we say in Pidgin.

By the end of the workshop, ten teams went home with a vastly improved 2nd draft of Jonah and Ruth.

Not Enough Talking in Class

Some teachers are always trying to get their students to shut up. We've been trying to get the Coastal Group to talk more.

Walk around the huge porch of the translation center and you hear the Onnele

Group and Group 1 talking constantly. This is good. They are sharing ideas in their regional groups, talking about different ways to translate things. "Let me hear that again in your language." "No, I can't say it that way, I have to use this expression." "Oh yeah, I could say it that way too." "Alright! That's the word we need there!"

Walk by the Coastal Group's table and you are just as likely to hear silence. At this workshop, they were still having trouble working together, even though the 'Bob' we mentioned in the Arop Lagoon Tribune was much more cooperative. My current theory: They're mostly introverts working in a system that requires lots of talking and sharing ideas. Uh oh! Now what?

Plan B is to have the Arop team "prepare the way" for this group by doing their 1st draft before the next workshop. We're hoping that this helps get them talking and will help them produce better translations sooner.



Checking one off. Inas Salley from Serra checks off another milestone on his way to getting the 2nd draft of Ruth and Jonah finished. With so many languages and so many stages of the process, we had to make a chart everyone could see.

Outstanding Issues

There are a number of issues we have been concerned about and have asked you to pray for that are still 'outstanding.'

- **Ben & Mandy Pehrson's Visas:** They were due to join the project in April in time for this last workshop. They did not make it because their visas not yet been granted. **Please pray that they will be granted in time for me to take Ben out to Arop June 18-25.** We would like to have some time with them before we leave on furlough July 9th.
- **Former co-worker causing trouble:** Pious, who used to work with us on the translation team is threatening again to sue us. We had to put him 'on suspension' for moral reasons in August 2000. **Pray that Pious will come to the Lord.**



Forbidden Fish. When we left Arop on May 1, the road was too bad for a car to come from town to get us, so we had to go by boat. We enjoyed the ride and saw this couple and their baby (on mom's lap) fishing in the lagoon. A plague of worms in the fish recently prompted government officials to ban eating fish from the lagoon, but Arops and others have resumed fishing there anyway.



No way around it. Bonnie demonstrates the down side of going by boat: walking through the jungle about an hour and 15 minutes to the mangrove swamp to get to where the boats and canoes park.

- **Village Checking:** Translation is going well, but checking and using the translations in the many of the villages is lagging behind. We expected this at the beginning of the project, but would still like to see it improve. Pray for the translators and their translation committees to find ways to do this well.
- **Sumo Language Team:** This time the team from the Sumo language did not show up for the workshop. We do not know why.

Contacting us . . .

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May 7-27
June 14
June 18-25?
July 9

Or Wycliffe:

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando FL 32682-8200
1-800-WYCLIFFE

Actually finding us:

John in US, Bonnie and Kids at Ukarumpa
Eric graduates from 6th grade
John to Arop with Ben Pehrson
Nystroms on the way home for furlough