



Arop Lagoon Tribune

Ukarumpa, PNG

November 2007

Praise the Lord

- For a very productive year with many opportunities to serve.
- For good progress on the translations.
- For good relationships among team members.
- For faithful partners.

Pray

- That the Arop team can stay well ahead of the other teams. It must be checked thoroughly before the others use it as their source text.
- For Emil and Peter as they continue to lead the translation team and his local church.
- That the Lord would use the translations in the translators' own lives, and ours too!
- For the translators to have good opportunities to use and test their translations in the local churches.
- That all the translators can finish their translations of Luke in time to do final checking on them in April before we go on furlough.
- For Eric as he decides where to attend college next year and for us as we prepare for furlough.

Investors expose secrets

Here are some comments the translators made when they were asked what they think of the translation project.

“There are plenty of Bibles in English, and we have one in Pidgin too. But now that I’m translating into my own language, **the secret things of the Bible are coming up clear** for me and for my village. Most of us translators were not preachers or even guys who would read the Bible. But **now we can share the Bible and everything we’re learning about it with our people.**” —Maris Marum, Ramo language

“In PNG, when you fail an exam, you’re done. You don’t go on in school. But translation gave me a chance to go to school again. **It must be God’s plan for me to do this work.** I want to use my training to do Bible translation in my language.” —Barupu language translator Jack Boipe

“I’ve been working with SIL since 1980. This last year God changed my stomach. **I’m going to work on this translation until it’s done or until I die.**” —Arop language Translator Linus Wairapu

We are privileged to invest our time and effort with Papua New Guineans who have this kind of vision and commitment.

This year Arop translators and team leaders Emil Ninkure and Pastor Peter Marokiki invested many weeks taking Advanced Biblical Studies courses (NT

Introduction, Beginning NT Greek, and NT Exegesis).

When I asked Emil what he was learning, he said, “You, Ben, Beth and David are always giving us lots of notes on our translation—things for us to work on. I usually think it’s too many notes. But now I’m starting to recognize how many translation problems are there that I never noticed before. **Now I can see better what you guys are talking about.**”

As much as they can, Emil and Peter have been passing what they learn to the other translators so they can use it in their translations.

Thank you for being part of this team!



Investing where it counts. Arop translator Pastor Peter Marokiki shakes hands with our training coordinator, Joe McCarthy, as Peter received his certificate for completing the Beginning New Testament Greek course. The course was taught by our partner Ben Pehrson, who is in the background.

Investing where it counts



Enjoying checking a chapter of Luke in Romei-Barera together, Jan. 2007. L-R: John Nystrom (English), Dominic Pusai (Goiniri), Joel Malan (Wolwale), James Panso (Romei-Barera), Herman Ume (Goiniri), David Oroi (Romei-Barera).

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM ONE PHOTO?

- **All the translators from all three dialects are participating** as I'm checking the Romei-Barera translation of Luke 9 that they all translated together. The next step is to use this Romei-Barera translation as the basis of the translations in the Wolwale and Goiniri dialects, so any suggestions I have for Romei-Barera will affect those translations as well.
- **Technology enables us to work together more easily.** I am seeing James' computer's screen on my computer. As I comment on various parts of his translation, James and the other translators can see exactly what I'm talking about.
- **We're having fun.** When you're dealing with several languages at once, there are so many good opportunities for puns that it would be bad stewardship to pass them up! To me, the translation process is fun even without jokes.
- **It's great to be part of a team.** I'm sitting there instead of Ben Pehrson, who usually works with the Onnele languages. At this point, Ben and Mandy had not yet returned to PNG. When we are on furlough beginning June 2008, Ben Pehrson and Beth Fuller will do the same for the Coastal languages I normally work with.

DIVERSIFYING OUR INVESTMENTS

In May I was in Kenya, East Africa participating in a "Cluster Strategy Seminar" discussing how we can be more effective working in multiple-language "cluster" translation projects. I have been corresponding with people in Africa, Asia, and South America who are planning or already running cluster projects.

While Emil and Peter were in their advanced courses at Ukarumpa, I was checking their translation of Acts and setting up set up a Language Data Backup Service at our Ukarumpa translation center for translation teams working in 180+ languages and began teaching teams to use it. You can see some of what I did at www.thenystroms.org/svnfortranslators.

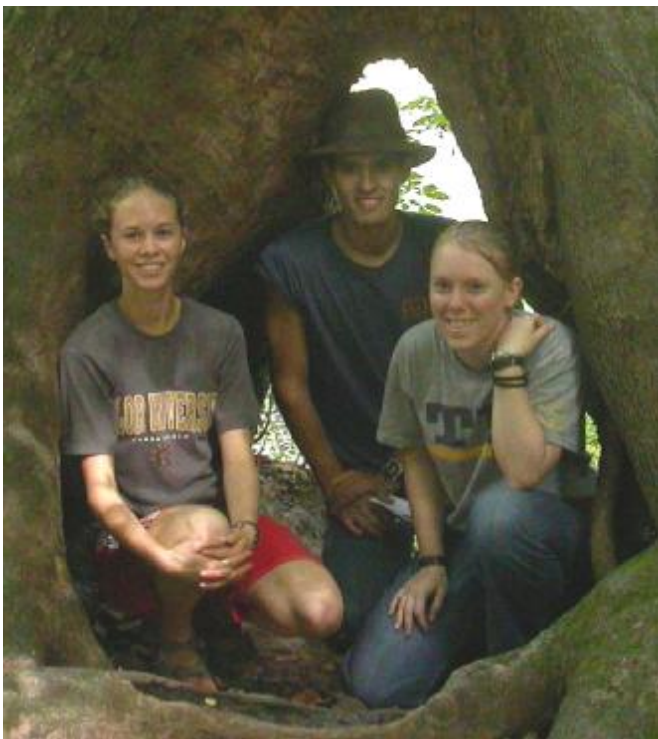
Another highlight was helping a father/son team of two Papua New Guinean men—Mumure and Steve Topoqogo, who are leading a team revising the New Testament in their Guhu-Samane language and are planning to expand into three more languages. I only spent an hour or so for the Guhu-Samane team setting up their network, but what a privilege it is for us to be a small part of what they are doing!

The small time investment I put into helping them will continue to bear fruit in many languages and many lives for years, decades, perhaps generations to come. That fruit will last for eternity. And that's just one team of many I have helped this year! We are so blessed to be part of helping people who are building God's kingdom.

Nystrom Family News

Bonnie has been investing in others as well. She loves being involved in the big-picture discussions about Bible Translation strategy and mentoring teens. She helps lead Eric's 12th Grade Youth Group, and helps two senior girls lead a Bible Study for 7th grade girls.

Bonnie has been the acting chairman of the Strategy Committee for our whole organization here in PNG, and has filled in as Acting Associate Director for Language Affairs (my boss two levels up!). She has been elected to be a delegate to our International Conference in April and nominated to the board of SIL International. (SIL is the Wycliffe sister organization that we work under here in PNG). www.sil.org.



Brianna has had several opportunities to go camping in Indiana. This time she went with the family of friend Randy Kizer (center) and Lydia Rosensteel.

Brianna is thriving at Taylor University in Upland, IN. She continues to do high jump on the track team and play clarinet in the band and orchestra. She's majoring in Psychology and doing a minor in Music Composition. Brianna is on the board of her church

where she also plays in the worship band. www.exit59church.com.

Spending the summers helping my parents run their resort in Wisconsin has been a special treat for Brianna. Becoming part of a church there and scanning my dad's family's old logging-era photos has helped her put down roots and realize she has family history in the US too, not just in PNG.

Eric continues to lead a worship band for youth services on Sundays. Earlier this year he led a special band for the annual youth retreat. As part of his Work Study in the Youth Department, Eric has been planning mission trips for Ukarumpa teens and adults to other parts of Papua New Guinea. On Monday nights, he leads a Bible study for 8th grade boys. He's also involved in student government at the school.

He also has a job. Every day he unlocks the school at 6:00 a.m. and locks it again at 6:00 p.m.

Eric is one of two students from his school to be invited by the PNG National Sports Institute to compete in the PNG Games in late November where he'll be doing the 800 meters. He was on the school's volleyball team and plans to play basketball. Eric is due to graduate in June, so he's been applying to colleges in the US.



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Newsletter of John and Bonnie Nystrom and the
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Investors expose secrets!

Eric and Arop friends Bruce and Rudolf can relax on this bridge after a long hike because others invested the time and effort to build it. We continue to invest in translators who are building a translation bridge—God's Word in their languages for the first time—a place where many can finally find rest.

Staying Connected

On the web: www.thenystroms.org

Updates and ALT by email

Paper newsletters are expensive, so we do them only once or twice a year. We send out an email newsletter about every month with news, photos, and prayer requests.

Send us your email address if you'd like to receive them too, or if you could receive the Arop Lagoon Tribune by email instead of on paper.

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Contributions

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Reaping the benefits. This Arop lady can carry these beetlenuts to share with others—a very Arop way to express friendship—only because somebody planted a beetlenut tree and somebody invested time and effort into building a dugout canoe. In the same way, we invest in people so they can bless others in the future.