



Nystrom Prayer Update

Ukarumpa, PNG

December 24, 2007

“You won’t need anybody to explain it to you”

While in Arop village in November and December, we got to hear Arop translator Emil Ninkure preaching in the Lutheran church there.

Emil was talking about how people don’t know what they are missing when they don’t know God’s Word.

“It’s like us here. We don’t know what Port Moresby [the capital of PNG] is like. But the people we know who have been there are always going back or wanting to go back. It’s like that with God’s Word. I have read it in English. But when I read it in Pidgin it’s a lot more clear than English and I can understand more.

Then in our own language, it’s even more clear. **When you read it in our language, you won’t need anybody to explain it to you.** So you should ask us to print some books of the Bible for you in our language, even though the translation is not done and we’re still working on it.”

The writer of Hebrews was making the same point God speaking clearly by sending Jesus:

“¹ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets **at many times and in various ways,** ² but in these last days he has spoken to us **by his Son . . .** ³ The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being...”

On that first Christmas, God was beginning to communicate to us more clearly than ever about who he is and what he is like.

- **Praise the Lord that most teams finished their first draft of Luke** in the November/December translation workshop.
- **Pray that the translators will be able to check/test** all the chapters they have translated before our next workshop starts at the end of January.
- **Pray for my health.** For the last few days something has been making me unreasonably tired. It’s a feeling I haven’t had since I had that fatigue virus in 1998-2001.



And Eddy makes twelve? Eddie Yanamba has been working on translating into his own language (Minidien), but does not have an advisor to help him on a regular basis. Since we already have 20+ translators in 11 languages working at our workshops, what’s one more? So we invited him to come to our November translation workshop. I helped him get started using translation editing software. We don’t know if Eddie and his Minidien language will become a permanent part of the project or not, but Emil has agreed to start doing “Advisor checks” on Eddie’s translations in January. See page two for more.

HOW DO WE HELP “INDEPENDENT” TRANSLATORS?

Eddie Yanamba has no advisor, so he’s doing his translation without one. In PNG today there are many people in his position, “independent” translators who need help.

When we first came to PNG in 1987, we were getting up to fifteen new translation teams a year. We would assign each team of two to work in one language, to be advisors to a translator like Eddie, and we were entering new languages all the time. That’s what Bonnie and I did in Arop.

But today it’s different. The flow of new people to be translation advisors has slowed to a trickle. At the same time, there is a swelling flood of people who want to translate into their own languages.

So what do we do? How do we help them?

One possible way is to bring them together in cluster projects like ours. One of the great things about the Aitape West Translation Project is that we have the translators, the advisers, and the equipment all in one place several times a year. As translators like Emil and Peter gain more training and more experience, they can help people like Eddie.

Please pray that we will have wisdom to know how best to help Eddie. **Pray for our administrators** as they try to find ways to help dozens or hundreds of “Eddies” all over PNG and around the world.

Heading home again after Christmas . . .

On December 26, Eric and I leave Ukarumpa for the US via Japan. [The only flights we could get on Frequent Flyer points!] I have a Wycliffe computing meeting in Dallas, but first Eric and I will visit Taylor University in IN and Cedarville University in OH. Eric is applying to Cedarville and has already been accepted at Taylor. Pray that the Lord would guide him in this decision! Here’s where I hope to be:

Dec 30: Arrive in FL, see Bonnie’s family.

Dec 31-Jan 1: visit my parents in Mt. Dora, FL

Jan 2: First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, Largo FL.

Jan 3: Arrive in Indiana to visit Taylor U., Brianna, and friends in Upland IN. Jan 4-7 visiting Taylor U.

Jan 9-10: Visiting Cedarville U.

Jan 11: to FL again, at 1st Baptist of Indian Rocks on the weekend.

Jan. 16: My meeting starts in Dallas

Jan 26: Head back to PNG the long way (via London & Singapore)

Jan 31: Back in Arop for the next translation workshop.

Thank you for helping make it possible for us to continue to help make God’s Word available to more people in their own languages.

Your partner in this adventure for over 20 years now,

John Nystrom (for Bonnie and all of us)

STAYING CONNECTED

Our web site: www.thenystroms.org.

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Contributions

Checks can go to the Wycliffe address at right, with a note saying it’s for John & Bonnie Nystrom in PNG.

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Phone: While I’m in the US, email will be easiest, but you can find a phone # for me by calling Bonnie’s family at 727-391-1435.



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