



Nystrom Prayer Update

Ukarumpa, PNG

April 15, 2008

In the final stretch for Luke; Bonnie to Thailand

Next Tuesday I head out to Arop for “Final Checking” of Luke in the four coastal languages. This is the last checking step before we can publish Luke in these languages.

Please pray for me as I try to finish preparing for that this week. Over the weekend I received many chapters from our consultants with suggestions for improvements. I need to process those chapters so the translators can begin to work on them next week and make some of the changes before our Final Checking sessions start.

The translators will arrive two days before I do. Pray the chapters will all get there by email and that Emil will be able to put the files where they belong, ready for the translators to arrive Sunday night.

Pray for Ben Pehrson and me as we conduct the Final Checking sessions. Our goal is to make sure the translations in Arop, Malol, Serra and Sissano are all clear, accurate, and natural. We’ll be looking for feedback from speakers of each of those languages who were not involved in the translations. Pray that those “language consultants” will give us clear and accurate feedback on the quality of the translation.

Usually the week before going out to Arop from Ukarumpa is a stressful one. This one has an added twist: Next week Bonnie heads off to Thailand as a delegate to our International Conference.

Bonnie has been nominated to our international board. Please pray for the Lord’s will in that election, which will be held at the conference.

Please pray for Bonnie this week as she has many things to do to before she leaves on Monday.

Since I’ll be in our village house by myself, I’ll be doing my own cooking. All you married men who have had to spend four weeks cooking for yourselves know how to pray! And don’t forget there’s no eating out in Arop and there’s no ordering in pizza either!

- **Praise the Lord that our consultants finished checking all of Luke** in time for our “Final Checking” session that starts next week.
- **Pray that we can complete “Final Checking,”** at least for the Coastal Group languages in May, despite local elections being scheduled at the same time.
- **Pray for Sumo language translator Sebby Nugia and Arop language translator Linus Wairapu,** who are both in the Aitape hospital with TB.



Sissano translator Kenny Aiprum’s Testimony: “My testimony is like this. When I finished school, I came back home to my home village, but there was no work, so I started to get involved in the customs of this world. But these customs did not help me. So I received God’s message on 5th June 1994. ... In 2001 I believed that God was calling me to this Bible Translation work to let this light go inside my community in my our language. During this time I have seen many changes inside my life and I am happy and thank God. That’s it and I believe the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob can bless you now and at all times. Amen.”

THE ULTIMATE FISHING EXCUSE: “THEY DIDN’T CATCH US”

In the last couple of weeks, I have spent a lot of time poring over the Coastal Group translations of Luke. “The Beach Boys” as I call them, have some very interesting expressions.

In these languages, a lot of things are described the opposite of the way you and I might expect with our English ears. Here are some Arop examples.

He is very tired (muoiyn teklekna yi) = sleep is totally ruining him

He has a cold (pukur k’ep yi) = a cold has him (literally, “snot’s got him”)

He is sick (elin toko yi) = his skin is doing it to him

He is lazy (olon tokpor yi) = his spirit is lazy-ing him

He is blind (talakuan kotur yi) = his eye is closed him

He is deaf (tenerepon kiynjekna yi) = his ear is stopped-totally him

He is out of breath (eten teklala na yi) = his heart is pound-ing-pounding him

I’m used to hearing all those everyday expressions, so they don’t strike me as odd anymore. But when I was checking Luke 5:5-6, I learned two new expressions. Here it is in the NIV:

⁵ *Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I*

*will let down the nets.”*⁶ *When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.*

If I translate the Arop back into English, it sounds like this:

⁵ *“And Saimon said-back to him like this, “Tisa, we did big work all night long until daybreak and **the fish did not catch us.** But because you are saying, I will throw (the nets for) them again.”*⁶ *At the time when they threw-down the nets in the water, they **caught-broke fish** and that net was totally full and about to break.”*

Growing up spending my summers on a fishing resort in Northern Wisconsin, I thought I had heard every fishing excuse there was, but this one beats them all: the fish didn’t catch *us*! I had a good laugh and maybe you will too, but this is a perfectly normal way for an Arop person to say they have not caught any fish.

Now when they say they caught a lot of fish, they say they caught-broke them. This is the same expression they use for when they beat somebody up. I guess our English equivalent would be “They really clobbered ‘em.”

In the next three weeks we’ll be fishing for things that are not quite right in the Beach Boys’ translations of Luke and attempting to fix them. **Would you pray that we will not just find them, but that we’ll really clobber ‘em?**

Your partner in this adventure for over 20 years,

John Nystrom (for Bonnie and all of us)

STAYING CONNECTED

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