



Nystrom Prayer Update

Ukarumpa, PNG

June 11, 2008

Luke is checked, Bonnie's on the Board

Final Checking of Luke for the Coastal languages went extremely well in May. Ben Pehrson and I really enjoyed conducting the sessions together. We even had time at the end to check Jonah for two of the languages that had not had it checked before.

The next step is for the translators to make adjustments based on "opportunities for improvement" that we found in the translations as we checked them. It will probably be late in the year before Luke is finally published in these languages. It's not over till it's over!

While I was in Arop, Bonnie was elected to our International Board at our International Conference in Thailand. This is a major new responsibility for her. Her first Board meeting will be in Manila in October. After that, she will attend Board meetings in May and November each year, usually in Dallas.

- **Praise the Lord that we completed "Final Checking" of Luke** for the Coastal Group languages in May, despite local elections happening around the same time.
- **Pray for us** as we have much to do before we leave PNG in less than two weeks.
- **Pray for Eric as he leaves PNG.** Eric was born and grew up here. In the next two weeks, he will graduate from high school and say good bye to friends who will go 'home' to countries all over the world. We leave PNG on his birthday, June 23rd.
- **Pray for the translators** as they make many changes to their translations based on our Final Checking session. Also for the Onnele Group and Group One translators as they prepare for Final Checking in July.
- **Pray for my recovery.** As I was leaving Arop, I tripped and fell, breaking my right wrist and dislocating my left elbow. I am improving each day.



Consulting the experts. Sissano language translator Kenny Aiprum (center) and his partner Leones had two older men with them at our Final Checking sessions to help them make sure their translation would 'cry good' (sound right) in their language. As the checking sessions progressed, these language experts got better and better at giving input into the translations.

ADAM IS GOD'S FATHER OR GOD IS ADAM'S FATHER?

In the genealogy tracing Jesus' blood line through Joseph's family, we eventually come to Luke 3:38,

"And Adam's father was God." In Sissano, they say "Adam eke tman iyn God," literally, "This Adam, father his (is) God." But if we were just doing one translation in Sissano expecting Arops to read and understand it because it's 'close enough,' they would understand it to be saying "This Adam, (is) God's father." Oops!



When it comes to translating the Bible into somebody's own language, "close enough" is not good enough. It has to be in their own dialect, the language they really speak, not a neighboring language that is 'close enough.'

Your partner in bringing God's Word all the way home,

John Nystrom (for Bonnie and all of us)

Gecko's eye view. This is what you'd see if you were a gecko chasing mosquitoes in the rafters of the porch of our translation center in Arop during Final Checking of Luke. Going clockwise to my left is Emil, the Serra team, then Malol, Sissano, and finally Arop to my right. Each passage was read aloud in each language, then we would ask questions to make sure the translations were clear, accurate, and natural.

STAYING CONNECTED

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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.

We're putting our travel schedule together for our time in the US. Contact us if you would like us to come to see you and/or to share about Bible translation with your church or group while we're "home."



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