



Nystrom Prayer Update

Upland, Indiana

October 10, 2008

Translator rejects revenge

While he was in Arop for a translation workshop in July, **somebody burned translator Joe Anaput's house to the ground.** In PNG, people in villages don't have homeowner's insurance, so a house fire is a disaster for the owner and the extended family members who use the house. The house fire destroyed almost everything Joe owned, including his books, translation papers, and important papers from his time as mayor of his village. Joe wanted to take revenge and reminded our teammates that he owns a gun.

Praise the Lord that at the end of the translation workshop, Joe was the most outspoken translator about their need to remain committed to the task of Bible translation as their highest priority. Joe left the translation workshop at the beginning of August with a changed heart and a commitment to seek God and follow him.

When Joe returned to Arop for the September workshop, he reported to the other translators that he had not taken revenge.

But then Joe started to get a relapse of a serious illness that almost killed him last years. He gets cold and his legs swell up. I do not know what the name of this illness. *Please pray for Joe's recovery, and for Joe and the other translators, that they will be doers of the word, not translators only.*

- **Pray for me** as I work on 1) checking the last changes to Luke in the four Coastal Languages, 2) checking the first chapters of Acts in the Arop language, and 3) preparing to make two presentations to Wycliffe's Computer Technical Conference in late October.
- **Pray for Bonnie** as she heads to Manila for Board meetings on Oct. 16 and to PNG for strategy meetings Oct. 25.
- **Pray for Eric and Brianna** as they continue their studies at Taylor University.
- **Praise the Lord** that my elbow and wrist are mostly back to normal after my accident in May.



Joe Anaput (center) and Petrus Brere are translators for the Malol-speaking people who live just eight miles east of Arop on the coast. Translation training isn't just about learning to use the tools; it's also about learning to live the message.

I BLEW IT, THEY CAUGHT IT, I LOVE IT!

This morning I was sitting in the office of our house here in Upland, Indiana, checking Acts 1:4 in the Arop language for accuracy. I'm checking it against the original Greek and modern English translations to make sure nothing is missing, nothing is added, and that the meaning is not changed. As I go, I am also interacting with the notes our team is writing as we make changes.

The table shows what Acts 1:4 looked like last time I checked over this chapter. Can you spot what's missing in the Arop draft?

The last phrase was missing: "which you have heard me speak about," but **I had missed that obvious problem.** Oops.

So why am I telling you I blew it? Because of what happened after I blew it and what we can learn from this.

- **Peter & Linus fixed it.** As I looked at it this morning and read the team's notes, I saw that Arop Translators Pastor Peter Marokiki and Linus Wairapu found the problem and fixed it on November 28th of 2007. The translators are getting better at finding problems and fixing them on their own. **Years of training is paying off!**

NIV	Early Arop Draft
⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.	⁴ "One time, when Jesus accompanied those apostles of his eating food, he ordered them like this, "You-all must continue to stay (in) this big town Jerusalem wait first for a very good thing of the Father, which he promised that he will

- **Ben caught it.** Then on June 1st of this year, our partner Ben Pehrson caught the problem too. This is why we work as a team having multiple people checking the Arop translation before the other translators use it as their source. **Teamwork works.**

- **Our current software is not up to the task** of working in multiple languages with multiple people in multiple locations working on the translation together. Ben would have seen the translation had been fixed if an up-to-date version had been available to him.

- **Help is on the way.** Later this month at Wycliffe's Computer Technical Conference, we'll be learning about some new

software specifically designed to help us work together.

Our training is working, our teamwork is effective, and our programmers are giving us better tools to help us work even more effectively.

Your less than perfect but very grateful partner in Bible Translation,

John Nystrom (for Bonnie and all of us)

STAYING CONNECTED

Our web site is finally up-to-date!

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.

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."



Partners in Bible Translation

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