

John Nystrom

From: John Nystrom [john_nystrom@sil.org]
Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2008 9:57 PM
To: Bonnie_Nystrom@sil.org
Cc: 'John Nystrom'
Subject: NPU: Progress on sending changes over email; sick in Waxhaw

Dear praying friends,

The Short Version:

- * We are already testing the software to send only the changes to the translations by email. Pray for success!
- * We're looking for used laptops to help test the software.
- * Not all the translators showed up for the translation workshop.
- * Bonnie leaves PNG Tuesday night to return to the US.
- * I am still at my conference in Waxhaw, NC and have a bad cold.

The Details:

"Radio Mercurial" is no longer vaporware

Thank you for praying that our programmers would be successful in making a way for us to send just the changes to our translations rather than the complete files, which are now too many to send over our slow radio email link in Arop village. This problem is keeping us from finishing Luke.

The great news is that Nathan Miles of the United Bible Societies has been writing that software and we began testing it on Thursday. He's calling it "Radio Mercurial." See below for the techie details.

- * Pray that we can find any problems with the software and that the programmer will be able to fix them.
- * Pray that we will find ways to make this tool super-easy to use.

Radio Mercurial is actually an experimental part of a new version of the translation editing software we use, called Paratext. I have agreed to spend a significant amount of my time from now until the end of the year testing the new version.

Why would I do that? Because sometimes you have to be part of the answer to your own prayers.

- I can't get the files I need to help with Luke anyway. (I'm still working on Acts, though, and finished checking chapter 1 today.)

- Right now we have no other choices. Paratext 7 is the only software that has the potential to restore our

ability to collaborate remotely on the translations.

- It's not ready to use yet. I want to help move the Paratext 7 project along so that we can start using it soon.

- They need us. The Paratext team needs serious testers and would love to have it tested in a multi-language translation project.

- I have the experience in translation and computing to be able to see it from both a user's perspective and the programmer's perspective.

- Testing the software is also a great opportunity to help shape it to fit our needs better.

So please pray :

* that I will be effective in helping the team to find problems with the software and to make good suggestions for improvements.

* that as a team we can get the software ready enough for me to take it to PNG in March.

Wanted: Used Laptops for testing translation software

In order to test the collaboration features of the software properly, I would love to have a few used laptops. Ugly and slow is good as long as it still works and runs Windows XP. If you know somebody who has a laptop they would like to donate to this effort, have them contact me for shipping details. I would be happy to pay for shipping to Indiana.

Mystery of the missing translators

Emil reported on Thursday that on the fourth day of the translation workshop, only about half the translators had arrived for the translation workshop. We have no idea why.

* Emil does not like to see this happen and would like us to pray for peace for him.

Bonnie on her way back Tuesday

Tuesday night U.S. time, Bonnie will begin her journey back to the U.S. from PNG where she has been involved in strategy meetings. She says her Board meeting in Manila and her strategy meetings in PNG went very well.

* Pray for a safe trip for Bonnie. She should arrive here in Charlotte on Wednesday afternoon.

* Pray that I will get over my bad cold soon!

Thank you again for praying for us!

Serving our King together,

John Nystrom
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Techie details: In Paratext 7, the [Mercurial](#) distributed version control system will be integrated into the software. Radio Mercurial creates bundles of change sets in user-configurable maximum sizes that the user can then send as email attachments. On the receiving end, the user clicks "accept" to get the software to commit the bundles of changes to his local repository.

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