



Arop Lagoon Tribune

Upland, Indiana

December 2008

Praise the Lord

- For faithful supporters who have stuck with us for many years.
- The translators have made good progress on finishing Luke.
- For good relationships among team members.

Pray

- For more people to join our financial support team, and for the Lord to meet the needs of all his servants during this difficult time.
- That the Arop team can stay well ahead of the other teams. We are working on Acts and 1&2 Timothy while the others finish Luke. Pray we can have Acts 1-2 ready for a workshop in January.
- For Emil and Peter as they continue to lead the translation team and their local churches.
- That the Lord would use the translations in the translators' own lives, and ours too!
- For the translators to have good opportunities to use and test their translations in the local churches.
- For our plans to return to PNG for a month or so in March/April.

We're getting un-stuck!

In the last ALT, I said, "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."

When we were working on just one chapter at a time, our village radio email system could handle sending those chapters back and forth for all 11 languages. But now that the translators are working on changes to Luke throughout all 24 chapters, there are far too many files to send across that super-slow radio email link. We're stuck. I want to be checking those chapters, but they can't send them to me. *If you get our email updates, you know I asked you to pray for a solution.*

Looking for help

So I went to Wycliffe's biennial Computer Technical Conference last month looking for a solution.

I talked to my friend Nathan Miles, who works for United Bible Societies (UBS). He's the project leader for Paratext, the translation editing software we use.

The new version of their software (Paratext 7) has what we need—a way to send just the changes to the chapters rather than the chapters themselves. It works across the Internet or network or a flash drive, but not by email.

Nathan explained that UBS has no need for this to work over email, so they had no plans to build that capability.

I was unable to find anybody within Wycliffe who could do this any time soon. Still stuck.

So I talked to Nathan again. He said UBS needs serious testers for Paratext 7. (Continued...)



Visiting Daddy "At The Office." Brianna, Betty, and David like to visit their Dad, Emil Ninkure, as he works on the translation center porch. One of Emil's jobs is to send the translation files back and forth via radio. I am helping to test new software that should make that job much easier.



Half the fun is getting there or getting out. When rain leaves our hilly road muddy, it's time for four-wheel and 12-leg drive. Everybody has to help, but the best jobs are holding somebody's flip-flops (right), hanging onto the luggage (on top of car), walking back down to see what the hold-up is (left), and taking the photo (guess who?). Pray that the road and our airstrip are open in March and April so we can get in for the workshop and out to catch our international flights.

Getting un-stuck (cont'd from p. 1)

They also would really like to test it on the field in a multi-language environment. Then he says to me, "If you would become a serious tester for Paratext 7, we would give you priority support. And if you could get me a plane ticket to your village in PNG to test Paratext 7 with your team, I could write the radio email software you need in my spare time.

He did. By the end of the next week he had already built "Radio Mercurial." **Praise the Lord for this answer to prayer!**

Then I had to start doing my part. We secured funding for our trip to PNG in March and I started testing the software. As I did, I was amazed at how fast Nathan and his team responded when I made suggestions for changes. Sometimes they responded on the same day.

For me it is a huge privilege to be able to help test and shape this software, not just for our 20 or so translators in eleven languages, but also for translators in probably hundreds of languages around the world.

"I could write the radio email software you need in my spare time."

Our Tentative Schedule

December — Chicago area for Christmas

January 2009 — In FL for New Years, visit family.

February — Missions conf. in FL, visit supporting churches.

March & April— Both of us to PNG, Bonnie to facilitate strategy discussions; I will work with the Arop translators training them on the new translation editing software.

May — In Indiana again. Brianna graduates.

Summer — Help Brianna settle into wherever she's going to do graduate school. Visit churches.

Fall—Back to PNG after Bonnie's International Board meetings in November.

Translator Rejects Revenge



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.

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.

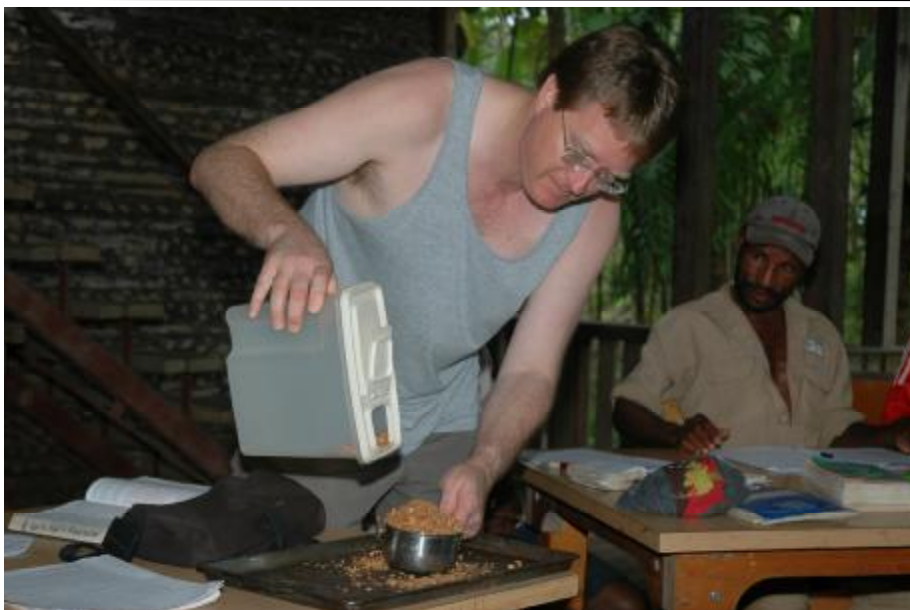
Praise the Lord that at the end of the translation workshop, Joe was the most outspoken translator about their need to remain committed to the task of Bible translation as their highest priority. Joe left the translation workshop at the beginning of August with a changed heart and a commitment to seek 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 is. He returned in November for another workshop, so he's OK for now. *Please pray for Joe's complete recovery, and for Joe and the other translators, that they will be do-ers of the word, not translators only.*



PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER, RUNNING OVER



Did they have granola back then? I don't know, but when all four of the Coastal Group languages were having trouble with Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." They were just not getting the mental picture. So I went up to our house and got some granola and demonstrated. Then they got it!

The Arop translation ended up saying, "You must give other people things and God himself will give you things. As for God, he will measure and give you something and **he'll heap on another portion of it. And he will load it on and load it on and shake it down until it's overfull and pouring over the sides and down.** For, whatever measure you give others, that very same measure you will receive in return."

That's the way God gives. Over the years he has provided for us abundantly. Lately some of our supporters have had to cut back on their giving because of the financial crisis. We understand that. *Let's all pray that the Lord will provide for all of his servants during this difficult time.*

Thank you for your partnership with us in helping make God's Word understandable in many more languages.

John Nystrom (for Bonnie and all of us)

Staying Connected

You can learn more about our ministry on the web:

www.thenystroms.org

Updates and ALT by email

Paper newsletters are expensive, so we do them only once or twice a year. We send out an email newsletter about every month with news, photos, and prayer requests.

Send us your email address if you'd like to receive them too, or if you could receive the Arop Lagoon Tribune by email instead of on paper.

Mailing Addresses

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Contributions

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



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"That's not what I meant." Bible Translation is a team sport. Nobody does it all on their own. Dominic Pusai (L) and Herman Ume from the Goiniri dialect of Onnele know as well as anyone that doing a translation together requires a lot of give and take. Pray for all of us translators—that we'll be willing to give more than we take. That's the way our Master would want it.