



Nystrom Prayer Update

Seminole, Florida

February 14, 2009

Bad roads, marginal airstrips, fast translators

Our airstrip situation may not be as bad as we thought. In the last NPU, I asked you to pray that the Aitape town airstrip would be open by March 13. Last week much of it was covered by standing water, but it has been in use recently. We are free to land there if our pilots think it is safe to do so. A timber company may be opening another old airstrip near us that we used to use. Our partner Ben Pehrson used yet another airstrip (Tadji) in the area last week. **Pray that at least one of them is open by March 13 so Nathan Miles and I can get in and out of the area on time for our international flights.**

We also asked you to pray the translators would get a good start on Acts at the January translation workshop. We only had Acts 1-2 ready for the translators to translate. But they **surprised us by drafting Acts 1-2 in record time!** Ben and Emil were able to use the new software to get chapters 3 and 4 ready for the other translators to use. Now we are preparing chapters 5-8 for the workshop in March.

Over this weekend, Ben Pehrson and I have been working to get the latest translation data to me so I can put it all in the new software. See page two for why that is so exciting.

- **Praise the Lord** for great progress on translation at the January translation workshop.
- **Praise the Lord** that the threatened break-ins have not happened to our house or translation center in Arop.
- **Pray** that the Aitape town airstrip will be useable for us on March 13 and later as we leave.
- **Pray for me** 1) **checking** the first chapters of Acts in the Arop language, and 2) **testing** the new translation software and helping make it work for multi-language translation projects, 3) **speaking** in churches and to groups interested in our work. During February we'll be speaking at several churches in Florida. We would love to see some new financial support partners join our team.
- **Pray for Bonnie** as she prepares to lead strategy discussions in PNG in March.
- **Pray for Eric and Brianna** as they continue their studies at Taylor University.



“The good Lord willing and the Paup River don’t rise . . .” It took our partner Ben Pehrson several days to leave Arop last week. Rain closed the airstrips and the roads. Eventually he was able to use one of our local airstrips. **Pray for good weather to open roads and for needed airstrip maintenance to happen before our March 13th arrival in the area.**

“WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE*?” OR “HOW I LEARNED TO *LOVE* VERSION CONTROL”

I check and re-check the translations at many stages in the process. Of course I don't want to check the whole thing each time—just what has changed.

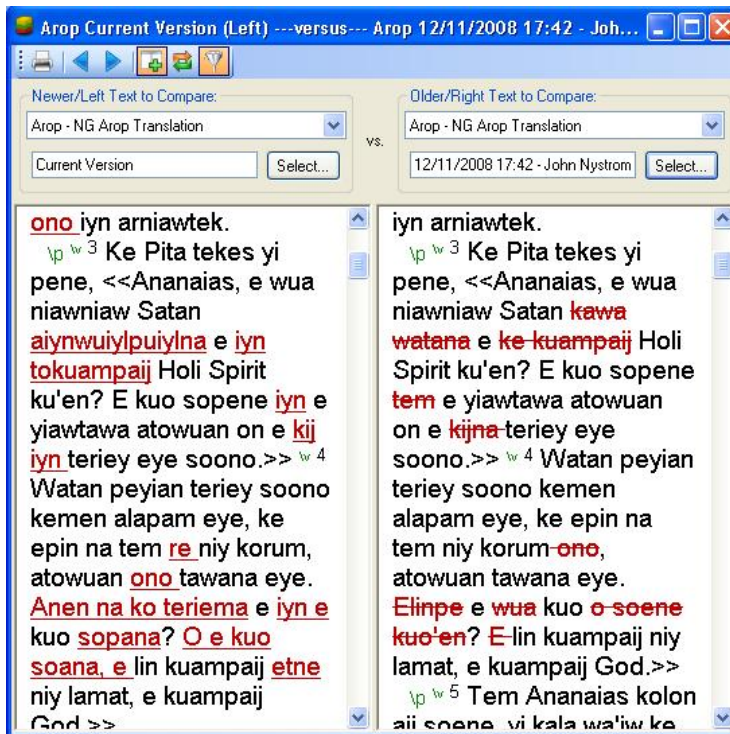
As the translators speed up their work, it's becoming more and more important for me to stay on top of what they are doing.

Paratext 7, the software we have been helping United Bible Societies to design and test, is finally giving us an efficient way to do this using [Distributed Version Control](#).

I checked over a previous version of the Arop translation of Acts 5 before the January translation workshop. Since I was not there for the workshop, I need to see what the translators have done.

This screen shot shows the current version (left side) compared to what it was before the workshop. Underlined words have been added. Words that have been deleted are shown as struck through.

Emil has used an expression I have never heard before, for



Satan filling Ananias' heart to lie to the Holy Spirit. So I made a note to ask Emil about what that expression means.

When I press the right arrow button at the top, Paratext will show me the next change in the translation—even if it's in a different book of the Bible.

Please pray that I can continue to be a helpful “Professional Complainer” as I make suggestions for improving the software.

Please also pray that we can thoroughly test “Radio Mercurial,” the part of the software that will make it possible to send and receive changes to the translations via our slow HF radio email connection,

and that it will work extremely well for us. We need this to work so that I can efficiently help the translators from the US or wherever I happen to be.

Thank you again for sticking with us through all of our changes.

John Nystrom (for Bonnie and all of us)

STAYING CONNECTED

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Contributions

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

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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