

John Nystrom

From: John Nystrom [silarop1@crmf.org.pg]
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2009 9:13 PM
To: Bonnie_Nystrom@sil.org
Cc: john_nystrom@sil.org
Subject: NPU: Remembering Joe Anaput

Brief Version:

We heard this morning that Malol translator Joe Anaput has died. The translators have gone to the funeral while I remain behind in Arop I leave Arop Weds. morning. Pray for calm seas and a safe trip.

The Details:

This morning as devotions began, the translators were singing as usual, but with little enthusiasm. I saw Malol translator Petrus Brere walk to the chair next to mine. He was crying. I said, "Aij ampia?" (What's the news?). He replied "Joe kamat. (Joe has died).

As they finished the song, one after another, the translators all started to cry and so did I. Some were quite loud and left the porch where we do all our work. Eventually the translator responsible for devotions today read from Jonah 2:6-. I don't think any of us remember what he said. I couldn't hear him anyway.

He called on one of the other translators to close devotions in prayer. He prayed for Joe's family and thanked the Lord for Joe. That got us all crying again. Eventually I asked them what they wanted to do. I said in my culture we would talk about the person and remember his life. Emil started to say something, but couldn't finish it through his sobs. Eventually he talked about how Joe has been part of the team since the very beginning in 2001, and he intended to go to the funeral, which is supposed to be this afternoon. But because the weather is hot and has been since he died Friday, it could happen earlier in the day because of rapid decay. He intended to start walking immediately and invited any others to go with him.

Sebby Nugia from Sumo said that the whole team should go because Joe was part of the team. It is our responsibility to go and touch his body and show respect as a team. Everybody agreed and decided they would try to walk back again tonight, since it is pretty much a full moon now.

I asked them to forgive me for not going along. I didn't think I could do the 18-mile round-trip hike on the beach. Clement from Pou was the only other translator not to go. He has a bad leg at the moment.

We have asked you to pray for Joe multiple times in the last year. When he was sick and when he was challenged to live the gospel of forgiveness as others burned down his house and threatened to cut off his family's food supply by destroying their garden. Joe passed that test of his faith, and now he has finished his race and will never be bothered again by that awful illness that kept coming back. It's gone for good now, but he is not. Easter will have a special meaning for us this year, knowing that Jesus' death and resurrection makes it possible for us to see Joe again.

Before the translators left, I asked them through my own tears to tell his family that I am committed to helping the Malols finish the work Joe started eight years ago --translating God's Word into their language.

Please pray for Joe's family as they mourn.

Please pray that the Lord will use this event in the lives of the rest of the translators in whatever way he sees fit. My prayer is that they will be encouraged in their faith and in their understanding of how important the work they are doing is.

Please also pray for exactly the right person to take Joe's place on the Malol translation team. Petrus Brere will need a partner soon. Translating alone is difficult enough. It will be made more difficult now that all the other teams have two members, each with their own computer. Their accelerated pace with put pressure on Petrus to keep up. (Some may think I'm awfully 'cold' mentioning this now, but I can't help thinking about the practical implications. My job is to help the translators succeed.)

Please pray that Joe's life and his death will be an occasion for the "talk-spreading" of the message he worked so diligently to translate into his language. (See translation sample below).

Thank you again for your partnership with us.

With sadness for today mixed with hope for the future,

John Nystrom (for Bonnie and the whole Aitape West Translation Team)

Luke 24:45-48 (NIV): 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Current draft In Malol: 45 Kospeane i koho re keryiel ker'es re aj remien aryuon na buk iyn God ene. 46 Kos i tekes re pan, "Buk iyn God tekes pan: Kraiss ene awow per'ien ka i awamat, kos araw 3-pla pin, i awohora nien. 47 Kos han iyn aka peyien re awereswala awawa re ni tartar iyn re mas artapala ka awer'epesieiy re oa kokelek re toro kos God awahalpaj re oa kokelek akare. Moiy enekea awohora aimol prum Jerusalem watan peyien nom, kos epin awawana re tal tartar. 48 Om aka akwa awekeswala re aj iyn oa tartar pnan om keyiel. 49 Tpan titieiy peyien iyn ya wij om oa pnan Aja iynjia kes iyn i awej om. Elinkka om mas akyuon empem aimol prum Jerusalem ene awospaja tem om awekej nokuon iyn God."

My translation of the Malol draft into English:

45 And he caused them to see with understanding the talk-basis (underlying meaning) of God's book. 46 And he said to them like this, "God's book says this: This Kraiss will carry heavy (experience great pain), and afterwards three days later, he will rise again. 47 And then in his name they will speak-spreading-around to every person that they must turn around and abandon the bad things they do and God will totally-sweep-away those bad things. This work will rise (start) in big town Jerusalem at the very

beginning first, then later will go-go (=continually go) to all places. 48 You all go and speak-spreading the talk of all the things that you have seen. 49 The time is very close when I will give you what my Father has promised to give you. But you all must stay put in big town Jerusalem here until the time that you get the power of God.