



Nystrom Prayer Update

Birchwood, Wisconsin

July 30, 2009

Improvising a solution, starting a book project

Bible translation is a difficult job, but **sometimes I think translation is easy compared to trying to do it together from nine time zones away. But quality requires teamwork, so we press on.**

On Monday August 2nd, another translation workshop starts in Arop. The translators are planning to translate Acts 14-20.

Our sending-the-changes-only system is still broken, but I was able to find a way to send just the most critical notes to Emil on the chapters they will be translating. It's not a perfect solution, but it should help. Like the mechanic for the outboard motor on my trip to the village last March (photo below), I didn't have the tool I really wanted to use, so I had to improvise. I probably should have done so sooner.

Pray that Emil will be able to make the necessary changes to each chapter of the Arop translation before the other teams begin using it as their source text.

Our partner Beth Fuller plans to arrive on the 11th with all the latest data we have not been able to send by email. Pray that there will be no problems or mistakes in the process of merging the work we've been doing over here with their work over there, and that we'll be able to re-start the system of sending just the changes by email.

We are still evaluating the options for satellite Internet access.

Beginning a book project

Bonnie and I have been asked by Wycliffe USA to share our story as part of a strategy to engage a new generation of Americans with the Bible translation movements around the world. This sharing may take many forms, including a book and some speaking engagements. Our focus right now is on preparing a book proposal, which is the first step in the writing process.

Would you pray with us as we work on the book proposal? The main parts of the proposal are a title, an outline of the whole book, and two sample chapters. It has been fun to begin to think back on all the Lord has done and brought us through in the eleven years since the tsunami. We are really looking forward to telling that story in a way that will glorify him.

- **Praise the Lord** for the great progress the translators are making in Acts.
- **Pray for more good progress** at the translation workshop that starts August 2nd.
- **Pray** that we can restore our ability to send and receive notes and changes to the translations **during** the workshop!
- **Praise** the Lord that no more solar panels have been stolen.
- **Pray** for me as I work on the translations, develop long-range plans for the translation project, evaluate options for satellite Internet access in Arop, and work on the book proposal.
- **Pray** for Bonnie as she fulfills her role as Chairman of our Executive Committee in PNG. She officially started on July 1st, and heads to PNG in September for the first EC meeting.
- **Pray** for more individuals and churches to join our financial support team so we can return to PNG in November.



Improvising—it's what we do. Sometimes a larger wrench with a screwdriver will do when you don't have the the correct size wrench.

DOING MY OTHER JOB: HELPING IMPROVE TRANSLATION SOFTWARE

Earlier this year, I got an email from Bruce Waters, the original author of Adapt It, a program we use all the time in our translation projects. I had written earlier in the day suggesting how Bruce and his team could make Adapt It much easier for us to use in our multi-language translation process. This is part of what he wrote back:

"That is a brilliant expose of the difficulties you experience and an equally brilliant (perhaps more so) design spec for fixing the problems. All you suggest can indeed be done. You'll no doubt appreciate that it is a huge job, and to get it right will take a lot of thought and careful design before a line of code is written. I'm fully in favour of what you suggest . . .

"Speaking from a developer's perspective, I can't express appreciation enough that you took the time to spell out so clearly your work procedures, where they go wrong and why, and a good design for going forward. That makes it possible for developers to dream up appropriate ways to support what you want to do."

This is the kind of thing I love to do, and of course I love to get responses like this. The goal of using technology in translation is to make the job easier and the result better. It takes some effort to figure out how to improve the translation process by making changes to our current software. Making such recommendations is part of my job as **Pacific Area Computing Advisor**.

Since November I have been working with United Bible Societies on their new version of Paratext, the translation editing software we use. It was finally released this month. **It is fun to see it go out with many improvements that I and our team have suggested** as we have tested the software. I am now testing a new tool for the next version of Paratext which may make adapting a translation from one language to another much easier than it is now. As I do so I am doing real work on the Arop translation.

I also make recommendations to other translators. Next week I need to send out an announcement about the release of Paratext 7 to my coworkers in the Pacific Area, along with news on developments in two other translation editing programs. My goal is to make sure translators know what their software options are and understand which options may be best for their project.

Translation will always be difficult to do. But the right software can help make sure it's not harder than it has to be.

Thanks for being part of the team as I do all my jobs.

Your coworker,

John Nystrom (for Bonnie and all of us)

STAYING CONNECTED

Our web site: www.thenystroms.org.

**Mailing Addresses
Permanent:**

12352 Imperial Dr
Seminole FL 33772
Until Summer '09:
PO Box 105
Upland IN 46989

Email:

John_Nystrom@sil.org
Bonnie_Nystrom@sil.org
Eric@TheNystroms.org
Bianna@TheNystroms.org

Phone: 704-301-6540

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

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando FL 32862-8200
1-800-WYCLIFFE
www.wycliffe.org