



Arop Lagoon Tribune

Ukarumpa, PNG

December 12, 2009

Arop landowners want compensation for land use

“We see you as our brother, so we want you to be happy here. We also want the translation project to continue, so we don’t want any problems between us.” Clan leader Gerald Nazie (pronounced NAH-see, photo above) was beginning our meeting about compensating the families who own the land our house and translation center are on. The leaders went on to say that **they would like us to begin renting the land**, and suggested a quarterly amount. We’ll be discussing various possible responses with our Directors here at our Ukarumpa center on Friday Dec. 18. Is renting our only option, or are there other ways to compensate the landowners fairly? We want to do the right thing and to be seen to be doing the right thing. *Pray that we will have wisdom to know how to respond when we return to Arop in February.*

During the translation workshop, most of the translators completed Luke 22, **but only half the translators were there**. Three languages had no translators at all, and five had just one translator each.

Some translators are now working for a company that will be producing palm oil in the area. We don’t know why the other translators did not come. Some have missed more than one workshop. We have sent them all a letter inviting them to come to the next workshop in February. If they will not be coming, we’re asking them to have their communities and churches appoint new translators.

We still hope to publish Luke in all the languages next year. It would be very difficult if not impossible to conduct the final checking sessions for Luke in these languages if their translators are not present.

Pray that each language would have two translators at the workshop in February.

- **Praise the Lord** for the great progress the translators are making in Acts.
- **Praise the Lord** that Bonnie’s EC meetings finished well on Dec. 3. Pray for her as she prepares for the next set of meetings in April.
- **Pray** that the recent reconciliation between the Arop translators would ‘stick,’ that they would work together well between now and the next workshop in February, and that we would eventually be able to deal with some long-standing issues that affect how we work together.
- **Pray** for me as I work on the translations, develop long-range plans for the translation project, and try to finish a book proposal I’m working on for Wycliffe.



On Sunday, December 6, I attended church with a Christian Brethren group in Arop and enjoyed these ladies doing special music. Some of you may be familiar with missionaries with CMML (Christian Missions in Many Lands) who helped to start a number of assemblies of Christians like this one in our province. This particular group has been very supportive of the Bible translation project in Arop.

THE POWER OF A TEAM



Our old friend and Wycliffe member Brian Chapaitis has taken on two major responsibilities for me so I can spend more time working on the translations: upgrading our solar electrical system and transitioning the team from using normal laptops to smaller and more power-efficient “netbooks.”

Last Month he went with me to Arop. While there he was able to set up our main power system so it would protect our batteries by shutting off the power when the batteries get too low. He also measured how much electricity our computers and other equipment use so he can plan how to wean us off our generators. Somehow he found time to tune our partner Beth Fuller’s solar system (photo) so she gets twice the power she was getting.

The best part of it is this: while all of that was happening, I was helping the translators with their translations!

While Brian is helping our team, I’m busy helping another team. This week I have been looking over 1-2 Timothy and Titus in the Edolo language, which is spoken in a different part of PNG. Next week I’ll be conducting the final checking on those books so they can be published. In 1 Tim 4:12, Paul tells Timothy, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” In the current Edolo draft, it sounds something like this:

The people there see that you have new skin (are young) and, it would not be good if they make you out to be 'something nothing' (look down on you), you talk talk (speech), you do customs (your life), giving heart (love), putting one thinking (faith), thinking that is clean (purity), the Christ group (believers) will see you and, they too can be like you are standing (be like you).

Pray that in the checking sessions we will find whatever “opportunities for improvement” exist and that these scriptures will be available to Edolo speakers soon.

After that, I intend to begin working again in earnest on the book about our translation project that I told you about in July. I also need to work on long-range plans for the translation project.

Thank you again for being part of our team.

Your coworker,

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.



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