

## BTA Watch - July 2011

Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association  
PO Box 350, Waigani, N.C.D., Papua New Guinea  
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**“The Gospel keeps bringing blessings and is spreading throughout the world, just as it has among you ever since the day you heard about the grace of God and came to know it as it really is.”**

Colossians 1:6 (GNB)

**Friday, 1 July** – Ask the Lord for wisdom and direction for **Mark Sipaala** and his team as they provide leadership for the BOUGAINVILLE BIBLE TRANSLATION ORGANIZATION (BBTO).

**Saturday, 2 July** – Pray for **Steven and Elizabeth Thomas** as they head up the **BTA Church Engagement** team. The awareness and networks that have been gathering momentum is creating lots of opportunities for the churches and Christians to participate in Bible translation work. Ask the Lord for wisdom for BTA's leadership to know how to engage the church as they become more aware of Bible translation ministry.

**Sunday, 3 July** – Pray for **Ninau Ephraim, Ps Fred Igami** and the team as they enter the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the **Scripture Application and Leadership Training (SALT)** course for the **Bola (West New Britain)** people. Pray for God's anointing for the team and that the Church in the Bola community would grow strong and be built up to maturity as a result of this training.

**\*\* Monday, 4 July** – Praise the Lord for three new people who were elected to the Board at the recent Conference. The new people are **Judah Waffi, Ruth Kissam** and **David Gudiri**. The other six re-elected are: **Andrew Kwimberi** (Chair), **Dominic Sebong, Saki Ipata, Pastor Marco Paul, Gail Edoni, Ruby Zarriga** and **Sam Lahis**. These will serve for the next two years. Please pray for all of these people as they serve in this capacity.

Praise the LORD for the uplifting time for BTA members at their conference 13-19 June. The messages that **John King (Wycliffe Canada)** shared were of encouragement to those who attended. Thank you for many of you who prayed.

**\*\* Tuesday, 5 July** – Pray for **Sung-Chan Kwon** (Asia Pacific Wycliffe Area Director), **Robert Lovatt** (Director for Partnerships, Asia Pacific Wycliffe Area), and **David Gela** will be meeting with the members of Solomon Islands Christian Association on 5th July in Honiara. Ask the Lord for wisdom and discernment as this meeting seeks to establish good understanding towards future collaborative partnership in the Bible translation work in the Solomon

**\*\* Denotes happening on this day.**

Islands and the Pacific.

**Wednesday, 6 July** – Following the BTA conference more than 30 people stayed on for a two-weeks training on the Paratext software. This will help them with their translation work. Thank God for the training given by **John Nystrom** (SIL) and three local translators from the Aitape West programme.

**Thursday, 7 July** – Praise God that **Daryl Brenton's** health issues are finally healing up and he is able to move around and begin taking up his work again after 5 weeks. Praise God too that he was able to get the Digicel Modems working again so that the office computer used for email is doing what it is supposed to do – that is receiving work emails in the office instead of on our personal computers upstairs.

**Friday, 8 July** – Pray for **Don Adeb** and **Marib Fanu** as they work towards these last 2 months leading up to typesetting in September. Pray also for **Ladong Airok** (Don's daughter) as she assists in typing the final reading and corrections, and also for **Cecily Brenton** as she does the Paratext work for the typesetting, and for **Daryl Brenton** as he handles all the other logistics of getting the work done, and the team up to Ukarumpa for several weeks in September and October this year, to work with **Emma Biblio** to do the typesetting.

Praise God that the funding of the OGEA (MADANG) New Testament "Itou, Nomo Beele" (God, His Word) has been approved.

**Saturday, 9 July** – Ask the Lord for strength for **Judy Saka** as she takes time off for the birth of her third child. Judy works as finance officer at BTA's Port Moresby office. She begins her maternity leave from 5th July. Pray that someone with finance training and background will step in to fill in for Judy during this period. Ask the Lord also for safe delivery of the baby towards the end of this month.

**Sunday, 10 July** – The URAT (EAST SEPIK) team thanks everyone for praying for them. Continue to uphold them in prayer. Pray for **David Bilyeme** and **Enoch Mundum** and their families to remain in the Lord in spite of problems and

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troubles that they encourage. Enoch had to step aside from active translation work for a time to deal with some personal issues. This means additional work for David who already has a lot to do. Ask the Lord for His grace at this critical time of the Urat New Testament project. Advisor **Hilkka Arminen (Finland)** arrived back in PNG recently after furlough.

**\*\* Monday, 11 July** – Pray for the TAIRUMA (GULF) translation workshop that begins today in Kerema. **David Loea** is facilitating this workshop and will be working through the Book of Jonah. Ask the Lord for wisdom for him. It is semester break time and David is doing this as part of his practicum as a Theology student at the Pacific Adventist University. David is sponsored by BTA in his studies. Pray also for **Badi Vila** and **Elizabeth Povo** as they work with their people and participate in this workshop.

**Tuesday, 12 July** – Pray for a number of senior and new staff who are meeting in Port Moresby from 11th to 14th July. The first two days will be a training seminar in video production conducted by a staff of the Monsoon Communications (part of the Asia Pacific Wycliffe Area). The next part of the week will be orientation for new staff.

**Wednesday, 13 July** – On 18 June, **Orim and Tingkui Joel** were commissioned by the Tok Pisin congregation at (SIL PNG) Ukarumpa community. The Joels have been part of the eldership of this church congregation for many years. Orim joined the BTA staff in May this year to serve as part of the Church Engagement team. Orim and Tingkui will be based in Lae. Thank the Lord for this gesture of partnership and support for the Joel family in their new roles.

**Thursday, 14 July** – Ask the Lord to help the different Church groups on Karkar Island in Madang to come alongside **Meng Maguna** and work with him in the TAKIA language project.

**Friday, 15 July** – Pray for the NOBNOB (MADANG) translation team of **Itbam Hiuk**, **Kauhat Mahan** and **Robert Logg** that they continue in their close work of the

OT translation with their SIL advisors **Ulys and Verna Aeschliman**

**Saturday, 16 July** – Pray for **Aluis and Margaret Simatab** (ARAPESH, EAST SEPIK) that they will continue to walk in the path put before them by God. Margaret has not been well again and this is affecting concentration and focus on their work.

**Sunday, 17 July** – Pray for peace in the Madang Province and between different groups and for the current spate of law and order issues and violence to come to an end.

**Monday, 18 July** – Pray for **Ken & Rosa Nayau** in the MANAMBU (EAST SEPIK) language work. The re-translation of the New Testament is progressing well.

**Tuesday, 19 July** – Pray for the NAI-TANGGU (MADANG) translators **Ludger Kangarai** and **Godfried Angurup** to be encouraged to start working again. These team have experienced a lot of setbacks in their work through sickness, death and low community support.

**Wednesday, 20 July** – Ask the Lord to encourage **Andrew Gaiama** (MIANI, MADANG) to persevere in his translation work. Pray that some other people will join him to finish this work.

**\*\* Thursday, 21 July – BTA Day** – Thirty one years ago today, BTA was registered as an Association here in PNG. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness over the years. Ask the Lord to thrust forth workers to reach the more than 300 languages still awaiting the Scriptures in their heart language.

**Friday, 22 July** – Orim & Tingkui Joel as they take up the Church Engagement responsibilities in Lae City. Ask that the Lord will provide housing in Lae for them that would be easily accessible by the church leaders. Pray also as they make this major transition in their lives. They've been working and living at the SIL Ukarumpa centre for over 28 years. This month they will be busy sorting, packing and shipping their personal belongings to Lae. Ask the Lord for strength and safely.

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**Saturday, 23 July** – **Simon Potinu** joined the Church Engagement team in May. Pray for him as he adjusts to this new role. Simon will be based in Port Moresby to head up the church engagement work from there.

**Sunday, 24 July** – Madang office has had many months of trouble with communication system/s. When they work they are very, very slow and are limited mostly to less than 900Kbyte messages. This can make it very hard to do the amount of work needed to be done via email. What really is needed is for Telikom to put in a broadband system in Madang or for the office to be able to access a VSAT system, but this can be expensive. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest who sees our needs will meet them.

**Monday, 25 July** – Pray for the Guhu Samane (MORobe) Old Testament project. They have a big need for good back translators. Pray with them for this critical need so their work will progress without undue hindrance.

**Tuesday, 26 July** – Uphold the Maring (Western Highlands) translation project today. Ask the Lord to help **Martin Ponomb** in his work. It has been a long and difficult process for Martin working on his own with very little community support.

**Wednesday, 27 July** – Pray for the East Papua Translators Training Course that begins this week. Ask the Lord for wisdom for the facilitators and staff as well as students. Ask the Lord for a fruitful month of learning the principles and skill of translation and its related activities.

**Thursday, 28 July** – Pray for **Wopa Eka** and **Max Yapua** (West Kewa, Southern Highlands) as they continue their work of the Old Testament translation. They are aiming to complete the first draft of the Book of Genesis by August. Ask the Lord to protect and provide for their needs.

**Friday, 29 July** – Pray for the Church in the Taku'U (Bougainville) language community. The New Testament was launched in December 2010. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring in many more people from this language into His Kingdom as a result of engaging with the Word of God in their language.

\*\* Denotes happening on this day.

**Saturday, 30 July** – Pray for the MINIAFIA (ORO) people as they use their New Testament that was launched in February 2010. Praise the Lord for interest shown by young people to get in the translation of the Old Testament. Ask the Lord to help **Stanley Oyabua** and **Josiah Javeve** as they encourage and foster younger people to get involved in the work.

**Sunday, 31 July** – Praise the Lord for the many churches in PNG that are catching the vision of Bible translation work in the country. Ask the Lord to bless the Church Engagement personnel that go out to share about the work in churches around the country.