



# IN OUR WORDS

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## OCBF Encourage Bible Translators

OAK CLIFF Bible Fellowship (OCBF) from Dallas, Texas USA sent its fifth short-term mission team to Madang Province to encourage local translators in three language areas and while there do evangelical outreach in Madang town.



*OCBF team with BTA translators at Nobonob*

The team spent ten days in the country ministering in the Ogea, Nobonob and Takia language communities. They also visited Beon Correctional Services, Modilon Hospital and two education institutions. One of the team members, a retired teacher, spent time at Sunbeam, a school of the Gospel Lighthouse Foursquare Church.

African-Americans from OCBF have been coming to minister among Papua New Guineans in partnership with BTA members since 2008. The visits was an answer to prayer for Estella

Trostle, an African-American, who along with her husband Mark, have led short term Missions Discovery trips to PNG since 1994. Their focus changed in 2008

when they brought the first team of African-Americans to PNG to partner with BTA. OCBF adopted BTA as a ministry partner to encourage Papua New Guineans involved in Bible translation through evangelism programs  
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## From the Director's Desk

In this issue we bring you exciting stories about Kingdom partnerships. The Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church in Dallas, Texas USA have been sending teams to PNG over the past four years. BTA and OCBF have forged a very unique partnership to minister together. This has opened new and exciting opportunities and horizons to see God at work in touching lives, both for Papua New Guineans and the African American folk who had come. This partnership will continue in the years ahead.

Partnership with the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) is a new development for us in BTA. We continue to explore ways to combine as well as to add resources to God's Kingdom to see PNG and the Pacific Islands have God's Word in their vernacular languages.


The partnership that BTA has with Wycliffe Associates of Australia (WAA) has been on-going for a number of years already. Peter and Yvonne Gillespie, the directors, have led several teams over the years to help us with construction and

maintenance of facilities.

This has been very encouraging to the Bible translation work in PNG. We are very grateful.

BTA staff continue to provide training for language groups who are eager to have the Bible in their own language. The Kalo community and church in the Central Province model the kind of partnership BTA desires to see happen in the other language communities all over PNG.

Thank you very much for your partnership to see Papua New Guineans transformed by the translated Word. The Lord bless you.



David Gela  
Executive Director



## Four more PNG Vernacular Bibles online

The Nyindrou, Gwihatike, Kuman and Guhu-Samane New Testament Bibles are now online. These four vernacular language scriptures join fourteen other PNG Bible translations on the website from either <http://PNGScriptures.org> or <http://TokPlesBaibel.org>.

The Scriptures have been posted on the site since 2009. Work is being done on computer programmes to help speed up the process of posting Scriptures and further more announcements of new languages on the BTA Scripture sites will come more often in the future.

## Vernacular song writing encouraged

A second joint music workshop run by BTA and SIL in Lae city attracted more than twenty-two participants.

Steven Thomas, BTA's Church Engagement Co-ordinator said the four-day workshop was conducted to encourage churches to participate in and to promote God's Word in vernacular languages through music. Our Saviour Lutheran Church hosted the workshop and provided the materials and Neil Coulter from SIL PNG was the facilitator.

Some of the topics taught were: Bible study about music, instruments, dance, and worship in the Bible. Does God have a favorite kind of music? Is one kind of instrument better than others for praising God? And what is the right way to worship: sitting quietly, or standing up and dancing?

The participants held discussions and brainstormed the use of many kinds of traditional music and instruments they have in their villages. Some participants described or sang music styles from their part of the country for everyone else to enjoy. They also discussed how local musical instruments can be used in church services in towns. During the workshop thirteen songs were composed in local vernacular languages, Tok-Pisin and English.

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## OCBF Encourage Bible Translators

using the ministry of dance, drama, song and life testimonies. The Trostle's assignment to BTA from Wycliffe USA strengthened this partnership all the more as they are members of OCBF.

BTA translator Meng Maguna was encouraged with the team's visit to two Takia villages on Karkar Island. This was the first time an African American team had visited Karkar Island and ministered the Gospel of Jesus Christ through testimonies, song, dance and drama. Meng commented, "I am happy to host the visitors because it is an encouragement to the work I am doing." The villages were very excited about the teams' visit and spent an entire night singing songs in Takia, Tok Pisin and English.

Some villages walked great distances to hear the OCBF team minister.



OCBF team ministering a dance at Tusbab Secondary School in Madang town.



Meng Maguna and wife from Takia language

One of the highlights of the team was at Beon Prison. Daniel Wilson powerfully testified of how he came to the Lord while in prison. The Lord moved greatly and over 50 of the 300 inmates came forward to receive Christ and rededicate their lives.

The trip was not only a blessing for the language teams they visited, but for the visitors as well. Darryl Targton, said, "It was a new experience for me. The local people took me into their homes and treated me like their own." You-sandra Holland commented, "I now have two sets of family in PNG."

The team left PNG on April 4 while Daniel Wilson stayed in the country for three months. Daniel's desire is to share his life changing story with as many as possible and more importantly tell of the love, purpose and hope he now enjoys in Jesus.

## BTA partners with Youth With A Mission

BTA Guest House in Port Moresby has a new unit thanks to a joint venture with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and Wycliffe Associates Australia (WAA). Seven young people from YWAM in Australia and four members of WAA were part of the work team.

The work project converted an existing carport into a self contained unit. This unit will accommodate the new Guest House managers who hope to arrive in PNG this year. Transit accommodation in Port Moresby is in high demand.

BTA Executive Director, David Gela, said BTA, as part of Wycliffe International, is seeking ways to partner with other mission organizations to accomplish Vision 2025. "YWAM is one such organization with tons of potential. They recruit energetic, passionate and committed young people and work well with them. BTA sees the potential in tapping into this resource to bring awareness to these young people about Bible translation."

In August 2010, BTA had initial discussions with YWAM Discipleship Training School leader, David Norris in Australia about partnering and they plan to continue the dialogue with YWAM leaders.

Meanwhile, a partnership meeting in February this year attended by David Gela at the University of the Nations-Kona in Hawaii, has strengthened this relationship further. These meetings discussed and explored other areas where both organizations can work together to reach out to the Bible-less tribes of PNG.

WAA directors, Peter and Yvonne Gillespie supervised the team of workers. They have been leading teams of workers to PNG to assist BTA with construction and maintenance projects for a number of years.



Two YWAM women painting the new unit

## Kalo Translation workshop

The Kalo Translation workshop started on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April with the official opening by Rev Nonne Rabia at the United Church in Kalo village. Thirty participants representing three denominations attended with a mixture of young and older people.

The aim of the workshop was to assist all Kalo translators understand the basic steps of Bible Translation. The people have awaited many years for this workshop. Representatives from Salvation Army and the Four Square Church joined their brothers and sisters from the United church.

The workshop was well organized and all ministry groups in the community participated to assist the workshop by preparing meals for the participants.

Topics covered in the workshop included the Kalo Alphabet and grammar, the 13 steps of Bible Translation, translating metaphor, simile and foreign words, how to develop a Key terms book, what is a source text and receptor language and how to do back translation. Many of the participants appreciated this basic information on the 13 steps as they get ready to begin the translation of their Old Testament. The Kalo New Testament Dedication

in 2005 was an adaption from the Sinaugoro New Testament. Many expressed that this training will also assist them in their preaching, teaching and production of materials for ministry. To ensure that all participants had hands on experience of the actual translation process, they were divided into five groups, with each group translating five verses from Genesis 15. This proved to be very useful exercise as Papua New Guineans learn best by doing.

The key to the success of this workshop was the full involvement and support of the entire Kalo community. Plans are now in place to select a number of the people to attend further translation training in the near future.



Participants in a group discussion at Kalo United Church, Central Province.

## School fees a challenge for BTA field workers

All children need to go to school but for many BTA field workers in isolated areas, finding school fees every year is a struggle.

Each year school fees have become a huge burden for parents. Having no regular income, their meager savings, if there is any, is nothing when compared to the escalating school fees each year.

Tertiary education for each child go up as high as K4000 and above. This year school fees for children of field members totaled an amount of over K50, 000.

A number of BTA language workers had to leave their language work to seek other ways to get money to pay school fees for their children. We thank the Lord for BTA's partners who've come to the aid of some of these children. This helped to ease some of the load off their parents.



Ogea children with a parent, Garim village, Madang

## Gadsup nurse on call among Aborigines

Joy Undama is a nurse and a recent graduate of the Christian Leadership Training College (CLTC). Joy has a heart for missions so in April this year, her church family at Amomonta village in the Aiyura Valley (Eastern Highlands) held a fundraising event so she could go and serve Australian Aborigines through the Australian Indigenous Missions (AIM). This is the first time the Amomonta villagers will send a missionary overseas and many helped supply garden produce toward the event. Eight thousand kina was raised towards the total need of K20,000 which Joy needs to cover liv-

ing costs while in Australia.

Joy has always been challenged by the lives of early missionaries. As a child she would hear stories about foreign missionaries who risked their lives, even to death, so that the Gospel would reach to Papua New Guineans. "I have a desire to serve the Lord and go wherever he calls me to serve Him." Joy says it is better to serve God while she is young but she believes God will take her through and encourage other young people to be involved in mission work. She is hoping to work among Australian Aborigines as a nurse.

## SIL Conference discusses change

SIL PNG Branch Biennial Conference from April 1-5 looked at their Strategy and Reinvention to see more effective service in the 21st century through Bible translation and language development.

Members serving in language projects around the country along with SIL International leaders gathered to discuss and give feedback on what steps were needed to incorporate this change.

Mark Taber, SIL Pacific Area Director and Freddy Boswell, Executive Director for SIL International, shared their perspectives on Reinvention. Outgoing SIL PNG Executive Committee Chairperson, Bonnie Nystrom told *In our Words*, SIL PNG Strategy and Reinvention was a result of new leadership at SIL International since 1999, under John Watters. Over the years new leadership have taken on the task of asking God to do the impossible, given the reality that recruiting for Bible translation was low and that working on the remaining 3000 languages worldwide at the same pace would not be successful. As a result Vision 2025 was initiated along with Reinvention in SIL globally.

The new SIL International leadership headed by Freddy Boswell, came up with four principles under Reinvention; one of the four stating that '*SIL would*

*structure itself into service groups based on strategies developed with partners.*'

SIL PNG Director, Tim Lithgow, said SIL PNG's long term vision is that Papua New Guineans know and live God's Word, leading to changed lives and transformed communities. To meet this goal, SIL-PNG is ready to engage with its partners to reach the remaining 300 languages needing a Bible Translation programme. From that vision, SIL PNG's Strategy has now established six priority areas that lay the basis for continued strategy development.

Some of the priority areas are; Partnerships, Training, Innovative approaches, Investing in our People, Comprehensive Planning and Prayer.

SIL is a key partner with BTA in the Bible translation ministry. The changes that SIL is making in PNG, and globally, will impact BTA for the betterment of Bible translation work across the nation.



SIL PNG Conference participants

## In Focus: Mara Iyama

My name is Mara Iyama and I speak the Gadsup language in Eastern Highlands Province. I am the eldest son in a family of six brothers and one sister. My father assisted with literacy work for our language and now I follow in his footsteps. Both my parents are still living.



The Iyamas: Mara, Ignas, Asi, Masira and Gladys

I gave my life to the Lord in 1974 when I was thirteen. It was during a Bible Study evening at the house of SIL translators Chet and Marge Frantz. In that same year I completed grade six and, being unable to continue further education, I remained in the village not knowing what else to do. In 1980, by God's sovereign plan and purpose, I was selected by my local church to attend Christian Leaders Training College for three years in Banz, Western Highlands Province. This was the door that God opened for me that led me on to do literacy work today.

In 1983 I married my wife, Asi. We have four children – two boys and two girls. In 2008 our 18 year old daughter, Gladys died. Our daughter Masira and son Ignas are both in grade 9.

In 1984 I was trained by SIL translators as a literacy teacher to teach Prep School in my vernacular. After several years of teaching, I became the supervisor of all the Prep schools in my lan-

guage area. After faithfully teaching five to eight year olds I was privileged to undergo further training through what was then known as Supervisors Training Education Programme (STEP).

I attended Module A of the STEP course in 1994 however when a freak motor bike accident injured someone else I ended up in jail for eleven months. While in prison, I ran literacy classes for inmates. Upon release I continued my STEP training and graduated in 1998 and joined the STEP staff in 1999.

In addition to my literacy work, I joined others in my Gadsup language and we began the revision of our New Testament. The Gadsup New Testament was dedicated in 1981. In 2011, I was asked to join the BTA Administration team to serve as an assistant Language Programme Coordinator for the Highlands and Morobe Area.

I enjoy working with the people.

## Business as Mission

Business As Mission (BAM) training was held from April 4th to 8th at the BTA Centre in Port Moresby. The course was about running a biblically based business, and was taught by the JAARS Business As Mission Coordinators for Asia and the Pacific, Mike & Heather Eastwood, and colleague, Scott Herring.

Twenty-eight participants from around PNG and Solomon Islands participated in the course. Each participant had a specific reason for attending the course and it varied from those who have an established business and needed biblical advice, or those who were about to start a business and needed direction on how to get started.

Six BTA personnel took part in the course to gain knowledge and to explore avenues where BTA can sustain itself and be supported through local business ventures.

Participants were taught how to start a business from the planning stage to the customer service stage, including budget cost for keeping the business running and different ideas of ministering to clients and customers. Success comes by having God as the owner of the business and the manager as the



Participants at the BAM Training in Port Moresby.

steward. With the order of God being first, Family as second and Business third, participants were told they would never go wrong nor lose focus.

The teaching highlighted real-life experiences of Mike and Heather during their time operating a family business and how God was the centre of it all, showing how many lives were touched and changed.

A graduation ceremony was conducted at the end of the workshop with twenty-eight participants attaining certificates of completion with a new outlook on business as a positive way to minister to people while earning a living.