

# BTA Watch – May 2011

Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association  
PO Box 350, Waigani, N.C.D., Papua New Guinea  
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**“For the sake of His great name the LORD will not reject His people, because the LORD was pleased to make you His own. But be sure to fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.”**

1 Samuel 12:22, 24 (NIV)

**Sunday, 1 May** – Ask the Lord's protection on translation teams working in villages where, sometimes there are limited opportunities to be spiritually encouraged and fed. Pray that the Lord will bring along people to encourage the workers.

**\*\* Monday 2 May – Prayer Day** – Pray for the two Boards of Wycliffe Global Alliance and SIL International meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, 1-6 May. Ask the Lord for wisdom in the decisions that are made. Pray for safety in travels. Ask the Lord for those who have to deal with time zones that their bodies will adjust quickly.

- Continue to ask the Lord to raise additional people to take up leadership roles in BTA. The BTA Board is seeking someone who can work alongside **David Gela** to train into the director role.
- Pray that the Lord will provide partners to BTA staff and those interested in joining BTA who are low in financial support. Uphold **Doug and Tammy White (USA)** who have indicated interest in serving with BTA, but finding it a challenge to obtain the required support to leave for PNG. May the Lord provide partners who would support them.
- Praise the Lord for the opportunities staff members had to participate at students' camps during the Easter weekend. For the freedom in PNG to have the Word of God proclaimed.

**Tuesday 3 May** – Pray for **Carol Saferita, Ps Fred Igami** and the team conducting **SALT** course in **Sursurunga (New Ireland)**. The Course started yesterday and will go on for the next two weeks. Pray for God's anointing for the team and that the Church in Sursurunga would grow strong and be built up to maturity as a result of this training.

**Wednesday, 4 May** – Ask the Lord for God's blessing for the people attending the Translators Training Courses (TTC) at Ukarumpa 4 May - 8 June. Pray for **Steven Ttopoqogo** as he leads as principal of the course. Ask for wisdom and daily strength. Pray also for **Mara Iyama** who

will take on most of the responsibilities of the Language Program Coordinator role while Steven is at TTC.

**Thursday, 5 May** – Thank God for two new workers who joined the BTA staff in April. **Orim Joel** and **Simon Potinu** are now in orientation and training to serve the Church in seeking ways to get them engaged in Bible translation work. Pray for grace and strength to endure through this period of transition and learning for them.

Friday, 6 May – Pray for **Badi Vila** in her efforts to encourage her people in the **Tairuma** (Gulf Province) language to get the leadership in place to direct the Bible translation work. Badi has been in the Gulf Province for over a year. It's been hard-going. Praise the Lord for the positive response from the people when they heard the first two chapters of Ruth read to them in Tairuma at a recent church service.

**\*\* Saturday, 7 May** – This is Bible Translation Weekend with churches in Goroka town (Eastern Highlands). Pray for the Church Engagement team as they relate to the churches and make awareness about the work as well as renew and strengthen partnership with the local churches.

**Sunday, 8 May** – Pray for **Selby Otire (Omie-Oro)** suffering from swollen legs that are making mobility very difficult. Ask the Lord for healing. Pray also for **Janet**, Selby's wife who has been actively doing Scripture Use activities with children and literacy with women in the Anglican Church. Ask the Lord for open doors to work with other church denominations as well. The Otires praise the Lord that their son **Luke** has found employment.

**Monday, 9 May** – Sixty six people attended the **Miniafia (Oro) SALT** course last month. Pray for these people as they continue to apply the word to their lives and spread it to the rest of their language community.

**Tuesday, 10 May** – Pray for the 3 days SU Conference starting today in Alotau, Milne Bay Province. Pray that this conference will bring out the importance of the use of the vernacular Scriptures.

\*\* Denotes happening on this day.

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**Wednesday, 11 May** – Ask the Lord for BTA staff as they prepare the many details for the upcoming conference 10-19 June. Pray for the funds needed to bring the BTA members together to this conference.

**Thursday, 12 May** – Thank the Lord for the favourable response from the government in refunding BTA the GST/VAT paid over a number of years. It took over two years of hard work and consistent follow up by Admin staff in Port Moresby for this long awaited response. Ask the Lord for wisdom for staff to use the funds wisely for the ministry of Bible translation.

**Friday, 13 May** – For the training in Business As Mission (BAM) for 26 people at the BTA centre in POM went really well 5-8 April. This training was provided to encourage Christians involved in running their business as a ministry.

**Saturday, 14 May** – Pray for **John King** as he prepares to share God's Word at the National Conference retreat part, 13th-15th June. May the Lord give him the word for BTA people who will be meeting at this conference.

**Sunday, 15 May** – Praise the Lord for the many inmates at the Beon Correctional Institution in Madang that gave their lives to the Lord during an outreach program by visiting Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship (OCBF) members and BTA staff.

**Daniel Wilson** from OCBF shared his testimony about how the Lord delivered him from being a criminal. Pray for these people to grow in their walk with God. Pray that the seeds of the Word that were sown will grow deep in good soil, and that the Enemy will not snatch them away.

**Monday, 16 May** – Pray for the Asia-Pacific Wycliffe Member Organization directors meeting in South Korea. David will be attending these meetings (16-20 May). They are discussing ways to resource the Bible translation work.

**Tuesday, 17 May** – Pray for the **Urat (East Sepik)** translation team as they continue the tedious task of checking and correcting the NT manuscript. Pray for **Hilkka Arminen (Finland)** as she returns from furlough

and work with the team. Ask the Lord to protect the work and all involved as the time draws near for the New Testament to be delivered into the hands of the people; the Enemy is also working to bring hindrance and discouragement. Pray for His deliverance from the Enemy's schemes and plotting to bring disharmony and disrepute to the work.

**Wednesday, 18 May** – Thank you for praying for **Elizabeth Thomas** as she went through surgery to correct the damaged tissues inside her umbilical cord. The operation went well and Elizabeth is now recovering from the incision made. Ask the Lord for full restoration to health for her.

Uphold **Cecily Brenton** in Brisbane, Australia for medical needs. Ask the Lord to sustain and provide for all her needs. Pray also for **Daryl** as he continues to work on his own in Madang while Cecily is away.

We asked you to pray for young **Nestor Konigala** last month. Praise the Lord for marked improvement to Nestor's condition.

**Thursday, 19 May** – Pray for **Wopa Eka (West Kewa, Southern Highlands)** as they continue translation of the Psalms. Wopa reported Psalms 1 – 80 completed so far. There's also a big tribal fight happening in their area. Pray for God's peace in this language area.

**Friday, 20 May** – Praise the Lord for the successful two week STEP In-Service conducted last month in Ukarumpa for literacy workers from the Highlands, Morobe and Madang areas. This workshop focused on producing materials using Note Pad computers. Pray for these people as they serve in the language communities they are working in with the new skill and knowledge gained.

**Saturday, 21 May** – **Manambu (East Sepik)** Continue to make petition to the Lord on behalf of **Ken and Rosa Nayau** as they continue with their work of translating the Manambu NT. They've experienced a lot of challenges through health issues and open opposition from the Enemy. Thank the Lord for sustaining them through all of these and for strengthening their faith and walk with Him.

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**Sunday, 22 May** – Praise the Lord for the **Ubir (Oro)** storytellers, **Graham Weyan, Tryphena Sosor, Cassius Oyanamon** and **Linda Giaru**. The team had opportunity each Sunday since the Orality workshop in March to share the Easter and other stories with all the churches in the Ubir area. Reception from the congregation has been very positive with lives touched and people asking for more of this way of sharing the Word. The team is now involved in forming storytelling clubs to involve other interested people learn how to craft and tell Bible stories as well.

**Monday, 23 May** – Pray for the **Uisai (Bougainville)** translation program working on the Book of Mathew. Pray for insight, wisdom and help as they continue checking this book.

**Tuesday, 24 May** – Ask the Lord to bless the work of the **Kunimaipa** and **Amam (Morobe)** translators and literacy workers today.

**Wednesday, 25 May** – Pray for our Comprehensive Planning team that consists of **David Gela, Steven Thomas** and **Daryl Brenton** as they make time to meet with **Andrew Letcher (CP coach)** to work on BTA's strategic plans. Ask the Lord for His wisdom and direction for these men.

**Thursday, 26 May** – Pray for **Josiah Javeve (Miniafia-Oro)** as he directs the Scripture Use work in the program. Ask the Lord to give him wisdom as he coordinates the different SU activities that include SALT that just happened last month and the Bible Story telling components. Ask the Lord for team spirit as the group work together with **Stanley Oyabua** heading the translation component, the storytellers and their translation program committee.

**Friday, 27 May** – Pray for all Admin staff and in particular new staff that joined the BTA Admin this year as they continue to learn the ropes in their various roles and responsibilities. Bring before God's throne of Grace, **Georgianna Toro (Project Funding), Martha Wame (Media)** who head up vital sections of the ministry.

**Saturday, 28 May** – Praise the Lord that **Duncan Kasokason** worked hard to complete the typesetting of the **Ubir (Oro)** Book of Genesis. Pray now as this book is submitted for printing that all will go well. Thank the Lord for funding made available for this to happen.

**Sunday, 29 May** – Pray for **Enoch Mundum** and **David Belyeme (Urat, East Sepik)** and their families today. Ask the Lord to encourage and refresh their spirits as they worship Him in the company of believers.

**Monday, 30 May** – Pray for the **Borong (Morobe)** translation team as they continue their Old Testament translation.

**Tuesday, 31 May** – Thank the Lord for the men and women who served as **Board** members for BTA in the last two years. Pray for each of these people to consider before the Lord whether to continue serving in this capacity or not. The current Board will end their term next month at the National Conference. They are open to re-election should the Lord have them do so.