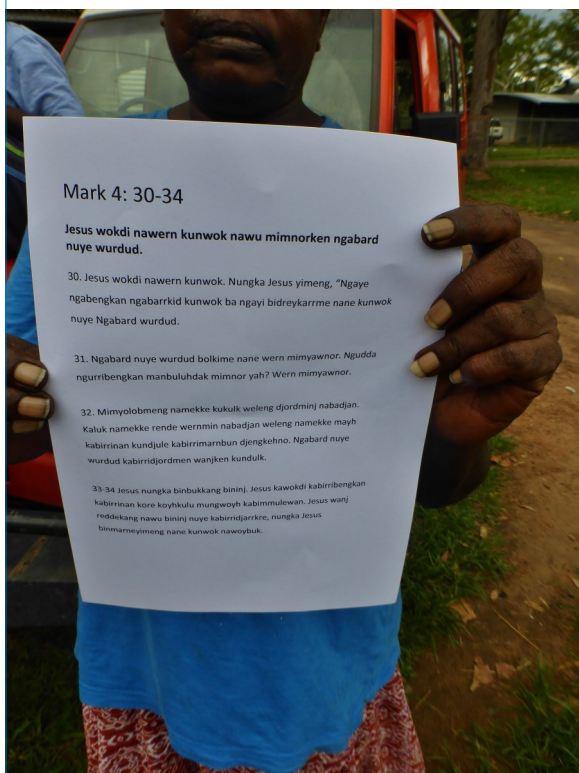


Mayali speakers in Jabiru beginning to translate Mark.

At church in Jabiru in January this year Julie Blawger and Joanne Sullivan asked if they could try translating the Bible. So we set a date, got sisters Julie and Joanne with daughter Viki Woods together and started with The Mustard seed—always good to start small! Since then we have had three more days and four more stories drafted. Mayali is a dialect of the Kunwinjku language



Julie Blawgur
Joanne Sullivan
Viki Woods and
Azariah



**A PROJECT OF THE
NORTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE
UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER
CHRISTIAN CONGRESS
AND THE UNITING CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA NORTHERN SYNOD**

group of West Arnhem. As we worked on the first day Vicki said “Mayali is the language used when there is trouble.” “What do you mean by trouble?” “Well when there is trouble we use this language to fix it.” “So Mayali is a peace making language?” “Yes.” This is an added incentive to work on translating the Good News of Jesus Christ into the heart language of these people of Western Arnhemland. These women are natural linguists and the work seems to come easily to them with Joanne as scribe and Julie giving a fast translation then Joanne and Vicki making adjustments. As always in translating to an indigenous language English presents hurdles to be jumped. Our first one was “plant” the mustard seed—it took a while to work out that we were looking at a verb not a noun—unlike most other languages English has verbs and nouns that look the same. Once we established that we were dealing with a verb and not a shrub the next hurdle was that seeds don’t get planted in the ground in West Arnhem, they fall to the ground. But thankfully in Mayali you first sit in the shade and think before you take action and build your house - check Mark 4:32.

Louise Macdonald

Daniel dedicated in Pitjantjatjara in the midst of Easter celebrations at Pukatja

Nganana kuwari kutju tjaataringu Amatalangu.

We started this work from Amata not long ago.

Panya Amatanya nyangatja ngayuku mama ngunyntju kuntili ma-pakanu Anapalangu iriti

For Amata was initially settled by my father and aunty who went over there from Ernabella a long time ago.

Lillianku mama munu Ngumulaku pulampa ngunyntju paluru tjana uwankara Jesuku walytja tjuṭa nyan-gangu ma-pakanu

Lillian's father and Ngumula and Sammy's mother – they were the ones, all Christians, who left here [Ernabella and went over to establish Amata],

munu paluru tjana warḱa wiru palyanengi munu Godaku tjukurpa tjakultjunangi tjanala.

and they did good work over there spreading God's word amongst the people.

Ka translation nyangatja iriti mulapa pakanu

Translation work started long ago,

munu tjukularira ngaringi Bible, Godaku tjukurpa.

and when what was translated was completed it was put together as the Shorter Bible we have now, God's story.

Ka ngayulu kuwari pukulpa mulapa panya tjaatarira ngayulu palyantjikitja

Now I was really pleased to begin the translation of this book

ngayulu wangkanyi

let me tell you about it

panya kuwaripatjara ngali kangkurara anu Nyurpayanya ngali Canberraku

- my cousin Nyurpaya and I went to Canberra at the beginning [to demonstrate translation at the National Training Event of the AFES]

munu ngali tjaatarira palyanengi book panya Book of Daniel, palunya ngali palyanengi.

and there we started translating this book, the book of Daniel.

Ka Amatanya ngurara tjuṭangu nyanga palunya pal-yanu.

And it was the Amata team that continued on with this translation

Munula pulḱara pukularinyi Godalu unngu nintinnyangka idea wiru tjuṭa tjukurpa wituwitu ngaranyangka utir-ingkunyntja tjukularingi.

We were really blessed by God revealing to us good ways of translating when we faced difficult passages and the translation formed well from what he showed us.

Ka ngayulu nyanga palunya kulira pulḱara pukularinyi Godalu ngananyanya wirungku nintinnyangka.

When I remember those times I rejoice at the wonderful things God taught us.

Ka Pukatjalangu tjana kutjungku kutjungku palyanengi Here in Pukatja [Ernabella] people have each been translating different books or passages

ka nganana groupangu palyanu.

but [in Amata] we did our translating in a group

Last year nyanga paluru wiyaringu.

And last year we finished this book.

Nyanga paluru Old Testamentangka ngaranyntja wiya Bible panya nganampangka.

This scripture is not contained in the Old Testament section of our current Bible.

Nyanga paluru ma-tjukurara ngaringi kuwari Bible-ngka,

But now it has been translated and can be added to our Bible.

kana tjanyntjunmananyi kuwari Amatanya tjuṭaku. so I'd like to thank the Amata team now.

Nyura uwankara pukularima palumpa tjanampa panya paluru tjana palumpa

I'd like you to show your appreciation for what they've done



- ngayulu ngayuku malanypa wangkanyi Lilliannga panya palumpa mama war_karingi churchu nyara palula.

I'd like to just acknowledge the encouragement of my cousin Lillian whose father worked in the church there.

Ka paluru ngali manyurinkupai alatjitu tjukurku wirtjapakalpai

Lillian and I were really greedy for doing the translation and we'd hurry to work on it,

nyanga ngalimpa mama nyanga paluru mapitjapai,

our "father" [referring to Paul Eckert] would come [to Amata]

ka nganana wirtjapakalpai alatjitu,

and we'd hurry to meet with him,

mukuringkupai tjukurpa Godaku nintiringkunyitjikitja.

we were so eager to learn God's Word

Mununa kuwari pulkara tjanytjunmananyi Godanya

I want to thank God

munu nganampa mama nyanga Paul Eckertanya -

paluru Godaku tjukurpa war_karingi.

and I want to thank our "father" Paul Eckert - he

worked with us translating God's Word.

Munu kutjupa tjuta nganmanyitja tjuta irititja tjuta

And I want to thank those experienced translators

who have worked for a long time on translation

paluru tjana tjukurpa palyantjanga ngururpa,

they who did translation before us,

ngayuku kami Kanytjupainya tjana

my grandmother Kanytjupai and others

munu ngayuku ngunyitju Margaretanya,

and my aunty Margaret,

paluru tjana panya palyantja tjutaya, Yanyilu tjana,

those experienced translators, like Yanyi and others.

Nganana palyantja nyakupai munu nyakula tjana

tjukururupai.



They would check over our work and make corrections.

Uwa wirunya, ka rawa roundaringi tjukurpa panya paluru,

Yes that was great, and so the translation went round and round the different translators in the checking process

munu ngula ngula tjukularingu.

and finally it was completed.

Ka nyangatja paluru - the Book of Daniel kuwari wirkanu - nyanga nganampa tjukurta.

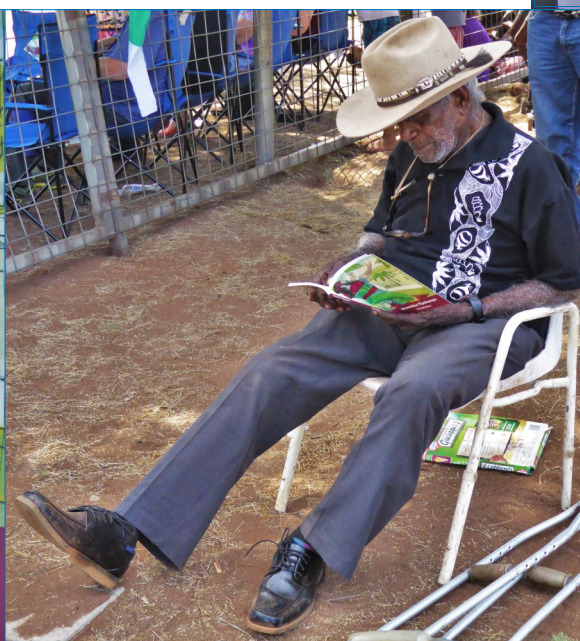
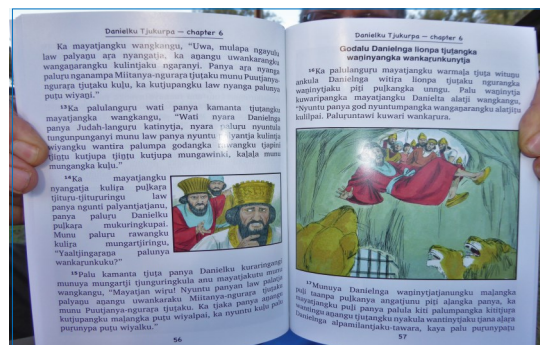
And this is it - the Book of Daniel has now arrived - in our language.

Kala pulkara puku_larima

So let's be very glad,

munula tjanytjunmanama panya Amata group-angu nganana pal-
yanu.

and let's
thank this
Amata
team who
have done
the work.





Ka nyuwana kutjupa tjuṯa tjinguru nganana wangkara tjaatarira Amatalanguṯu tjaatarira tjarpanytjaku kutjupa ngapartji.

We want people to be aware that there is opportunity for other new people to start working on translation.

Panya ngayulu tjaatarira kuwari palyani Joel kutjungku,

I've started working on Joel recently by myself.

ka kutjupangu kutjupa palyani.

and others have started working on other passages.

Kutjupa kutjupala palyani, kutjungku kutjungku.

We're working on various different books each person working on a different book

Palu nyangatjala groupangu wiyanu munula tjanytjunmananyi, "Tjanytju Lord! Tjanytju Jesus!"

But this book of Daniel we completed as a team and we are so grateful, "Thank you Lord! Thank you Jesus!"

Nganampa Pitjantjatjara translation wirkanu,

This Pitjantjatjara translation has arrived for us,

from the English, English-nguru translated nganana wangka walytjangku ma-tjunu.

we have translated it from the English into our own language.

Palya, ka nyangatja launch ngaranyi nyangatja nyura nyakunytjaku,

Okay, and now I launch this book for you all to see,

munu nyakula mantjinma mukuringkula Danielku tjukurpa

now you can see this story of Daniel and pick up a copy

- spiritual, irititja, but kurunpa nyuntu riitamilara nyuntu nyan-ganyi kuwari paluru Godalu wangkanyi, Kurunpa Milmilu unngu tjakultjunanyi kurunta.

it will be a spiritual experience as you read it, as you see what God is saying, as the Holy Spirit informs your inner being, your spirit.

If you read, riitamilara, Holy Spirit-tu nyuntunya nintini kuwar-inku nyuntunya wangkanyi, for tomorrow.

If you read it the Holy Spirit will teach you, and you will learn from him today about tomorrow.

Ka nyuntu nyanga palunya nyangama munu mukuringkula mantjinma pitjala.

So have a look at this book and if you want you can come and buy it.

Nyangatja Danielku Tjukurpa Pitjantjatjara wiru.

This is Daniel's Story in Pitjantjatjara

Tuu tala kunyu. Palya.

It's two dollars. Okay. Nyunmiti Burton address - Easter

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