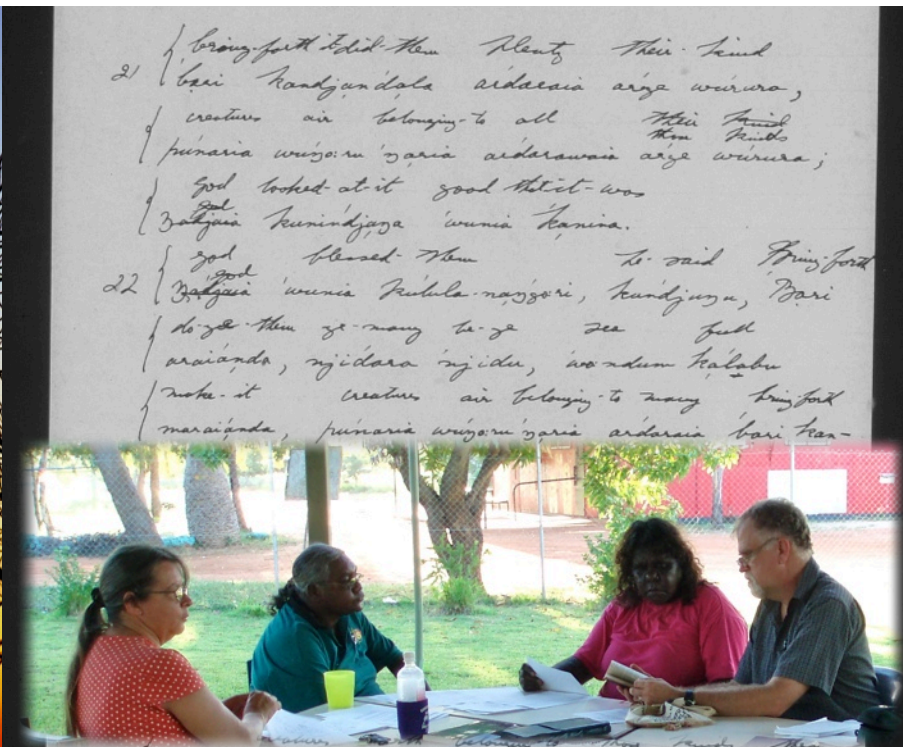




Boab
(image by Garry Schlatter)



Original Draft of Genesis 1
(Rev JRB Love)

Worrorra Workshop, 2009 (inset, L-R):
Mary Nankivell, Joy Morlumbun,
Barbara Bear, Howard Amery

Readings by Remote West Kimberley Scripture Ministry

By Howard Amery, CSIS West Kimberley Project Officer

For several years now, Sunday mornings for Mary Nankivell are focussed on driving the 15 km from Derby to Mowanjum to help set up for worship, a children's activity, singing and most importantly, the morning tea afterwards. The principal components for worship are her guitar, chorus books and 'With Love To The World' (to assist with the lectionary readings for the week). These days Mary has an extra item to take with her - sufficient photocopies of the gospel reading in Worrorra and English, emailed weekly from Newcastle, NSW.

During the months of September and October this year, a diglot version of the gospel reading has been constructed on a week-by-week basis, containing the revised Worrorra text (CSIS-2010

version) of Luke's Gospel (Love-1943 version). Each verse is carefully spaced to include an intervening English translation (usually NRSV). Added to this is a very literal English 'gloss' strategically located under each Worrorra word so that readers can engage in word-for-word matching. When read by itself it does not make sense, but is used to help decode the meanings of Worrorra words.

To complete each weekly production, several questions are usually constructed. The questions focus on the meanings of particular words across the two languages, to help readers to reflect more deeply on aspects of their traditional culture, and how these might relate to the teachings of Jesus.

North East Arnhem

West Arnhem

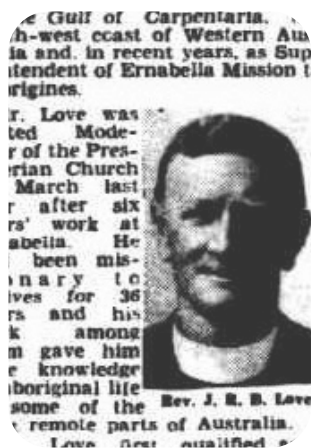
Central Australia



around the
regions



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



by the 1980's Worrorra had become an endangered language, with choruses and hymns sung in English, and Love's translation of the Lord's Prayer recited occasionally in church services by the Mowanjum congregation. Few copies of the Gospels of Luke and Mark could be found.

CSIS is providing the people of Mowanjum with the opportunity to re-engage with their linguistic heritage. Eighteen months of dedicated work has

past:
Rev JRB Love

present:
Janet Oobagooma

future: Janet's
granddaughter 'Short'

The idea of using a diglot approach plus matching text was first trialled during my last visit to Mowanjum in August, in an attempt to stimulate greater engagement with the Bible readings during worship. We sat in a circle of 6 people and each person was encouraged to take their turn reading a verse from the selected passage. Everyone present was a competent reader of English and so most found they could read the Worrorra words, if a little haltingly at first, along with the occasional 'tongue-twister'. As with any new skill, getting the flow and rhythm of the words takes practice, but there was obvious pleasure registered by the readers as we discussed the meaning of particular words. There was also much more interaction when it came to discussing the meaning of the passage, as they connected local stories from their own experiences and cultural traditions with those from Jesus' life.

The task of revitalising an endangered language is not one for the faint-hearted. Admittedly it is not quite as daunting as the challenge which Rev JRB Love set himself when he took up the position as Superintendant of the Kunmunya Mission in 1927. While supervising the day-to-day activities of running a remote outpost, he threw himself headlong into learning the intricate grammar, rules of interpersonal communication, kinship and traditions of the Worrorra, Wunambal and Ngarinyin peoples, culminating in the publication of *Stone-Age Bushmen of Today* (1936) and *St Mark's Gospel* (1930 ed).

Following his departure from Kunmunya in 1940, JRB Love was able to continue his involvement with Worrorra Bible translation remotely. Despite being Superintendant of the new Presbyterian mission at Ernabella SA, he was still able to find time to correspond with the British and Foreign Bible Society in Perth, correcting drafts and seeing to completion the publications of the Gospel of Luke (1943) and revised Gospel of Mark (1943). Sadly,

the Gospels of Mark and Luke active again. A sizeable lexicon of the meanings of all the words used, conforming to the new linguistic orthography (spelling system), is almost complete. Despite the presence of translation errors, a theological conversation using Rev Love's material is now possible. The willingness of congregation members to "give it a go", when reading the unfamiliar Worrorra text, was assessed over 3 separate Sundays, and encouraged me to offer them the option of '**Lectionary Readings by Remote**'. A new phase in the CSIS partnership approach has begun.

Barre-barre gunjunganangkorri,
story he-told-to-them

gajirnma
always

dajoord
pray

gubajeenya,
you-pl-do-it,

ilurra
lose interest

badeerri.
do-not

Then he told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. (Luke 18:1)

Worrorra Lectionary sample

More information about the West Kimberley project is available online at www.csis.org.au



Nyälun and Marrpalawuy at the 'Our Word' workshop, Darwin, September 2010 →

Marrpalawuy's Story

Our Word Workshop, Darwin, September

An edited interview with Marrpalawuy Marika, Yirrkala, East Arnhem
by Hannah Harper, CSIS Resource Worker

MM: Barbara came to my house with Nyäluṅ and they were talking about a workshop in Darwin, and whether I was interested in translating my language. I said "I want to do it, but I haven't done any translation work before." Barbara (AuSIL) said, "it's alright; Nyäluṅ will help, and we will help, working with a computer." I was thinking and praying, "Lord, this is hard, and I haven't done this before..."

HH: How did AuSIL and CSIS help you with the translation Djäma in the workshop?

MM: It was all day, every day. We saw the other people that was there, from Goulburn Island Warruwi, Galiwin'ku people, many that I know, Guthadjaka, Yurranydjil, Goluṅ, Guywaja, nhanṅu gäthu, Yurranydjil nhanṅu husband (Djäwut).

HH: So you were able to sit down with all those people?

MM: Yes, and they kept saying, they were very pleased to see me. Yurranydjil said to me "if you find it hard translation work, all you do is pray, and we are always here to help you." And Nyäluṅ. I saw Chuck (AuSIL), and I haven't met him before.

HH: Do you have a favourite verse of Scripture that you like to use in your ministry sitting down with Yolṅu?

MM: Psalm 139. When God laid that in my heart, it brought tears to my eyes, that Psalm, God spoke so strongly. Even though I try to run, even though I try to hide, you know, the goodness of God, how he is. The other one, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path", Psalm 119.

HH: Have you heard Psalm 139 in a Yolṅu language? Psalm 119?

MM: No. The Gospels in Djambarrpuyṅu and Gumatj.

HH: You might be the person to help with Psalms and Revelation in Dhay'yi?!

MM: When I think about God's words, I think of the words in Revelation, Hannah, it talks about "do not add to it, or take away from the word, or I will add the plagues..." It speaks to me too. Like a warning.

HH: So you read that like a responsibility.

MM: Yo... Hannah, the other story I would ask you to get from Nyäluṅ. Most of our grandchildren, they speak this language, Dhuwaya, you know, at the school. And Nyäluṅ, she is doing the book of Mark in Dhuwaya, that is the language spoken at Yirrkala. I just praise God for Nyäluṅ, and I'm hoping you can get the story from her too.

HH: Yo, manymak.

We are hoping to print Nyäluṅ's story in January CoordN8 #5. More excerpts from Marrpalawuy's interview are printed in the 'Show' extra in this issue. For the full interview and more photos from the September workshop, visit:

www.csis.org.au

Return to Warruwi

West Arnhem

By Heather Hewett

On a typical pre-wet October day in 1957, "Sheppie's" (Rev Harold Shepherdson) plane landed on the little landing strip next to the small settlement on Warruwi. I was a very excited passenger arriving to take up the position of nurse, and before long I was established in the "Sister's Cottage" with Rae Reese the teacher.

I had come to Warruwi with the desire to learn Maung and had attended Summer School of Linguistics to learn how to write down the sound system and grammar of a language. This was very helpful to me. During my time as a nurse (1957-66) it was a great joy, in off-duty time, to go fishing and food gathering with the ladies and to sit with them while they were making baskets. M. Sagiba, Ngälwalun, Miriam Kris, Mondalmi, Meiyawaidba and other ladies all happily helped me to learn to speak Maung.

In 1966 I was set aside to work on the language and to begin bible translation. Philip Ambidjambidj, Peggy Mirwuma, M. Sagiba, and Nita Garidjalalug all worked with me in linguistic and translation work during that time.

In 1975 I married Ray Hewett and continued to work in linguistics and translation until 1979 when Ray and I left Warruwi and settled in Western Australia. After Ray's death I moved to Horsham, Victoria, and settled into life in the local church and community.

Then, quite unexpectedly, in January 2009 I received a letter from Rev Lindsay Parkhill, Frontier Services Patrol Officer Western Arnhem Land. Rosemary Urabadi and Nancy Nganmindjalmag were working on bible translation. Would I like to take part as a back translator (into English)? I was very happy and got in touch with Lindsay to say, "Yes!"

Since then I have been able to visit Warruwi again. It just seemed like a wonderful dream to land on the modern bituminized airport, to meet up with those who were waiting and greet friends I hadn't seen for many years. We drove into the community where there is lovely new store and craft centre and clinic. On Sunday evening we gathered together in the church and again it was wonderful to meet up with others I had known in the past. **(continued on p4)**



Peggy Mirwuma & Heather
SIL Berrimah, circa 1968



Nancy, Rosemary, Heather
& assistants, Warruwi, 2010

YES...**I want to support
Indigenous Scripture
work...**

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PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

☐ For \$20, I would like to
become a CSIS **Partner**, (12 mths).☐ Please register my Small Group /
Church as a CSIS **Partner** (12 mths):☐ \$50 Small Group
_____☐ \$150 Church

As a CSIS **Partner**, you will receive future
issues of *CoordN8*, and a free
DVD featuring interviews & music.
Prayer, study and worship resources
are also becoming available for
Partner churches & small groups.

☐ I would like to make a gift of
\$_____ towards work in:☐ all 4 regions☐ West Arnhem☐ East Arnhem☐ West Kimberley☐ Central Australia**METHOD OF PAYMENT**☐ online credit card donation:
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(from p3) Since then I've been part of several workshops in Darwin where Nancy and Rosemary began translation of the book of Mark, and on Waruwi where Rosemary and Nancy and Sandra translated from Kunwinjku into Maung with input from Elizabeth and Annie, Kunwinjku speakers.

**"Ngapi ngamin marmarr mira ta ngamurnanganinyka
ngatjama ngatjirtiki God nuyu ja jurra."**

**"I am very happy that I've come back (and that) we are helping
each other (as) we work on God's Word."**

Heather Hewett

Yolŋu Audio on Saber

North East Arnhem

By Margaret Miller

Music is a wonderful vehicle to carry a message, and equally so in Scripture in Use work with our Yolŋu Scriptures audio productions. Yolŋu Christian music abounds, old and new, and is a wonderful means of promoting the use of God's word.

This year Margaret and Wängarr have been beaver away at making available old favourite cassettes as CDs. We now hold over a dozen 'Christian Scripture Programs with music' in CD format, that are shaping up with their CD labels and covers.

Margaret is digitising another dozen 'old and well-loved' Yolŋu Christian music cassette programs that have been produced in earlier times, whilst Wängarr is capturing new music digitally around the community and at fellowship evenings.

As we grow our range of music digitally, there will also be much to explore in promoting God's Word with those recordings through CDs, mp3's, mobile phones or whatever... Here is Yurranydjil holding a Saber, a robust mp3 player suitable to go anywhere, especially to remote places without 24/7 electricity, such as 'homelands' and the outdoors. Some of these Sabers have been provided by the Bible Society. Sabers are now available for purchase, fully programmed, through CSIS-EA. This is a great development in Scripture use.



The Yolŋu SABER holds 1GB of data, including:

- 143 Christian songs sung by Yolŋu
- A Bible Overview (Gumatj)
- James (Gumatj)
- Luke (ch 3-9) (Djambarrpuyŋu)
- Ephesians (Djambarrpuyŋu)
- A variety of individual Scripture verses (Djambarrpuyŋu)
- a 'taste' of some new Scripture portions (Wangurri)

Yolŋu languages represented:

Gumatj, Djambarrpuyŋu, Gälpu, Wangurri, Gupapuyŋu, Golumala, Liyagawumirr, Warramiri, Datiwuy

**Profiles of the
CSIS-EA
Scripture-in-
Use workers
are online →**

Coordinating Support for Indigenous Scriptures

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SHOW

your support

In this EXTRA accompanying 'CoordN8' Issue #4, we acknowledge the unique contributions of people showing support for Indigenous Scripture work. We welcome feedback and contributions, for future issues ... and we encourage you to consider how you might creatively show your support for Scripture projects - through prayer, giving, networking and service.



AuSIL, NRCC & Northern Synod representatives sign an MoU, surrounded by translation and support workers

Affirmation of CSIS at Northern Synod

By Rev Wendell Flentje

The work being done in Bible translation and Scripture-in-Use under the auspices of CSIS was strongly affirmed at the annual Northern Synod meeting held in Darwin in September.

General Secretary Peter Jones began his report to the Synod this way: "When speaking with people, especially from outside the Northern Synod, my reply about the most important thing that God is doing in this Synod is 'CSIS'. The energy that God's Spirit has created in the hearts of our Synod's Aboriginal people to see God's Word in their language is a very beautiful thing. It is also most significant that non-Aboriginal members have caught the vision and are strongly supporting CSIS."

One of the high moments of the Synod Meeting was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Synod, the NRCC (Northern Regional Council of Congress) and AuSIL. Moderator Stuart McMillan on behalf of the Synod, the Rev. Djawanydjawany Gōṇḍarra on behalf of NRCC, and Dr. Barbara Grimes on behalf of AuSIL signed the document surrounded by a large group of Bible translators from across the NRCC's 4 regions. It was a wonderful moment when our partnership in this venture was publicly affirmed.

The Synod approved a proposal for the Rev. Wendell Flentje to continue as chairperson of the CSIS Reference Committee, to build further links with Bible translation workers in West Timor and Timor-Leste, and to represent the Synod on CSIS matters.

MAF - many ways

By Margaret Miller & Hannah Harper

Over many years, MAF has supported Scripture work by providing technical support, and discounted travel. Most recently, MAF provided a cheaper charter to Darwin for translators travelling to the 'Our Word' Workshop. This year, MAF have also supported Wängarr's visit to Milngimbi to run Bible Studies, and Yurranydjil's community checking in Dhälinybuy.

CSIS East Arnhem would especially like to thank MAF families who live on Elcho Island, namely sons, Jonathon and Graham Pett, who have been fantastic technical support to us with the Saber files. Thanks also to the MAF pilots who deliver Sabers to outlying homeland communities in East Arnhem Land.

We appreciate this friendly and generous partnership.



A MAF charter departs from Elcho Island, carrying Golun, Guthadjaka, Bepuka, and Guywanja to the 'Our Word' Workshop in Darwin, September 2010

A word from Marrpalawuy Marika... Yirrkala, East Arnhem

"I am thankful for NRCC, that we are part of the resource, giving in, what is available, it's very, very helpful, the NRCC. I didn't know that CSIS has got this far now, and we are praying that more and more people will be translating our Yolŋu, our own language."

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info@csis.org.au www.csis.org.au

Pray around the regions

West Arnhem

- Thank God for Heather Hewett's service in West Arnhem, and for those people who have worked alongside her over many years.
- Pray for continued provision, and health, to allow for Heather's return trips for Scripture workshops with Maung Scripture workers: Nancy Ngalmindjalmag, Rosemary Urabadi, and others.
- Pray for the translators who have recently commenced translation in Kuninjku: Kenan Namurndja, Janet Marawal, Emily Guiarama.

North East Arnhem

- Pray for the people who travelled from North East Arnhem to the 'Our Word' workshop, working in Yolŋu languages:
 - Djawuṯ Goṇḍarra, Rose Guywaṇa (Golumala)
 - Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, Rhoda Goluṇ Dhurrkay (Wangurri)
 - Kathy Guthadjaka, Bepuka (Warramiri)
 - Marrpaḷawuy Marika (Dhay'yi)
 - Nyälun Duṇḍiwuy (Dhuwaya)
 - Mätjarra Garrawurra, Jessie Murarrgirarrgi (Gupapuyŋu)
- Praise God for the many young people who are coming along to fellowship in East Arnhem and growing in their interest of things about God.
- Pray that CSIS-EA Scripture in Use workers will be wise in how to present the Scriptures to the youth, that encourages them to grow in their love of God's Word.

"I think we are all called to be servants, to serve God, whether it is in a church, or in the Northern Synod, or outside of church, but we need each other in our prayers. It's important that we pray for each other. It's not easy doing translation, and there are many, many things in life that will try to stop us from doing it; Satan has his ways. If we can pray for each other, more strongly, then we will be able to do that, finish that."

Marrpaḷawuy Marika

West Kimberley

- Thank God for the past and present work with Worrorra Gospels.
- Pray for Worrorra project workers who are separated: Heather in Perth, Janet in Mowanjumb, and Howard in Newcastle. Pray that their time together in October/November would be fruitful.

Central Australia

- Thank God for recent renovations of a property in Pukatja, by the NRCC. Please pray that this development would be an encouragement to those in ministry in the region.
- Pray for wisdom, discernment, and blessing as Anangu Scripture workers (Pitjantjatjara) consider their future work.

Other

- Pray for the CSIS Reference Committee meeting together on Tuesday 16th November:
 - for safe travel for all attending from around the regions;
 - for productive talks with support workers and partner organisations.
- Pray for Mally McLellan, Linguist/Trainer, that God would give her insight into how to facilitate and support the diverse needs of Indigenous Scripture workers.
- Praise God for so many who are keen to see the Scriptures in their own language.
- Thank God for broad support for Scripture work. Pray that God would do great things in these regions, and around Australia, through his church.



Mally McLellan & Rhoda Golun