

Workshop news from Central Australia

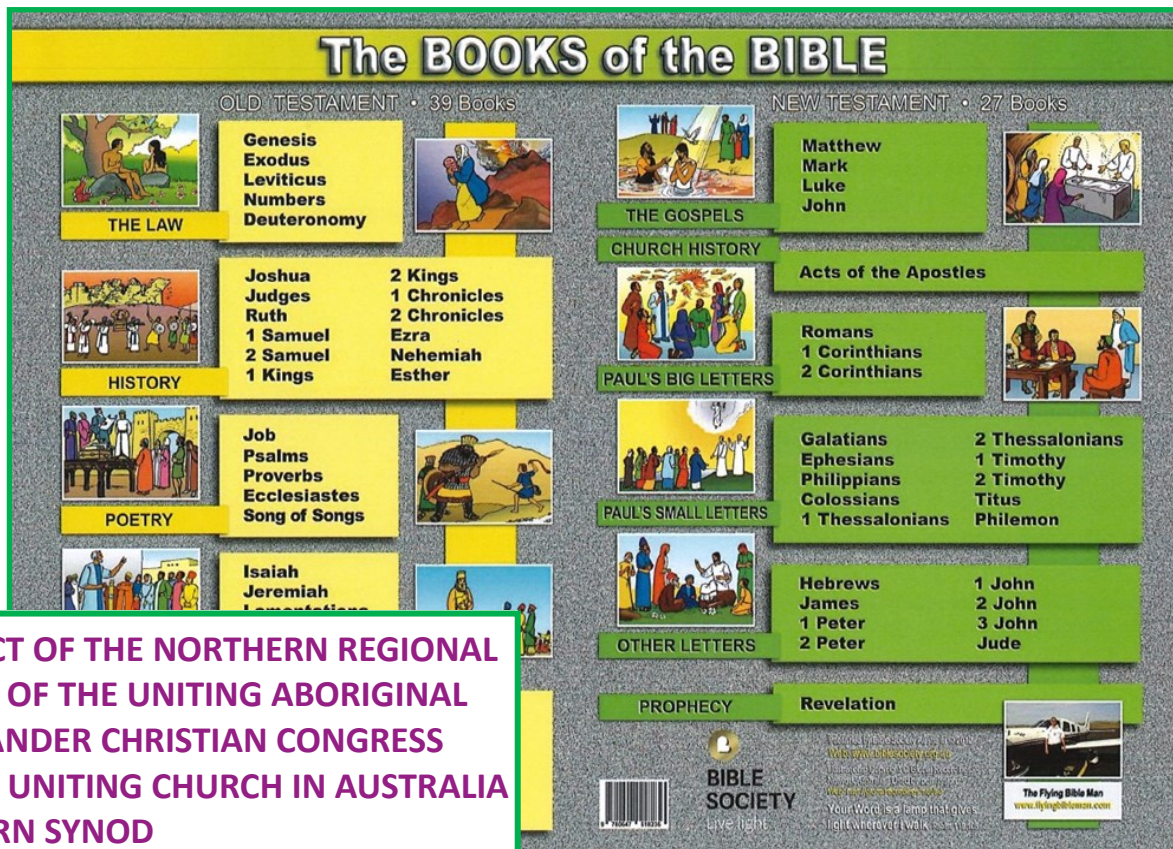
By David Blackman (workshop facilitator)

Praise God for a very worthwhile workshop last month. Our thanks go to the Finke River Mission for the use of their hall once again. It is a very suitable venue for this type of activity, even though we needed to pack up on two evenings to make way for others. There was the usual challenge of unpredictable participation, but a committed group of four Luritja speakers attended every day. Stanley, Douglas, Monica and Sonya were joined by Joseph for three of the five days. Yuminiya, a Pitjantjatjara speaker, attended on part of two days. Kerry, an Alyawarr speaker, attended on one day. Some of these people were new to Scripture translation work, while others had clearly had some experience. None had attended our earlier workshop in November 2019.

Paul and Ann Eckert have a great deal of experience in training translators, in addition to their many years of Scripture translation work with Pitjantjatjara people. It was encouraging to hear that over 80% of the Old Testament is now at least in first draft form in Pitjantjatjara. Being a related language to Luritja, Paul was able to give real encouragement to the Luritja group.

Paul began each day with a devotion on the theme 'What is God like?' He asked us to think of words we could use in each language to describe God. He also asked what our response to him might be, and we discussed how to translate concepts such as his faithfulness, being grateful to him and what it means to worship him.

He began by showing us a chart of all the books in the Bible and outlined the different genres exhibited by the various books.



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

Workshop news from Central Australia

By David Blackman (workshop facilitator)

We then embarked on translating the story of the ravens feeding Elijah in 1 Kings 17:1-6. We started by deleting the verse numbers (they can go in later), to help us see it as a story. We read it several times in various English versions and then told the story back to each other. We talked about the context of the story, its key terms, and how to spell the names of people and

places.

Paul used a simplified and illustrated version of the story (pictures 3-4 above) to help us visualise what was happening. We then each worked on a draft in our workbooks. Stanley wrote his first draft of the story on the white board for the other



Luritja speakers to compare with their own drafts. Over the next day or so the group agreed on the wording.



After this, Paul introduced the idea of doing a 'front translation', a pre-draft in Aboriginal English which unpacks all the concepts and adds implied information. We began with the next section of 1 Kings 17, verses 7-16 (pictures 5-8 above). We came up with an English draft together, and Paul displayed it on the screen as it developed. We were all invited to make suggestions for the wording. We then worked on translating it into our respective languages.

Paul helped the Luritja group turn their story into an illustrated booklet, using the same set of illustrations as above. Discovering that Douglas had recently done a media course at Nungalinga College, Paul suggested that he record the Luritja group reading the passage. They then practised reading it, with each one taking a different part. Once they were familiar with their respective parts, Douglas recorded each of them on Paul's iPad. He and Paul then started making a short video, using the still pictures and the audio soundtrack.

Workshop news from Central Australia

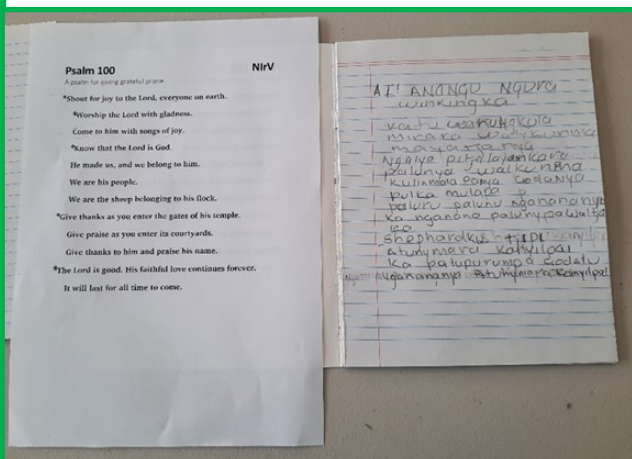
By David Blackman (workshop facilitator)

Coordinate Issue #35 December 2022

The group was very pleased with the result. Paul will complete the video and forward it to each of them after the workshop.



Another focus of the workshop was on the **Psalms**. Paul looked at examples of three of the common genres of Psalms — wisdom (Psalm 1), lament (Psalm 6) and praise (Psalm 100). We discussed how to translate abstract concepts such as ‘gracious’, ‘righteous’ and ‘compassionate’. We began by preparing together a front translation of Psalm 100, which is an easy one to start with. We each did a first draft in our work books.



For Psalms 1 and 6, Paul introduced the Luritja group to the idea of adapting the published Pitjantjatjara translation into Luritja. This was well-received, and the work sped up as a result. Soon

drafts of the three Psalms were produced.

It was very pleasing to see how well the Luritja group worked together, despite being a range of ages. We look forward to seeing what might come of it!

We thank Paul Eckert for leading the workshop and Ann Eckert for contributions from her experience. Thanks too to Emily Hayes for doing the bulk of the catering and shopping (Ann also helped with food preparation), Paul Traeger for assembling and working with the Luritja group, FRM and AuSIL for help with printing, and various people for help with setting up and packing away.



TTRIM Culture Training in Darwin

By Margaret Miller



Working with Coordinate at a distance from Sydney for most of this year, has provided a different set of opportunities for me. With many Christian mission and agencies of the Northern Territory (NT) facing the prospect of their workers retiring soon, along with other new positions opening up, the need for orientation training of new workers for living and working in Aboriginal communities is a growing concern. I have thoroughly enjoyed partnering with

representatives from other mission and church agencies in order to address this need.

For 2 years now, Mission Interlink Northern Territory (MINT) has been providing a Transition Training course for folk who are either planning to go, or else have already arrived in a remote Indigenous community in the NT (and the Kimberleys of WA). This course also presents a wonderful opportunity for newbies to find mutual support as they launch into their new locations.

This year, T-TRIM held two 1-week blocks at Nungalinga College; a 1-week block in January, and another block in the NT's October school holidays. These two times have given me the opportunity to visit the NT, in order to provide some of these sessions.

On the first day of the recent October sessions, I assisted with a 'Living in Two Worlds' session on Cultural Intelligence also known as 'CQ'. CQ gives you tools to help you in understanding why everyone else in your cross-cultural situation does life differently. One participant came to discover that

'Understanding your level of cultural intelligence is extremely important when preparing to enter into a new and contrasting culture'. TTrim is a great opportunity to learn and self-reflect on how you can best prepare and grow your CQ before you immerse yourself in a new culture.'



TTRIM Culture Training in Darwin

By Margaret Miller

In my facilitating role I gave examples of situations I had lived through in North East Arnhem Land as a way of applying their new-found CQ skills. One example we worked on was about 'TIME'; "Why do I end up waiting so long after the church bell has rung, sitting and waiting in the church with everyone, only to find that when the fellowship time has closed, no-one hangs around to talk?"

Sometimes I have been lucky to find missionaries in other countries write about experiences of cultural differences similar to mine. When I found 'Transforming Culture: A Challenge for Christian Mission' by Lingenfelter, I had to have a laugh at myself! I gained clarity through this book, where missionaries were experiencing cultural differences similar to those I was experiencing. Lingenfelter and Mayers, have another useful book on 'Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational model for Personal Relationships'. There are now a growing number of resources on cultural intelligence that assist in identifying 'differences' that one can find when living and working cross-culturally.

Some of those differences leave one with questions that can take a long time to find an answer. I hope that by sharing some of those cultural differences that I have worked through whilst living in Arnhem Land, has given the participants a lot to consider for their ministry as they settle into a new and contrasting culture.

On the second and third days we focussed on 'Christian Spirituality in Aboriginal Australian context' During these days I related the work of Jayson Georges', "3D Gospel' with an added feature to make it the '3D Gospel +1'. These sessions examined the different worldview biases globally in order to identify what are the core biases found in the Australian scene. By being relevant to the people's worldview, one can then present the Gospel in a way that resonates with the local worldview. The three major worldview biases that 3D Gospel presents are: the guilt-innocent bias, honour-shame and fear-power biases. The extra bias that is becoming prevalent in our Australia scene is the 'pain-pleasure' bias.

The '3DGospel +1' was first presented in T-TRIM during July 2021. You can find out more on this topic in the article 'T-TRIM in July' on p4-5 of Coordinate's issue #31. It was encouraging to hear that this year's participants found the '3D Gospel+1' to be really helpful. One encouraging comment from this October's session said; 'I'll definitely be applying the principles in my ministry!'

-continue page 8.



Coordinate Faithful Servants & Prayer Warriors

By Margaret Miller

Prayer warriors are essential to the work of God's kingdom. Although you may think you have never meet 'a prayer warrior'... they are around, standing in the gap, doing God's work, often unnoticed, but oh so-o effective. In fact, prayer warriors are essential for Coordinate!

Without pray-ers, Coordinate would go nowhere. As it says in Psalm 127:1 'Unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain that build it'. Prayer warriors remind us of our dependence we have on God and our need to constantly humble ourselves and seek God to build His kingdom His way.

They are truly 'salt of the earth' people, quietly standing behind the front-line translation workers, supporting Coordinate's life and work in a deep and meaningful way. We thank God for each one, and for their part, in standing in the gap, strengthening the work of Coordinate, bringing this work and its people before God's throne.

Over the last 2 years, Coordinate has lost some wonderful supportive prayer warriors, and we would like to acknowledge six of those prayer warriors who are no longer with us. If they were given the chance, they would have probably resisted any acknowledgements, but it does seem right to remember them and thank the Lord for their service to Coordinate:

Margaret H. once lived in the NT and has since moved across many different states in Australia, but faithfully prayed for Coordinate projects. (died in August 2021)

Margaret M. lived in Sydney and prayed for the Yolŋu Translation needs at a distance over many decades (died in December 2021)

Bruce P. a faithful prayer warrior for the translation work across the whole of the Yolŋu lands, who also provided practical support to various translation teams in Yolŋu communities. (died in May 2022)

Joyce S. a past-translator of Gumatj and prayer warrior. (died in May 2022)

Joan M. a faithful pray-er who also provided practical support through gifts, and personal visits to Elcho Island in order to assist the translation workers in any way possible. (died in September 2022)

Dajanbarr G: a faithful prayer warrior who regularly visited the Galiwin'ku Translation Centre in the 1990s and 2000s. When she was not working full-time, she would come during lunch breaks to pray and uphold the Djambarrpuyŋu Translation Team and their work before the Lord. (died in November 2022)

These prayer warriors are a great loss from our ranks but they have found their rest. Coordinate needs prayer warriors. If the Lord places a burden on your heart to pray for this work, then please let us know, follow us on Facebook, read our newsletters, write or call us.

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people

Our current prayer need:

Pray for the first National Translators Gathering to be held at Nungalinga College from 1st to 3rd February.

Coordinate Issue #35 December 2022

T-TRIM

11-18 Jan & 2-6 October

Units:

Living and Working with Aboriginal Australians + taster of units
(11-13th Jan)

Aboriginal Languages (16th Jan + 3/4 6th Oct)

Living in Two Worlds (17-18th Jan + 2nd Oct)

Christian Spirituality in Aboriginal Australian context (3rd & 4th Oct)

Health, Cultural Safety and Chaplains (5th Oct)

Where to from Here? (1/4 of 6th Oct)

You can register by

each unit *individually*, or by week in *Jan* or *October*,
or the *whole 11 day course!* (*Jan + October!*)

Whole course:

Non-MI Members: \$1,270

Discounted: \$920*

Register at: bit.ly/TTRIM2023

Search online:
Missions Interlink T-TRIM!

*for Individuals who are part of an organisation, church or ministry that is a Member/Associate of MI.
MI Members & Associates: <https://missionsinterlink.org.au/membership/mi-members-and-associates>
How to Join Missions Interlink: <https://missionsinterlink.org.au/membership/join>

LOCATION:

Nungalinga College, Darwin

CONTACT:

Rachel Borneman

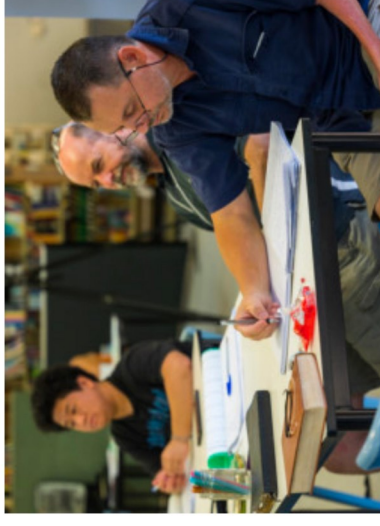


nt@missionsinterlink.org.au

0412998594 (Please Text)

Missions Interlink is a registered Business Name of Australian Evangelical Alliance Inc. ABN 54 056 007 820 A0012495P

Transition Training for Remote Indigenous Ministries (T-TRIM)



**Are you a Christian, and
wanting to live and
work with Aboriginal
Australians?**



**This course addresses
the issues that need to
be tackled in order to
make an effective
transition into our
Australian Aboriginal
culture for ministry.**

TTRIM in Darwin - continued

By Margaret Miller

If you would like to explore more of how the '3D Gospel' relates to the Australian Aboriginal worldview, then Amee Glass has written an excellent book "Mind the Gap: A Key to Understanding Indigenous Christianity in Remote Central Australian Communities"

Sharing these important issues with those who are either passionate about or else embarking on the discovery of these issues, has proved to be a very stimulating experience for me as well. May the Lord be in our midst, growing His kingdom in the NT!



ADVERT for T-TRIM Jan 2023

<https://missionsinterlink.org.au/events/transition-training-remote-indigenous-ministries-t-trim/258>

Check out this great facebook entry on 'time and numbers' by Mally McLellan

<https://www.eternitynews.com.au/opinion/crossing-cultures-time-and-numbers/>

YES...

I want to Support Indigenous Scriptures through Coordinate

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

- ☐ For \$20, I would like to become a
Coordinate Partner, (1 year)
- ☐ Please register my small group or
church as a Coordinate Partner (1 year)
 - ☐ \$50 Small Group
 - ☐ \$150 Church
- ☐ I would like to make a gift of
\$ _____

I would like my offering to support:

- ☐ Coordinate General
- ☐ Central Australia (Pitjantjatjara)
- ☐ East Arnhem translation
- ☐ East Arnhem Scripture in Use
- ☐ West Arnhem General
- ☐ West Arnhem (Maung)
- ☐ West Kimberley

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- ☐ Cheque or money order attached.
- ☐ Direct deposit:
 - UCANS-CSIS
 - BSB 634 634
 - ACC 100039620

Please label your deposit with your name, and return this slip to Coordinate.

Post to: Coordinate, PO BOX 38221,
Winnellie, NT, 0821
Scan and email to
coordinate@ns.uca.org.au