

Amazing things happen when working with faith. by Matt Blyth and Margaret Miller



Director Yurranydjil Dhurrkay at work



Late in 2016 SBS/NITV called for language stories for an upcoming series of 'Our Stories'. Matt Blyth of Millstream Productions a film maker with deep connections to communities across Arnhem Land reached out to Galiwin'ku to see what might be possible.

After months of research, emails and deep consideration this highly ambitious project grew wings when Yolŋu took control. It has been filmed and edited on location at Galiwin'ku from 17th March - 3rd April 2017, directed by Yurranydjil Dhurrkay.

As executive producer, Maratja Dhamarrandji says,

"This is a story of Yolŋu faith, trust, love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Featuring five languages, seven decades of history and weeks of filming, translating and editing the documentary "Dhuwandja dhäwu napurrŋ ga napurrŋgalaŋuwurr dhärukurr märr-yuwalkthinyawuy napurrŋ" - "Our Yolŋu Story about Faith" was born.



Executive Producer Maratja Dhamarrandji and Matthew Blyth

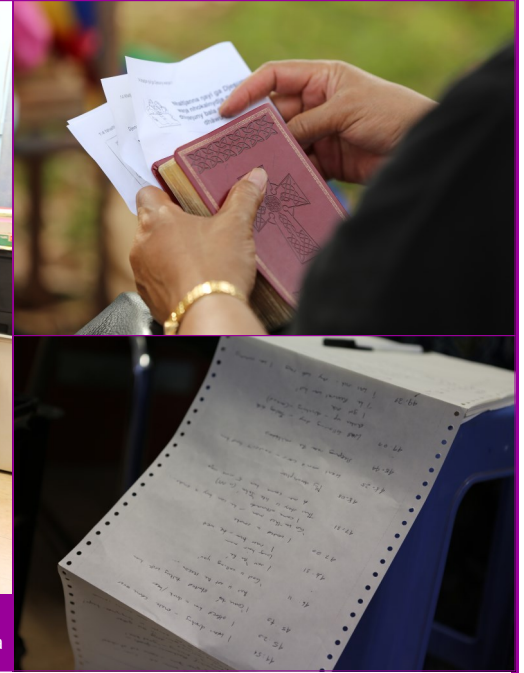
A PROJECT OF THE NORTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITING ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHRISTIAN CONGRESS AND THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA NORTHERN SYNOD

Amazing things happen when working with faith.

by Matt Blyth and Margaret Miller –cont.



Margaret, Yurranydjil
Nalambirra and Njandama



This film tells the story by Yolŋu about faith. It also covers the Bible Translation work of North-East Arnhem Land since Beulah Lowe began as full-time linguist for the Mission at Milingimbi in 1951, and continues right up to the present by those involved in Coordinate's East Arnhem translation work today. However, the film covers more than history, it captures a plethora of heart felt stories of a sincere, passionate love for Jesus.

This unashamedly Christian documentary will be screened nationally from mid-year 2017 on NITV and will become available online via SBS on demand.

Pray for the final production work to be completed by June 2017 and that lives will be touched across this nation by its message.

Check out the promo of this film and how you can be involved by supporting this film at: <https://dm2.gofund.me/Galiwin-ku>



DEDICATION OF TII NEW TESTAMENT ON ROTE ISLAND, INDONESIA.

By Wendell Flentje



Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, Yanti Tunliu Mooy, Eve Brooks, Jeannette Trinidad, Ena Hayer Pah, Johnny Banamtuan



Johnny Banamtuan, Djawut Gondarra, Yurranydjil Dhurrkay



Yanti Tunliu Mooy,

"But when we hear the Word of God in our mother tongue, in our local language, it touches us in the core of our being." The Rev. Dr. Mery Kolimon, the Moderator of the GMIT, spoke in Kupang, West Timor, after the dedication of the Tii New Testament on Rote Island on November 22nd 2016.

She went on to say: *"And that is the bit that touches our hearts most deeply, what I consider to be the most important, that people have the opportunity to hear the Word of God, not just with their ears, and not just with their brains, but with their hearts. And that has the power for renewal and regeneration."*

Dr Kolimon was among 72 visitors from Australia, the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago, Timor-Leste and several parts of Indonesia who travelled to Rote Island for the dedication service. They joined about 1500 local people for the event which was held on a very hot day on a headland at Fiulain, about 130 km. south-west from Kupang, where the Gospel was first brought from Java to Rote by a chief called Foe Mbura in 1732.

It was a wonderfully joyful occasion, with much singing, dancing, items by local school children and a moving acknowledgment of the translation team which had worked for 13 years on this project. The regional government was most supportive of the dedication event and provided about half the funds for it. Overseas visitors and partner organisations in Bible translation were repeatedly acknowledged as having an essential role in the translation process. An excellent lunch was provided by an extremely hard working group of local women.

The Northern Synod was represented by the Moderator, the Rev. Thresi Mauboy, Bible translators Djawut Gondarra and Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, David Forsyth from the Synod Office and former Moderator the Rev. Wendell Flentje.

The books include the whole of the New Testament, Genesis, Bible dictionary, 35 hymns with musical notes, reading schedule, helpful verses to get you started and Bible maps. About 400 were sold after the dedication service. The delight of those who speak the Tii language at having the New Testament published and available for reading and study was an inspiration for all those who translate the Scriptures and who support their work.

Dr. Mery Kolimon congratulating translators



Coordinate Issue #18 December 2016



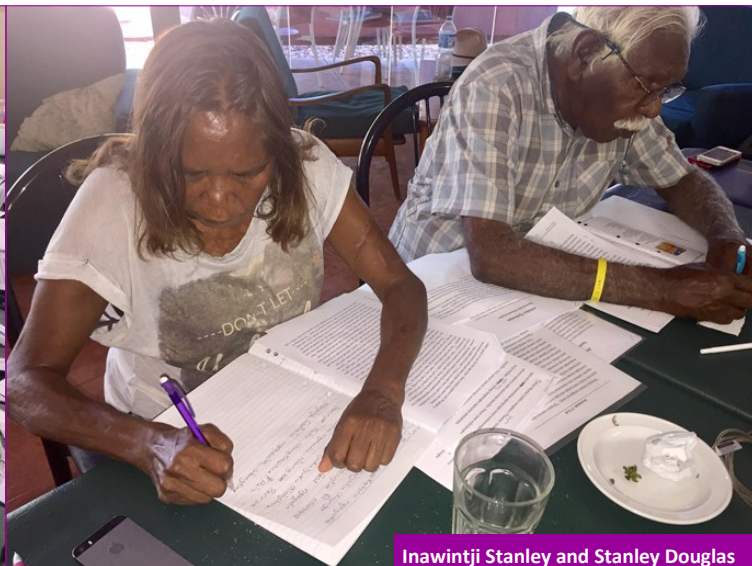
Translators at work in Alice Springs

By Wayne munster

In mid March the Bible Society held an Old Testament translators workshop in Alice Springs. The workshop was facilitated by Paul Eckert as part of the Pitjantjatjara Old Testament Translation Project. A group of about 11 passionate Pitjantjatjara translators came together for 5 days on the tranquil grounds of Campfire in the Heart and were hosted by David and Sue Woods.



Ina Scales and
Muna Kulyuru



Inawintji Stanley and Stanley Douglas

Workshop participants included: Rene from Areyonga; Ina Scales from Umuwa; Yanyi Bandicha from Pukatja; Wanatjura Lewis from Amata, working on Job; Lillian Wilton from Amata, also working on Job; Muna Kulyuru from Amata; Tjayul Deborah Burton from Amata, working on Lamentations; Pantjiti Lewis from Pukatja, working on Jeremiah; Inawintji Stanley from Pukatja also working in Jeremiah; Stanley Douglas (Amata); Imuna Kenta attended one day and several Areyonga & Docker River people attended a session as well.

I was incredibly encouraged in my faith and in my reading of the scriptures as I spent time observing the translators wrestle through sections of scripture. The value of everyone sharing their thoughts and insights was clear! It was also clear to me that members of the group possess wonderful talents that Paul has a great gift in bringing together and leading into good translation. He even put me to work entering some translated work into the computer!

During the workshop I was pleased to be able to road-test an animated overview of the Old Testament I have been working on. Once feedback from Paul and the translators has been taken into consideration and any changes made, the videos will be available for anyone wanting to view them.

The workshop was a very dynamic experience where work and learning happened for us all. There was a very real sense of significant work being carried out over the week and a strong sense of a shared journey being enjoyed along the way. A highlight of my year so far!



Muna Kulyuru

Our Mob God's Story, celebrating Indigenous faith in art and 200 years of Bible Society in Australia by Anne Lim



Kanytjupai Armstrong, The Mustard Tree. KatrinaTjitayi, The Burning Bush. Makinti Minutjukur, Cross. Lna Scales, Jesus Walking on Water. Deborah Burton, Daniel

Max Conlon loves painting the Bible. The well-known Aboriginal artist from the Kabi Kabi tribe in Cherbourg, Queensland, sees his biblical paintings as a tool to serve God and share Christ.

“It’s really good because it engages people, unsaved people, and Christians who are going through struggles in life and it builds them up,” says Conlon, one of 67 Indigenous artists who have contributed to a magnificent new book, *Our Mob, God’s Story*.

Conlon, who dedicated his life to Jesus after becoming a Christian at age 16, sees “benefits for everyone” from this “wonderful tool” God has blessed him with. It not only opens doors to spread the gospel but empowers and brings a sense of identity to “my own people.”

Our Mob, God’s Story, published by Bible Society Australia, represents an “amazing journey” over five years for Bible Society’s Louise Sherman, who edited the book with South Australian author Christobel Mattingley.

“The book is promoting the influence the Bible has had on our First Nations people.” – Louise Sherman

“It’s been amazing to work with so many artists across Australia,” says Sherman. “The book is promoting the influence the Bible has had on our First Nations people. It will also promote the work we do in translation, publication and Bible engagement.”

Inawantji Scales, from the Pipalyatjara community in the APY Lands in the northwest of South Australia, has been painting since she was young. In addition, she works for Bible Society, translating books from the Old Testament into the Pitjantjatjara language. She has been a Christian since hearing the voice of Jesus telling her to love, trust and forgive while she was driving on the Stuart Highway near Alice Springs. She says she got the vision for her painting of *Jesus Walking on the Water* while listening to the Hillsong song *Oceans*.

“[The song says] ‘Lead me to where my trust is without borders.’ It’s from the Scriptures – about Jesus on the water, but also us also on the water, taking a step of faith, letting the Spirit of God lead wherever he wants to lead us and test our faith and make it stronger.”

To order, visit bibleshop.org.au/ourmob



Reporting from Maningrida

By Lynn Heywood



Maningrida barge and Manse



I arrived in Maningrida early October and have been slowly getting to know people and adjusting to the dynamics of living in a very different culture in a remote community where more than 12 languages are spoken.

The UCA house, dated from the 1950's, is on stilts and is cooled by the sea breeze many days and nights. There is a lovely view of the water but, of course, I can't swim there. Fortunately, I can take advantage of a newly renovated public pool.

Huge mango trees shade two sides of the house and provide food for corellas and flying foxes, as well as the local population. At night, black pigs, which are apparently pets, munch on the fallen fruit. Another pet, a bull, occasionally attacks wheelie bins and other objects during the night. There is abundant birdlife and amusing green tree frogs that keep appearing in the toilet bowl.

Learning the Ndjebbana language is a slow process. Fortunately Graham McKay, a linguist who started describing the language in the mid 1970's, has produced a comprehensive grammar. So I have been studying that, as well as accumulating vocabulary and sentences. Ndjebbana classes for 'balanda' will be held at the school next term so I'm looking forward to attending.



Lynn at Rocky Point

Since February, Debbie James has been meeting with me three days a week to translate the Gospel of Mark. Debbie has worked in the school in the Bilingual Education Program, is very experienced and a good Ndjebbana teacher. Mason Scholes, the Language and Culture Centre Coordinator at the school, has kindly allowed us to meet in the Centre.

I'm looking forward to taking Debbie to the Coordinate Workshop in April to give both of us an opportunity to gather with other translators.

Coordinate Issue #19 April 2017

Maung translators on the road in Victoria

By Louise Macdonald



Gathering with members of Daylesford UCA



Meeting with UCA Adult Fellowship

Nancy rang us in January from Warruwi Goulburn Island as we were planning our family visit to Melbourne from Jabiru in Kakadu. "Sandra and Rosemary want to visit nganung". Nancy calls Heather Hewett 'Nganung' or 'inlaw'. So we booked flights, a car and accommodation and got in touch with our dear friend Jenny Hayes who took us in hand and arranged hospitality and a mini speaking tour of Ballan, Daylesford and Ballarat. Lindsay and I met Nancy Ngalmindjalmag, Rosemary Urabadi and Sandra Makurlngu and we hopped in our bright red hire car and drove west to meet over dinner in Ballan. After dinner and wrapped in new blankets against the southern chill we shared our story of

Bible translation in the Top End. It was so encouraging to meet with people who greeted us with such warmth and genuine interest. This continued as we worked our way west and met members of the Daylesford UCA for morning tea and then the UCA Adult Fellowship in Ballarat after lunch. Even people in the cafe where we had lunch wanted to hear our story!



Daylesford UCA

It was a wonderful trip as the women from Warruwi exclaimed at seeing flocks of sheep in paddocks, which they'd translated often but never actually seen. Their fascination with the landscape as it rolled past meant we never got bored – so different to our world up in the Northern Territory. PTO



Pink Lakes Horsham

Maung translators on the road



Sandra Makurlngu and Heather Hewett



Nancy, Pauline, Heather, Sandra and Rosemary

Next stop Horsham to meet our dear friend Heather Hewett. Heather was basking in her new role as a local celebrity as the news of her recently awarded Order of Australia Medal was spread accross the local newspaper and internet. We had a beautiful day with her going through her 40 years of photos from Waruwi Goulburn Island and listening to Rosemary, Sandra and Nancy speak Maung with Heather.

Final destination was Adelaide where we caught up with friends at Bible Society and Isabel O'Keefe who has been working with the women on Waruwi in her role as linguist. Then home with many memories of how many people are supportive of the work of Indigenous Bible translation and how much we value their encouragement, prayers and interest.



Louise Sherman, Rosemary Urabadi, Sandra Makurlngu, Nancy Ngalmindjalmag, Isabel O'Keefe, Louise

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