

COORDN8

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF CSIS

Issue #1, January 2010



clockwise from top left: West Kimberley Boabs (Garry Schlatter); 'Our Word' workshop, September 2009, Nungalinya College (Barbara Grimes); Pukatja Thunderstorms, Central Australia (Murray Muirhead); Four regions of CSIS projects.

around the regions

By Hannah Harper

As this first issue of CSIS CoordN8 goes to press, I'm winding up 2009 with Christmas correspondence, and very soon, a quiet holiday. By the time issue #1 reaches you, January will be here - Happy New Year!

This strange December/January time warp of 'reflection' and 'resolution' is somehow symbolic of my own experience this year, settling in as Resource Worker for CSIS. As I gradually get to know the regions and partners, I can see God's work over so many years in building his Indigenous church. Yet, this issue of CoordN8 is hard evidence that something new is happening. You'll read about JRB Love and language work with a pastoral twist, worship resources high on the agenda in the Centre, and developments in Bible translation in Arnhem Land.

CSIS nurtures broad support for all of this activity - within Indigenous communities and around Australia. Please consider formal partnership with CSIS - as an individual, group or church. Please join us in praise for the past, and in prayer for the future. CoordN8 issues in 2010 will feature more news from around the regions - there are so many amazing people with great stories to tell.

'Looking back' and 'looking forward' is also a theme running through Scripture. Our God is eternally faithful: from his first promises, to our hope in Christ. It is a great thing to watch, learn, and be involved here in Australia.

CSIS

PO Box 38221, Winnellie, NT, 0821

(08) 8982 3400

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



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

YES...

I want to support
Indigenous Scripture
work

*Please complete and return
this slip so CSIS staff can be
in touch with you.*

TITLE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

☐ For \$20, I would like to
become a CSIS **Partner**,
(12 months).

☐ Please contact me about
Partnership for my small
group / church.

As a CSIS 'Partner', you will receive future
issues of CoordN8, and a free
DVD featuring interviews & music.
Other resources will soon be available for
your church/group.

☐ I would like to make a gift of
\$_____ towards work in:

☐ all 4 regions

☐ West Kimberley

☐ West Arnhem

☐ Central Australia

☐ East Arnhem

METHOD OF PAYMENT

*Please label your gift clearly.
Eg: 'Graeme Clarke'*

☐ cheque/money order.

☐ direct deposit

UCA-CSIS Partnership
BSB 065 901
Acc #10715800

☐ online credit card donation:

www.csis.org.au

Reclaiming Linguistic Heritage West Kimberley

By Howard Amery

Imagine having your mouth washed out with soap and water for speaking your own language. Imagine the psychological damage from this indignity, suffered while at school in the nearby town of Derby, West Kimberley. Imagine the damage to the language community - family members who have spoken these languages for thousands of years. Sadly, this is all recent history - during the post-mission period of the 1970's, not sometime in our distant colonial past.

Worrorra is now an endangered language. It was first documented at Kunmunya mission in the 1920's and 30's by pioneer missionary the Rev JRB Love. He produced a variety of linguistic and anthropological writings including translations of the four Gospels. Members of Mowanjam community are in the initial stages of a language revitalisation program to reclaim their linguistic heritage as speakers of Worrorra and the neighbouring languages of **Ngarinyin** and **Wunambal**.

CSIS West Kimberley is partnering with this local initiative. As CSIS Project Officer, I have been assisting with this project and have worked closely with Janet Oobagooma and others from the local Mowanjam congregation. Together we've spent considerable time and effort during 2009 to develop electronic copies of Love's Worrorra - English vocabulary

and the Gospels of Mark and Luke. Dictionaries and developing language learning resources will now be informed by the early work of JRB Love.

Being based in NSW, I will be employed part-time by CSIS West Kimberley during 2010 to continue this work. I'll conduct 3 field trips, each of 2-3 weeks duration. Priorities involve audio recording over a wide range of topics, including mission and recent history, traditional stories, discussion of key cultural concepts and the meanings of specific words.

"It is vital that as much spoken Worrorra as possible is recorded while the last few proficient speakers of the language are still alive."

Other activities planned for 2010 include production of some sample English diglot pamphlets, posters based on favourite Scripture passages, and literacy workshops to assist people to read and use electronic wordlists and reference materials.

This project acknowledges a positive contribution made by the Presbyterian church in early contact years. In 2010, a collaborative project in language preservation, Scripture use and literacy is a very sensitive and practical expression of respect for members of the church and community in West Kimberley.

Worrorra
Workshop:
Howard Amery,
Janet
Oobagooma,
Alison Burgu,
and Joy
Morlumun.



Daughter Translations Arnhem Land

By Yurranydjil Dhurrkay

"It was in 2001, when my father rang me late on a Wednesday night, about 11.30pm. I was visiting Yirrkala. He said: 'I hope you are looking after yourself. Come home soon. There's one thing I want to pass on to you though, before I leave this place. 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' Gäthu (daughter) can you do me one favour, ... when you come home, can you please translate John's gospel for me. Do John's gospel in Wangurri. It doesn't matter if I am not around. Just get it done."

"For a few years, I held on to my father's last words to me. Then one time while visiting in Darwin I tried translating John's gospel in Wangurri. I did this with Mally McLellan's help. I was doing it there at SIL in 2004. This was when I met Chuck and Barbara Grimes. They were working with a group of Timorese translators. I went around to see what the Timorese group were doing. I saw that they were translating into various Timorese languages from one common language. I thought; 'If they can do it, I can do it too!'"

"So I did it for half a chapter in Wangurri using Djambarrpuyngu as my source text. I felt such joy inside at this achievement! I said to myself and in a sense to my father, 'I did it! I did what you asked me to do!'"

"When I came back home, thinking of what I had seen with the Timorese people at their translation workshop in Darwin, I found myself dreaming. I actually dreamt of a group of Yolŋu people representing various languages. I was there with them and we were sitting in a semi-circle in a room with a large screen up the front.



Yurranydjil, Rosemary and Alison gather around the 'Our Word' program to work on 'Maung' Scripture translation. Maung family members, and NRCC Support Worker, Lindsay Parkhill, look on.

We were translating God's word into various languages with a consultant helping. I was assisting him."

"In September 2009, I actually saw everybody together just as I had dreamt!"

The full version of this article is available online
www.csis.org.au

"Gäthu...when you come home, can you please translate John's Gospel for me. Do John's Gospel in Wangurri. It doesn't matter if I am not around. Just get it done."

George Daynumbu

'Our Word'

By Hannah Harper

►SIL & The Seed Company have developed 'Our Word' - a user-friendly program enabling Indigenous people to generate a translation draft of passages and books.

►The published **Djambarrpuyngu** New Testament now serves as a source text for so-called 'daughter translations' in Yolŋu languages.

►Yurranydjil is mobilising local clan support for a draft **Wangurri** translation - close family members are now involved in translating the Gospel of Mark.

►Christians from around North East and West Arnhem are keen to commence or resume Scripture work, using 'Our Word'.

►Yurranydjil's 20 years of experience in the Djambarrpuyngu project, and her formal qualifications in translation are a special resource for Scripture work in northern Arnhem Land.

►CSIS is now employing Yurranydjil as an Advisor to 'Our Word' projects.

►In February 2009, Yurranydjil visited Goulburn Island to encourage Maung people, who are keen to embark on a New Testament project.

►The **Maung** project is waiting for an ideal source translation in an Indigenous language. However, 'Our Word' provides the opportunity for Scripture workers in West Arnhem to share the drafting process with retired worker in Victoria, Heather Hewitt, and also with Yurranydjil at home on Elcho Island.

►In September 2009, people from North East and West Arnhem met in Darwin for an intensive workshop on 5 languages: **Wangurri**, **Warramiri**, **Golumala**, **Gupapuyngu**, and **Maung**.

►CSIS funded the travel and logistics for 'Our Word' workshops and associated activities.

►‘Our Word’ projects have technical and linguistic support from experienced trainers Mally McLellan, AuSIL staff Chuck and Barbara Grimes, Mary Skidmore, John Wimbish and Stuart Cameron, and CSIS’ Margaret Miller.

►‘Our Word’ projects have outstanding training needs in 2010 – from keyboarding skills to quality checking.

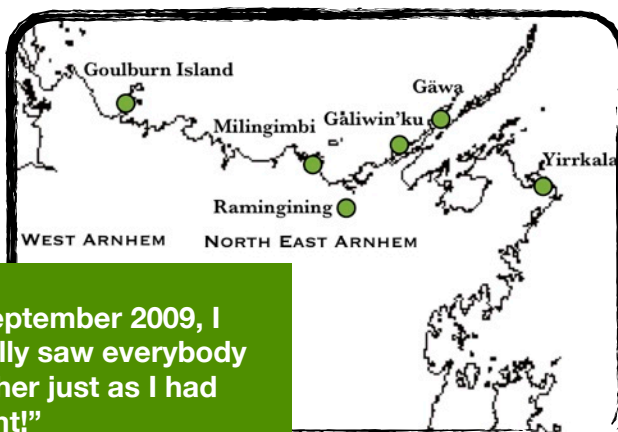
Together for prayer.

Participants at the 2009 ‘Our Word’ workshop at Nungalinga College, church leaders in the NRCC (Indigenous presbytery), and staff of the Northern Synod, AuSIL, & CSIS.



“In September 2009, I actually saw everybody together just as I had dreamt!”

Yurranydjil Dhurrkay



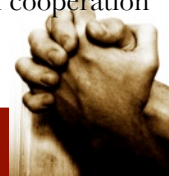
**pray
around the regions**

►Please pray for the Christians in West Kimberley in their desire to put traditional languages into use alongside English. Thank God for the work of JRB Love and pray that God would bless the church in West Kimberley through ongoing Scripture support.

►Please pray for Indigenous Scripture workers in Arnhem Land, translating with ‘Our Word’ in their various languages.

►Please pray that the church in Central Australia would be challenged and enriched in the process of resource production.

►Please ask that God would guide CSIS and the wider church as it seeks to support Scripture work in cooperation and coordination.



In the Action Central Australia

By Peter Greenwood

“We need resources!” said Keith Stevens, the day after being commissioned by the Ananguku Area Ministry Council as the Community Minister at Nyapari – a remote community in the far north-west of South Australia in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands.

Keith, who is also the local chairperson, describes Nyapari not so much as a community but as a family, “Family Pukulpa” - one big happy family, and as that family brought him forward to Graham Kulyuru, for the commissioning, he felt “deeply moved – both solemn and joyful.” Many sensed that the Holy Spirit was present amongst his people, building on the past story, yet beginning something new.

So when Keith asked for resources, Graham (Ernabella Community Minister), Paul Eckert (who is supported by CSIS in developing Scripture-in-Use programs with the Pitjantjatjara Shorter Bible and ongoing Old Testament translation) and Peter Greenwood (AAMC Support Worker) knew immediately, that this was a call from God to respond with action.

Already this year, some work had been done in preparing Pitjantjatjara liturgies for an induction and now this commissioning service, with care to incorporate local symbols for aspects of the ministry. But Keith’s request was particularly direct. “I need help for Holy Communion, for baptism, and for funerals”. We determined to begin by preparing a Sunday service (Sunday Inma Kanyintjaku Mayatjaku Tjapa Kulu), including Holy Communion, using Uniting in Worship 2, as a primary source. This led naturally to also preparing a lectionary for preaching. Both these resources have been appreciated and are currently being ‘road-tested’.

The older leaders remember and respect this approach to worship. Nevertheless over the last 25 years, a more informal ‘platform style’ has tended to shape the congregation’s expression of worship. It is hoped that the resources of CSIS for ‘liturgical renewal’, along with fresh Bible Study approaches that focus on indigenous story telling methods, will both challenge and enrich the saints in the Centre, in the celebration of the spiritual disciplines.