



## West Arnhem Workshop

By Lindsay Parkhill, NRCC Resource Worker

If you fly over Western Arnhem Land, it appears to be vast areas of wilderness with little sign of human habitat. But looks are deceptive. There are many people in different language groups calling this area home, and exciting things have been happening in the church there.

Last year, at Marrkolidjban Homeland, about 80km south-west of Maningrida, 22 new Christians were baptised. I caught up with the church elders Jimmy Jalburali and Kenan Namurndja, and found them expressing a deeply felt need for God's Word in their own language, Kuninjku. Kuninjku is a strong language spoken in a number of actively Christian communities where the cross of Jesus has been raised and praise to God in Kuninjku song is heard daily. People are hungry for God's Word in their language. However, the facility for Bible Study is limited as it has to be done in a language that is not their heart language. Doing Bible Study in English does not reach into the heart. There is some translation done in Kunwinjku, a neighbouring language, but this also has proved inadequate. So these elders asked if the Scriptures could be translated into their own language.

CSIS formed for the support of people groups just like this. So AuSIL, an organisation in partnership with CSIS, provided the computer as well as the software 'Our Word'. At the end of May, three Kuninjku people headed to Jabiru to be trained in using the software, and the translation began. It was exciting to watch the very first words of Scripture being translated into Kuninjku. Work began with the translation of Mark chapter 5, the story of the Gerasene Demoniac. It is still very early days for this project and these folk need your prayers.

Please pray that this work will continue, and that more language workers will become involved in the daily routine of translation work.



North East Arnhem

West Kimberley

Central Australia



around the  
regions

# New experiences and a lesson in keeping our covenant with God renewed, and active Yurranydjil's Story

As told to Mary Skidmore

Since the last issue of 'CoordN8' some really exciting things have happened.

\*In April Djawut and I were sponsored to attend the Pacific Fellowship for Indigenous Translators and Ministers in PNG.

\*Djawut, with the support and help of Rose, has made good progress in the Golumala translation of Mark's Gospel.

\*The translation of Mark's Gospel in Wangurri has been completed.

\*We completed Community Checks on the Wangurri translation at Dhälinybuy, in May.

We were very excited when we were told about the invitation to attend the Pacific Fellowship for Bible translators. We really wanted to go, but it was hard. There was only a short time to prepare, and we didn't have our passports signed and ready to use so that we could travel overseas. A lot of people worked hard and prayed and made lots of phone calls to help us. The biggest problem was that Djawut did not have a birth certificate; and in the Government Department, they could not find a record of his birth date. Then, two records for him were found – but they each had a different date for his birth! That made even more trouble. But these problems were not the only ones we had. We were also involved in a funeral.

With a lot of help everything was sorted in time for us to go to PNG. But that trouble with our passports was like a lesson from this message that Dajataja preached during our Thanksgiving services in March:

*"Just like we have to regularly renew our driving licences and keep them up to date so that we can use them and drive without trouble, we need to regularly renew our covenant with God!"*

We nearly missed an important opportunity because our passports had not been signed and renewed!



It was a good time in PNG. When we first arrived at Port Moresby we were amazed. There were only three women at the Fellowship. All the rest were men and they were either pastors or ministers! There was one lady from Guam, me, and Elizabeth

Thomas (the wife of the director of BTA, the Bible Translation Association in PNG.) Those men there were amazed too. It made them think, "Where are all the women we could have translating?" And it made us think, "Where are all the men that we could have translating?"

Chuck Grimes reminded us that most people out there in the field are 'unchurched', or kids, and it is our responsibility to use language that these people will understand! Chuck challenged me to take that message home and to share it with the Ministers at the East Arnhem Area Ministry Council of the NRCC. It is a strong message and the Ministers heard it.

Our Community Checks are for comprehension and naturalness. The checking at Dhälinybuy, was really successful. The first time we went over we checked through 10 chapters. Golurj did not come with us, so that made room for Marcus and Gargulkpuy to come and help read out the Scriptures. One other lady came with us to cook but there was only a little bit of food, and we even ran out of tea bags! But that didn't worry us. We sat around and ate God's word the whole day!

In the group was one old man and one old lady working with us. They were listening really hard. Suddenly that old man said, "Yakay! Is that what the story means? It's the same story I have been growing up with but now I hear it and understand it in my own language."

He said that when he heard those Scriptures read, it made him feel really warm! A lot of other people were sitting and listening really hard too. When we had to leave the next morning that old man asked us to come with the last 4 chapters so that they could finish checking them for us. We did go back and finish those chapters.

I then took these new Scriptures to Buymarr during a funeral. The people were just amazed to hear God's Word in Wangurri. After that I went by boat to Milingimbi and found the same encouraging response with Wangurri speakers there.

More highlights of Yurranydjil & Djawut's PNG experience are available online: [www.csis.org.au](http://www.csis.org.au)

**"When we live keeping our covenant with God up to date and active, we keep learning and experiencing marvellous things."**

## Audio Scriptures in 2010

### Scripture in Use East Arnhem

by David Shield

Jenny and I were privileged to spend some years in Arnhem Land as volunteers with ARDS, an organisation focussing on community education. ARDS runs a radio station broadcasting in Yolŋu languages, and among their programs were a few recorded Bible readings from the 1980s. This, and the fact that the translation of the New Testament into Djambarrpuyŋu was then approaching completion, encouraged me to make some more recordings, readings from the new translation. The first readings were by members of the translation team, but recently many others also have helped. After laborious editing on computer, the readings can be broadcast, made into CDs, or loaded onto MP3 players and even mobile 'phones.



CDs containing recordings of chapters 3-9 of Luke's gospel and the letter to the Ephesians were available for distribution at the launching of the Djambarrpuyŋu New Testament in June 2008. Progress since then has been slow, but only about four chapters of Luke remain to be recorded. In May this year, Wängarr organised a trip to Milingimbi, where Räkay (pictured) helped us with access to facilities at the school. Several enthusiastic new readers recorded passages from the early chapters of Acts. We plan to spend a second week there during the mid-year school holidays.

*CSIS-EA appreciates the many long hours that David has put into the editing and production of these recordings, and the help of MAF that has made his travels, including the trip to Milingimbi possible. Thank you MAF! Thank you David!*

## Recent Developments

### Linguistic Support & Resourcing

by Peter Jones

Part of the important support for translation teams is to see that processes are used which ensure reliable meaning and good communication are achieved through translation work. The CSIS Reference Committee has been discussing support in this area for some time because it has recognised that support is not just about providing travel and equipment, but also about providing people to come alongside translators. The Committee has developed the concept of a *linguistic support person*: a trainer with technical skills offering Indigenous translators training and advice. Through this provision, Indigenous people who wish to become translation advisors may also develop into this role.

In June, a workshop was held at Jabiru, and Mally McLellan travelled from Darwin as linguistic support person. Having Mally's expertise on-site was a great boost for workshop participants because it combined on-the-job training with immediate feedback on the translation work being done by Indigenous workshop participants. It is intended to develop this model further and use it at future translation workshops. Indigenous translators have commented very positively and said that the support person's presence has increased their skills and confidence to undertake more work.

In other news, CSIS Resource Worker Hannah Harper, and family are celebrating the arrival of baby Luke Harper. Hannah is "on leave" until the end of July 2010, and then working from home, one day per week (Mondays) for the remainder of this year. Hannah remains contactable on [hharper@csis.org.au](mailto:hharper@csis.org.au).

**YES...**

**I want to support Indigenous Scripture Projects**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Please register my Small Group/Church as a CSIS **Partner** (12 months):

☐ \$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: [www.csis.org.au](http://www.csis.org.au)

☐ cheque/money order

☐ direct deposit

UCA-CSIS Partnership  
BSB 065 901  
Acc #10715800  
please label your deposit  
with your name, **and**  
return this slip to CSIS



## Spell it with a 'g' not with a 'k'

### West Kimberley

by Howard Amery

"You're talking too light!" Janet tells me. "In Worrorra we talk a bit heavy, not light like some of the other languages around here. You say 'agu' not 'aku'. 'Agu' means water." Born during WWII, Janet Oobagooma is the driving force for the Mowanjum community's Worrorra Language Revival Project. As one of the few remaining speakers of her language she knows a lot rests on her shoulders, but she remains undaunted and optimistic.



During a recent phone conversation I advised that I had effected the changes to the growing Worrorra dictionary, from decisions made by her and Heather Umbagai at our Perth workshop in April. "Did you change the spelling to 'g'?" was her immediate response. "Yes I did Janet". "Good," she replied with an air of deep satisfaction and pride. "We can keep going forward now."

More information about this language revitalisation project is available online: [www.csis.org.au](http://www.csis.org.au)

In many Aboriginal languages, including Worrorra, there is no distinction between the English sounds represented by 'g' and 'k'.

## BELT Studies at Milingimbi

### North East Arnhem

by Wängarr Dhamarrandji

I remember way back in 2007, about the end of August, the team had a small celebration, after finishing the proof reading. We were doing the last check of the New Testament, **God-Wängarrwu Waljamirr Dhäruk** before it was going to print in Indonesia. Our immediate families were there, as well as Margaret, Mary, Mally, and Kendall. My children and extended family were wondering what would become of our work in the future when the New Testament was printed and dedicated. They were asking: "Will everything in the Translation Centre close now?" It was a sad and happy moment, at the same time. I remember saying, "**God-Wängarrwu Waljamirr Dhäruk** will be used in different ways and is not just for adults and for Galiwin'ku people. It will affect the other 4 communities in East Arnhem too."

I had been praying a prayer that comes from **1 Chronicles 4: 10** It says: "Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, 'Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.' And God granted his request." Another encouraging verse at that time was in **2 Corinthians 1:4** "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."

In June/July of 2009 the BELT (Biblical Education and Leadership Training) team came for 3 weeks to Galwin'ku. Now looking back, a year later, what I said in 2007 is happening right before my eyes! With the BELT Studies, the Djambarrupyu New Testament, a computer, data projector and screen – God's Word is on the move! It's enlarging its territory across the borders of the 4 communities, starting with Milingimbi. Praise the LORD!

So far, there have been 3 lessons of the BELT studies, 'The nature of God', 'The character of God' and 'Trinity' with a local power point presentation 'How Great is Our God' and the DVD 'Indescribable' as an extra. The more I give of these studies, the more people want to come - every evening!



Coordinating Support for Indigenous Scriptures

PO Box 38221, Winnellie, NT, 0821

(08) 8982 3400

[info@csis.org.au](mailto:info@csis.org.au) [www.csis.org.au](http://www.csis.org.au)