

Anangu church leaders and choir, at the opening of the restored building. Pukatja, March 2010



“We’re just trying to keep up!” Central Australia

By Paul Eckert

During 2010, after facilitating a Bible Study with a group of Pitjantjatjara Christians at Pukatja (Ernabella), two of the participants approached me. We had been discussing an Old Testament passage contained in Tjukurpa Palya (the Pitjantjatjara Shorter Bible), and had also referred to some passages not present in the volume. Katrina said, “We would like to begin translating the rest of the Old Testament into Pitjantjatjara.” Makinti added, “The Old Testament contains lots of good stories that we can learn from.”

Katrina and Makinti are both mature Christian leaders and deeply committed to the Word of God. They also have important positions in the South Australian Education Department, so I wondered if they meant to resign. Katrina said, “No, we’ll work on this project after school, and on weekends and holidays.”

This was the genesis of what is fast becoming a full-blown project. Tjukurpa Palya had been completed in 2001, and was dedicated at Easter in 2002. This volume contains the whole New Testament, and about 15% of the Old Testament, (so it is actually the Pitjantjatjara ‘considerably’ Shorter Bible!). 750 books were printed in 2002, and during the intervening 9 years there have been two more reprints of 500, and 700, so Tjukurpa Palya is being well used by the Pitjantjatjara people, a group of around 3,000. It is used extensively in church services and other Christian gatherings, as well as by individual Christians at home and in Bible studies.

West Arnhem



West Kimberley



North East Arnhem



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



I took note of Katrina and Makinti's desire. In the ensuing months, as I moved around the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjara (APY) Lands, I kept my ear to the ground and discovered there were quite a number of Pitjantjatjara Christians wanting, like Katrina and Makinti, to be involved in the Project, both men and women. Encouragingly they are "next generation" folk, children of those who were involved in the translation of the New Testament. Having been schooled in the heyday of the bilingual program, they are all very literate in their own language and readers of Tjukurpa Palya. Though they are, on the whole, more bilingual than the previous generation they feel very strongly about translation. Makinti says, "We need to have all of God's Word in our language, so that we can all understand it well."

We are currently in the project planning phase. It will be a somewhat different process than the New Testament project. By the end of my last trip in April, I had a list of over 100 "next generation" people from a dozen communities who are wanting to be involved in some way in the project. This includes the experienced translators and checkers from the old Translation Team who are delighted to see their children take on the task and want to support and mentor them. 'Teamwork' is the catchphrase, and people are currently forming themselves into teams to do the work. CSIS and its partners, Bible Society and AuSIL, are beginning

The next generation of Pitjantjatjara Translators



'Bible House' Restored

by Dennis Flentje

A group visiting Pukatja was organised by Tom Slater of the North Ringwood Uniting Church (pictured here with Graham Kulyuru). There were five from that church plus other helpers from Nhill (Victoria), and Adelaide - total 14 people, including Peter Greenwood and his (now) wife Sue.

A good variety of skills was available - builder, engineer, plumber, electrician, welder, plasterers



Worn Scriptures in the hands of Rev Peter Nyangu

to put in place an ongoing support structure to provide these teams with the training and mentoring that will sustain a long term project. It is hard to know how long it will take, but we're thinking 15 years to complete the Old Testament.

If I'm not mistaken, God is putting something together here. Already a young couple from Adelaide, who have been working for a couple of years in the Ernabella school, have felt the call of God to become involved. They are now beginning preparations to become members of Wycliffe and AuSIL to eventually be the key translation support workers for the Pitjantjatjara teams. And just recently the old Bible Translation House and office in Ernabella has received a much-needed facelift from a work party led by Tom Slater of North Ringwood Uniting Church. This will become the hub of the project, and the house will be available for the young couple when they begin work in earnest at the end of 2012. Meanwhile, the Pitjantjatjara Ministry Resource Worker, Rev Peter Greenwood, and his new wife, Sue, will be residing there and providing support and encouragement to the Pitjantjatjara translation teams.

Paul, with his wife Ann, was the leader of the team that translated the New Testament. He now works 0.8 with Bible Society Australia, filling the role of Production Coordinator for the Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS) section. Paul also works 0.2 with NRCC. Paul and Ann currently reside in Adelaide with Paul making regular trips to the APY Lands as he coordinates the development of the Pitjantjatjara Old Testament Project.



and painters. The interior of the house was cleaned, painted throughout, plastered where needed, carpet

tiles laid in all but the "wet" areas, kitchen replaced entirely, bathroom retiled, front security door fitted, HWS serviced, fences repaired and in some areas reestablished, carport repaired and enlarged,

Ernabella: No Ordinary Mission

Pukatja on National Television

"Ernabella Mission lies in the far north-west corner of South Australia. It was established in 1937 by the Presbyterian Church and right from the start it was different from other missions of its day. There was no pressure on the Anangu to give up their own beliefs or way of life. "We were not allowed to put clothes on them," recalls one former missionary. Instead they respected and learnt the local language and culture, and found parallels with Anangu stories and the Old and New Testament."

On the 22nd April, the ABC televised 'Ernabella: No Ordinary Mission'. A journalist from the program 'Compass' visited Pukatja (Ernabella), the remote aboriginal community south-west of Alice Springs, as it prepared for Easter 2010 in the newly

renovated church. This documentary features Indigenous ministers and church leaders Peter Nyangu, Graham Kulyuru, and Gordon Ingkatji. Scripture workers from the Pitjantjatjara Bible Translation Project past and present were interviewed, including Kanytjupai Armstrong and Makinti Minutjukur. Former missionaries Bill Evans and Nancy Sheppard share their experiences, and the program pays great tribute to partnerships in ministry - Indigenous and non-Indigenous, past and present.

The transcript and video are available online at www.abc.net.au/compass. To enquire about obtaining a copy of this program you can contact ABC Program Sales, 1300 650 587.

pray

...for Makinti, Katrina, and the 'next generation' of Anangu who are keen to be involved in the translation of the Pitjantjatjara Old Testament. Pray for wisdom and skill in managing responsibilities of paid work, family and community.

...for everyone involved in the 'project planning' phase - translation workshops, travels, venues, finances, etc: Paul Eckert, Peter Greenwood, CSIS, AuSIL and BSA staff.

...for David and 'Lil Barnett, who are looking to be trained and involved in the translation work alongside Pitjantjatjara translators.

...thank God for Tjukurpa Palya and the way in which God has spoken by his Word in APY lands. Pray that God would continue to build up his church in Central Australia through this renewed translation work.

...thank God for the willingness and generosity of the group who renovated the 'Bible House.' Pray that these church relationships of support and encouragement would grow and blossom as translation work resumes in Pukatja.



A job well done: this group from Victoria and South Australia visited Pukatja to renovate 'Bible House' so it can once again be used to house ministry and translation support workers.

yard cleaned up, a new stove and a refrigerator were installed, and a large meeting table with chairs provided.

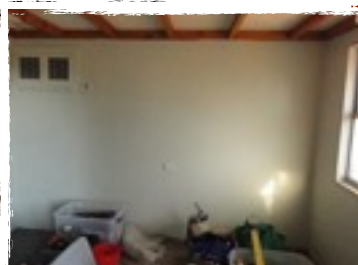
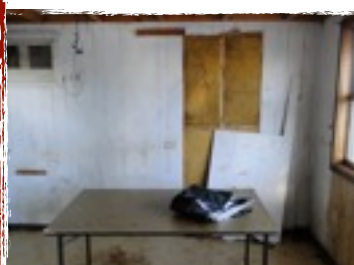
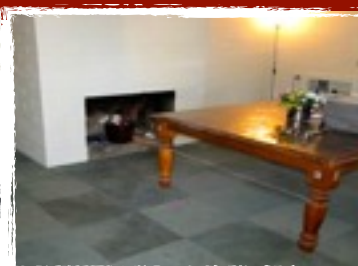
In one week the house interior was transformed and made very habitable - it is planned that another work party come in June to do more follow up work to fully complete the task of having the house ready for the use contemplated for it.

The CSIS Reference Committee were very pleased to see the photos of this project - THANK YOU TEAM!

before...



after...



New and Dazzling Ideas

CSIS East Arnhem Scripture in Use

by Margaret Miller & Wängarr Dhamarrandji

Praise the LORD! Wängarr's new computer has arrived, and it was just in time for the many activities to prepare for Christmas and the New Year. Here are some snapshots of what has been going on at the Translation Centre in Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island.

A Flying Visit...

We attended the CSIS Reference Committee meeting on 16th November 2010 at Nungalinga College, Darwin, to find we were sitting beside Darcie Drymon (Vernacular Media Services). Darcie was attending the day's meeting as companion to the AuSIL representatives. Our embryonic multimedia activities jelled with Darcie who could see immediately a lot of potential with Movie Maker, PowerPoint and other media programs. We invited Darcie over to Elcho for a week. Darcie came loaded up with a collection of software ideas as well, that both she and Stuart Cameron (AuSIL) had beavered away researching and preparing for us in response to an earlier request from Djambarrpuyngu translators. This included programs for Scripture text on mobile phone, CD-ROM format and other programs that can assist sharing the Djambarrpuyngu Scriptures text electronically and via Internet.

In those 5 days Darcie took us through so many programs. Together we even produced a little 3-minute movie of the story of "Jesus calming the storm" from Luke 8 in Djambarrpuyngu! On the last day of Darcie's visit, all the Djambarrpuyngu translators met around Wängarr's new computer to be awed, and suitably delighted with just how much had been covered in the week. Wängarr was able to display to the others the various products along with her newly-acquired skills. She described to the group how she put together a short movie for phones, then uploaded it to YouTube. Then she showed how to prepare DVDs, bluetooth movies to phones, or broadcast across the internet. Maratja soon put all this new knowledge together by getting



the 2 minute clipped sample of our Djambarrpuyngu Christmas video/DVD onto his facebook page and a 'Holy Bible' program with an interactive Djambarrpuyngu NT text on his work computer! Well we were flying! ...um ...er ...should I say rather we were 'surfing'?...well the sky has no limit.

Challenging questions were then asked; "In view of all that has been on display today, what communicates best for Yolngu?" "What should our priorities be for Scripture-in-Use work as we prepare for 2011?" "Where do we start with all of these new possibilities?" There was so much to think about. Surrounded by all these new and dazzling ideas, it was agreed together that one of the most effective communication tools that exists is when we relate person to person – and that means storytelling the Scriptures should not be lost in the midst of this IT revolution.



Multimedia Presentations for Fellowship Programs & Bible Studies

Here is Wängarr, beavering away with her own Power Point Presentations (PPTs), that have slideshows and extra movie bits. She has made a number of presentations featuring local church events. She reports, "I beam up the ppts on the big screen at fellowship nights. The kids and youth fill up the seats. They like those ppts and want them made on to DVD." Then there's the Bible Study material from the BELT studies that Wängarr has been preparing and developing into Power Point and/or Movie Maker on her new computer. We are exploring how to produce DVD packs, in order to share with more fellowship groups around NE Arnhem Land. It's all early days still.

thank you

"In July and August 2010 Mary Skidmore gave us 2 more months of her 'media' expertise, on site at Elcho. She has been especially supportive of Wängarr's multimedia dreams, identifying what was needed in the workplace.

THANK YOU MARY!"



Rev Rronarj Garrawurra hears mobile audio Scripture portions.



Going Mobile

Portions of Luke's gospel and Ephesians are now available for mobile phones. This 'new' idea for our sound files has thrust our work into the world of mobile technology and at the same time has helped to define the uniqueness of the Saber mp3 player, introduced earlier in 2010. ('CoordN8', Issue #4, p.4, for more about the Saber)

The Saber can work well with large groups and in outback places where mobile phones and coverage are not so commonplace. In communities where mobile phones abound, sound files can go 'feral', being easily shared from mobile to mobile.

Yurranydjil shares her experience with the mobile video clip of Jesus calming the storm (Luke 8).

"I have the video clips that are Bible picture stories on my mobile at home. The kids like to listen to it, but sometimes they will fight over watching it. Even the adults, the parents of the children, will fight over my phone with the video clips on it. One of the boys likes the clips very much. He has been listening to the stories every night as his bedtime story. The more he listens to it, the more he is memorising. He can now join along following every word that I speak as narrator! I've heard the children say the words all together, following the story! When I showed the youth leaders these video clips, and spoke to them about how much the story has touched my life, they have said they want it, they are asking for it too. They are transferring them by bluetooth, those Bible video clips onto their own phone."

A Christmas Play

Christmas on Elcho presented an opportunity for the youth to dramatise the Christmas story. These pictures show a colourful presentation of 'King Herod's Court' and the manger scene. Yolngu have produced banners as backdrops with the words 'Godtja dhuwanna limurrungalnha' - God with us.

Wängarr and Margaret were part of the Djambarrpuyngu Bible Translation Project, which launched the New Testament in 2008. They form a team with Gapany & Nandama, focussed on getting Yolngu Scriptures into use in East Arnhem. Margaret is working in a self-supported capacity, thanks to local fundraising and personal supporters. Indigenous SiU workers are dependent on family, clan and CDEP (government) support. They are based on Elcho Island, and they frequently travel around communities and homelands of East Arnhem by invitation.

pray

"...that Wängarr, Nandama, Gapany and Margaret will know clearly together how to respond to Scripture in Use needs in East Arnhem."

"...that God's translated Word will be communicated effectively through the many different ways: Bible Study materials, storytelling and drama programs, and multimedia products... so that God's Word will take strong root in Yolngu lives."

Djambarrpuyngu

Darrany dhuwal djäl
nhuma dhu yuwalkkum
yan mähr-
nhirrpanmirrnydja
nhanukal, mähr ñayiny
dhu ga Djesu-Christtja
nhina muka dhiyaliyi
nhumalangalnydja
ñayanunur.

English (NLT)

And I pray that Christ
will be more and more at
home in your hearts as
you trust in him. May
your roots go down
deep into the soil of
God's marvelous love.

Ephesians 3:17a

Sweeter than Honey...

East Arnhem

by Nyälunj Duṇḍiwuy Wunungmurra

“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.”

Psalm 119:103

Over the years I have worked in the school as a Assistant teacher, team teacher, mentor, visiting teacher, secondary teacher, including teacher training in Kormilda and in Batchelor when it was open way back in 1975.

The language came to the school when the Njalapaḷ (elders) of the tribe decided to give to the school the language Gumatj. Then they decided to change to Dhuwaya, because the kids were not speaking Gumatj, but they were reading and writing in Gumatj. So they can learn both languages, Gumatj and Dhuwaya, there are resources in both, for Maths and Reading and Science.

Dhuwaya is a beautiful, simple, starting point dhäruk (language), before you can speak your own tribal language. That is spoken here at Yirrkala and the homelands of Laynhapuy (region in East Arnhem) by most of the young children, middle age people, and even the older people.

I have worked in the school teaching Dhuwaya languages for many years as a classroom teacher and a Literature worker, producing resources for the kids. We've also got a couple of resources in languages like Dhuwal (Djapu & Djambarrpuyṇu).

We had the Bible translation of New Testament in Gumatj here at Yirrkala done by Muṭilṇa and Guḷumbu, then Djambarrpuyṇu came. And now Wangurri comes, and many other languages from East Arnhem region.

I was happy when Charlie and Barbara Grimes (AuSIL) came to Yirrkala and talked to us about the translation work, and we said 'yes', we want to translate our languages in Dhuwaya, Dhuwal, Dhay'yi, and do a bit of the Gumatj.

Hearing the words of Wangurri, I was on a funeral business last year at Buymarr. We had these beautiful ladies from Galiwin'ku visiting our community, and they took a service, and were reading the passage in Wangurri. And I was sitting and listening to the words that came to my ear, it sounded as if the word was talking to me. Because when I think of the Scripture, John 1, 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.' The Word is Jesus Christ who became human, and dwelt among us.

So I came back to Yirrkala and decided to retire from my job and do the translation of Dhuwaya for my kids and the community. The language of Dhuwaya, everybody will read: the children, adults, or even Njapaki (non-Indigenous people).

The Dhuwaya language work is not ḍāl (difficult/obscure) - it comes easily to me. But the translation work is a big job, it's not easy Djäma (work). Marrpalawuy and myself need a lot of support in:

- praying
- visiting
- and having workshops more often

pray

“...for me and Marrpalawuy, because we need a lot of support from our families and our church, people who are interested in the Bible and in our languages.”

“...because we are thinking about fundraising for translation work in Yirrkala. Pray for Njapaki (non-Indigenous people) and Yolṇu who can help us.” **Nyälunj Duṇḍiwuy Wunungmurra**



Nyälunj is drafting Mark's Gospel in Dhuwaya, while her 'gutharra' (grandchildren) look on. Yirrkala, May 2011

Nyälunj & Marrpalawuy work together on their respective translation drafts. Nungalinya College, September 2010



Dry Season in Waruwi West Arnhem

by Hannah Harper

At the beginning of May, Heather Hewett travelled from her home in Victoria to Waruwi, Goulburn Island. She is working with Rosemary Urabadi and Nancy Ngalmindjalmag over the next two months. These women are pictured below, working on Maung draft.

Heather writes, "We will be continuing with the translation of the book of Mark from Kunwinjku to Maung. Kunwinjku is easier to translate from than English."



pray

"...that we will be able to settle into a routine that the ladies can follow after I leave, that there will be no hindrances to the program, and that we will have good health."

Heather Hewett



Maung

Punyi ta ngarrurri ta kanpani yurrng
nuwu ta nukurlaj nukurlyak.
Nuyi kungulanyi ta tuka ta kunak
kapin ta nuwu ta kunak
nungmalal tuka yurrng.
Nuyi ngarrununi
ta kayirrk ta walij.
Nuyi kurrupawurkpongku
ta ngarri ta aliwiyut
kapin pata wera karruntuwurkpongku
ta aliwiyut ta wenat pu.
Yunyi ngarrunma warak
tuka kangarrikpakpa
la ngarrunmalkpanyiga ta aliwiyut
Nuwu ta kunak,
nuntatparlangkat nuwu,
nuwu ta yurrng.
Nuyi akut la akut.
Aralpa.

This version of the Lord's Prayer in Maung was probably drafted by missionary Len Kentish between 1938-1942.

The prayer is still in use in the Indigenous church of West Arnhem.

In future, work like this, and more contemporary work by Indigenous translators, will benefit from revision and translation checks.

English Back Translation

Our Father who lives on high,
your name is great.
Make this place/land/earth
like your place
is good on high.
Give us now
food at this time.
You will have mercy on
our sins/bad things
like we have mercy on others
their sins/bad things.
Do not take us
to where (our lives) are ruined
but bring us out of evil/bad things.
Yours is the place/land/earth,
yours is the strength,
yours is the on high,
You are forever and ever.
True.

Bequest provides for Linguistic Expertise

by Hannah Harper

A generous bequest has recently been made to support the linguistic work of Dr Marilyn McLellan through CSIS. We would like to thank the family of the late Miss Lillian Ruth McKay, and also our partner organisations, Bible Society Australia, and AuSIL, who are assisting in the allocation of this fund. Mally has been a vital part of 'Our Word' workshops, and her linguistic, cultural and translation knowledge is an excellent resource for Indigenous translators and advisors including Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, Nancy Ngalmindjalmag, Rosemary Urabadi, Marrpalawuy Marika, Nyälun Duṇḍiwuy Wunungmurra, Djawut Gonḍarra (pictured here with Mally), and others, some of whom have been introduced in

previous issues of *CoordN8*. Join us in thanking God for this answer to prayer, as for some time CSIS has been short of funding for this support work.

Worrorra West Kimberley

by Howard Amery

In Mowanjum, everyone is waiting. Some people are waiting for a new minister to come; others are waiting for a new CSIS worker, others are just waiting for something. Something new ... and nothing is happening.

How we wait is important: whether we wait expectantly, or wait believing that nothing is happening, or nothing is ever going to happen. In the Worrorra language, the word for 'waiting expectantly', 'nganyarro', is also the word meaning 'to look for something.' (continued p8)

(from p7) Looking for, waiting, hoping. We, and the people of Mowanjumb, can expect something to happen, because God is on the job.

Howard Amery recently completed his term as CSIS West Kimberley Project Officer. Janet Oobagooma from Mowanjumb has expressed her thanks for the support Howard offered her community and church, facilitating language, Scripture, and song workshops, and in providing Worrorra-English diglot lectionary readings. CSIS is now pursuing some possibilities for continuing partnership in West Kimberley, involving language promotion and Scripture in Use.

pray

...that God would guide the Northern Synod, NRCC, CSIS, and other organisations working in West Kimberley, in ways to support the church and their community.

...for Christians in West Kimberley as they consider future initiatives in language work and ministry.

More than a 'promo'

by Hannah Harper, Resource Worker

This issue marks the beginning of our second year in print with *CoordN8*. It has been such a privilege for me as Resource Worker, to collect and circulate the great news about Scripture work in the four regions. I want to thank our contributors (mostly from around the regions), who have taken time to communicate or translate updates into very digestible articles for the wider church. I also want to thank the many readers, including our partner organisations, who support Scripture work prayerfully, financially, and practically. I observe that your faithful response comes as a great encouragement to Indigenous Christians who are living and working in very remote parts of Australia.

Beyond being a promotional print, *CoordN8* makes explicit some things that are not often, or not widely appreciated. God is faithful to his church - continually inspiring people by his Word. Indigenous people have very strong feelings about language, and about the inclusion of their own languages in church, teaching, worship, private study, and family life. Some Scripture workers are reengaging with past translation projects, others are beginning new work in various clan languages. A wide range of responsibilities and pressures slow the work, but do not stop it. At this stage, many workers are rarely and barely remunerated, yet Indigenous Christians are committed to the tasks of translation, promotion and use. We are working together with partner organisations like AuSIL and Bible Society Australia. Indigenous Scripture workers are exploring many new technologies for Bible translation, evangelism and education. This is an exciting time! Please join me in thanking our great God.

Finally, I appreciate your patience in the preparation of this issue - I hope you enjoy this bumper double. CSIS is committed to sharing the news and needs of Indigenous churches engaged in language and Scripture work. The \$20 partnership concept helps the church cover costs of printing, postage and administration, so that other funds designated for Scripture projects can be properly directed. If the \$20 partnership amount is restrictive, please let us know - your friendship and prayer support are of prime importance in this ministry. Contact us also if you would like additional

copies of *CoordN8* for promotion in your church or group. Stay tuned for another year of *CoordN8*, and spread the word!

pray

...that the broad response to issues addressed in *CoordN8* would contribute to healing, justice and growth in the Australian church.

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

☐ I would like to promote Indigenous Scripture work in my church and personal networks.

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

☐ all 4 regions

☐ East Arnhem

☐ West Arnhem

☐ West Kimberley

☐ Central Australia

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ online credit card donation:

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

Coordinating Support for Indigenous Scriptures

PO Box 38221, Winnellie, NT, 0821

(08) 8982 3400

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