

Working on the final Consultancy check for the Maung Gospel of Mark. Jonah Walamaka, Sandra Makurlngu, Rosemary Urabadi, Heather Hewett, Mally McLellan, Renfred Manmurulu and Alan



## Maung Gospel of Mark—The Consultancy check is completed. West Arnhem Land—Warruwi Goulburn Island

**Heather Hewett:** It was really wonderful to come to a place in our work where Alan Canavan our Consultancy Checker was able to say “it is completed and it is ready for printing”. It all started 5 years ago, I remember the joy of sitting on the verandah at Warruwi with the support of Lindsay, my wiwi and having the ladies come and work when they had the time. At first it was a struggle to find the right front translation, we tried Djambarrpuyngu and then Kunwinjku and finally the Top End English Front Translation proved to be the one that worked for us. The final 2 months when we all worked together in Darwin were hard, we had to work so quickly and it was amazing to see how far we could push ourselves but also the work was exhausting! At first it was myself, Rosemary Urabadi, Sandra Makurlngu and Mally McLellan. At the end the others arrived: Alan Canavan as our consultant checker, and Jonah Walamaka and Renfred Manmurulu as the community checkers. There was so little time, it felt cruel! We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mally, without her experience and her persistence we would have been lost—she’s been through it all before! I was impressed by Alan and Mally’s depth of insight and understanding of the Gospel of Mark. Working with Sandra and Rosemary is a privilege, they are both leaders in their family and community. Their willingness to find the time to give to the work of translation is a blessing. Sandra is a spiritually hungry person, she strives for deep biblical understanding. Rosemary is a careful thinker and translator who just keeps going, she collaborates with others in the community whenever she comes across a passage she has concerns about. After 2 months in Darwin there was such a strong sense of fulfillment and joy at the completion of the work. We can praise God, rest and spend time



The whole team from AuSIL and Warruwi: Mally McLellan, Renfred Manmurulu, Heather Hewett, Jonah Walamaka, Rosemary Urabadi, Alan Canavan, Glenda Leach, Shirl Pearson, Sandra Makurlngu, Ray Leach, Randall Pearson and John Miller from the Seed

committing to the other areas of our lives before returning to the work in the new year.

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



# The new kids on the block: Kunwinjku workshops

## West Arnhemland Manmoyi

**Louise Macdonald:** This year we have had two workshops in Jabiru. Our Kunwinjku translation team is made up of Berribob Watson: didjeridoo player for the Narbalek band and one of the most beautiful guitar players – lovely soundscape to our breaks. Berribob's skin name is Kamarrang or Nabangardi. Elizabeth Nabarlambarl calls me sister which means that we have a close friendship relationship and her children call me Mum. It also means that she has to sit between me and her husband when we work. Like me, Elizabeth's skin name is Bangardijan or Ngalkamarrang. This family comes from Manmoyi a homeland 2 hours drive from Maningrida and 4 hours from Jabiru. Their heart language is Kunwinjku which is the lingua franca for West Arnhemland. Elizabeth and Berribob both work as rangers and culture school teachers in West Arnhemland, they are studying at Nungalinya theological college in Darwin. Our first workshop



was greatly supported by Shirl and Randall Pearson from AuSIL.

Randall flew everyone from Manmoyi and back and they both fed and cared for us all while our brains went to mush translating 40 verses of the Gospel of Mark. As beginner translators this is painstaking work as we grapple with the material and our beginner level skills. Our second workshop was in April and we had to go it alone without Shirl and Randall. Instead Derek Guymala joined us: a 7 year old boy whom Elizabeth and Berribob are growing up. Bright, incredibly noisy and a budding translator.



He sits at one end of our work table colouring in the

stories while we translate them and as the day passes he slowly shifts himself up the table until he is part of the team and regularly answers my questions about a word's specific meaning. Thankfully the local bininj school were able to take him on a fishing trip for one day—very productive, as he came home with 7 Saratoga strung on a stick. They arrived Saturday afternoon for a funeral in Jabiru on Sunday and followed by 4 days of translating Mark 8, and then flying home with the Saratoga, shopping, and 20kg of buffalo meat. We work with paper and pen, Elizabeth is the official scribe and I copy it all down with literal English translations so I can attempt to increase my budding Kunwinjku skills, it also



Elizabeth Nabarlambarl, Derek Guymala, Berribob Watson



helps me to ensure that all the elements present in the English turn up in the Kunwinjku. We start the day with prayer and then select spectacles from our collection of varying strength glasses. We sit with an array of resources: large print Bibles – NLT and Kriol; maps of Jesus' journeys and landscape; photos on the lap top of the topography of Israel; a basic Kunwinjku-English dictionary mainly used for spelling; other English Bibles online and an English dictionary for synonyms. I type up and print out the day's work, then after dinner we quickly check by me reading through with my clumsy pronunciation (not sure why the others want me to be the reader, but it helps us get the spelling right and they can concentrate on the word order and getting all the prefixes and suffixes to agree). The final step is cutting and pasting it all into the Our Word program which is managed by AuSIL in Darwin, then pressing the send button and it flies off to Dallas in Texas to be stored. Hopefully we will manage to fit in a third workshop this year in October. Thanks to the Jabiru congregation for their support for our work.



# Wangurri and Dhanu'mi workshop update

## East Arnhemland

COORDN8 August 2015

Yurranydjil Dhurrkay who is translating the Gospel of Mark into Wangurri and Djawut Gondarra who is translating into Dhanu'mi have been working closely with Mally McLellan from AuSIL. They have had two workshops in Darwin and one out at Galiwin'ku and they are all now in Darwin working with Chuck Grimes to prepare for their final Consultancy Check with community checkers. The



pace and commitment to the work have been

so impressive. The decision has been made to extend the time allocated to the consultancy check as everyone needs to slow the pace and give the project time to be completed. So there is no time to find out the full story. We will devote more space to this work in the next newsletter.



Mally McLellan Yurranydjil Dhurrkay  
Djawut Gondarra

## Scripture in Use Update

**Louise Macdonald:** Since our last newsletter we have changed our minds about how to get everyone interested in Scripture in Use work to network and exchange ideas. We thought a lot about how we should best communicate with each other and how to do that cost effectively. We decided that perhaps a meeting in Darwin is often not the most attractive way for Yolngu, Bininj, Arrarrkpi, or Anangu people to get together and exchange ideas about how to use scripture in ways that speak to their communities, their cultures and in their languages. So instead of everyone coming to Darwin and holding a Balanda (non indigenous) style meeting we decided to send me on a tour of the different regions to find out what different communities are doing and what they want. My first stop was to spend 3 days with the Scripture in use workers at Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island in East Arnhem land. Their skills and commitment are certainly impressive as well as their determination to reach out to other communities and to share their skills with other language groups.



Wängarr and Nändama outside the  
Bible Translation Centre at Galiwin'ku

Wängarr Dhamarrandji



Sandra Wängarr Dhamarrandji works in multi media, producing power points, videos, audio. She works at Nungalinga College in Darwin teaching in the media course. Wängarr continues working on reproduction of old recordings and digitised 8mm films. Mary Nändama is the oral story teller and in her own words:

"I can show the pictures and just tell the story from my heart because it is in my heart – 'cause that is how I learnt!" Margaret Miller reports that they have been working on a variety of projects this year such as : reaching out to homelands and other EA communities with the help of partners; AuSIL and MAF. Working and planning together with Sunday School leaders -storytelling. New Scripture recordings with

David Shield - Acts ch 12-16 ...but not quite complete. What struck me was their willingness to skill share, which is the story that I could take to Pukatja (Ernabella) in northern South Australia, on my recent visit to the Pitjatjantjara translation team. At the moment all of their momentum is directed towards their imminent trip to Israel, but even with this major distraction they are very keen to connect with the Scripture in Use workers from Galiwin'ku and exchange their recently found skills in cartoon and comic making.

Their model of working is different to the top end as they have integrated their translation work with their scripture in use work. As I live in Jabiru in West Arnhemland I have close connections with their work, they are busily transforming their recently completed Gospel of Mark into audio and print (see pg 8). In September I am planning to visit Mawanjumb in West Kibberly and hear how Coordinate can support their visions for Scripture in Use.



Anna constructing comics

# Pitjantjatjara Translators Prepare for the Trip of a Lifetime

COORDN8 August 2015

**Paul Eckert:** Not long after the Old Testament Project got under way in 2011 I was talking with the then Director of Bible Society SA, Michael Chant. I said to him at that time, “Do you think you could take a group of Pitjantjatjara translators on such a tour?” He saw no problem. I spoke with a number of Pitjantjatjara translators at that time about such a possibility and all were very keen. Being people of the land themselves they thought seeing the land of Israel where so many of these stories of the Bible happened would be of great benefit to them as translators. I wondered then if this was something God was laying on our hearts to do. But it wasn’t until October 2013 when things started to happen – it was then I heard about a group called **Biblical Byways** who do Study Tours in Israel for Bible Translators. In July 2014 That’s when we really got serious about this trip. Support from a single donor initially enabled us to commit to the project for 16 translators so we went ahead and booked the tour in faith that this number of mother-tongue translators would be able to come up with the airfare and other costs.



In March 2015 we set up a bank account to receive contributions and over the next 5 months we looked on in amazement as God provided through various sources:

The anonymous single donor:	31,400
Pitjantjatjara Translators:	13,600
Grants from community organisations:	12,000
SA Training Aboriginal Christian Leaders (TACL):	14,000
Owen Pidgeon & friends (Belconnen UC):	2,900
South Australia UC Invest Bank Grant:	15,000
Northern Synod Bequest grant:	5,000
SA Uniting Church sources	11,700
Bible Society Australia:	5,850
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 111,450</b>



I probably didn’t realise the difficulties that would be faced as we went ahead to acquire first birth certificates and then passports for the 11 people that did not have one. However the Births Deaths & Marriages people (especially Melissa Eickhoff in SA), the Australia Post passport interviewers in Parkholme, Yulara (Tony) and Alice Springs ( and the Passport Officer in Darwin (especially Kristy-Lee Woodhouse) went out of their way to assist in what was quite an arduous process. Ina Scales, one of the translators going on the trip, was invaluable help on the ground getting letters of identities signed by community leaders, taking people to Yulara for passports and keeping up with prospective travelers. I couldn’t have done it without her.

The local health agency, Nganampa Health, has also been extremely helpful giving us medical summaries of each traveler and arranging for medication packs to be made up for the trip. I have been able to meet with their doctors to ascertain the suitability of each traveler for the trip. Sad to say that six translators who wanted to go on the trip have had to stay behind due to their health being incompatible with such a trip. Following are the Pitjantjatjara translators, both current and prospective, travelling to Israel:

- Carol Kenny, Pantjiti Lewis, Makinti Minutjukur,
- Benyi Stewart, Umatji Tjitayi,
- Katrina Tjitayi (ERNABELLA)
- Rueben Burton, Nyunmiti Burton,
- Tjayul Burton, Murika Ingkatji (AMATA)
- Ina Scales, Yangiyangi Fox, Angkaliya Nelson (PIPALYATJARA)
- Kani George (FREGON)
- Jill Doolan (APUTULA -Finke)
- Julia Lennon (OODNADATTA)





Besides these there are 5 assistants including myself travelling with the group – Louise Macdonald (Coordinate resource worker), Mike & Rosemary Last (part of the front translation team), Ian Dempster (UAICC resource worker from SA) and Ute Eickelkamp (anthropologist from Sydney Uni). Ian has been a great help with facilitating arrangements for the two women from Oodnadatta & Aputula and Ute went out of her way to assist Makinti with her passport.

We chose Mission Travel Group to arrange our flights and our travel agent, Melanie Peck, has been super cooperative – Our heartfelt thanks to her – she worked so hard to get us the best flights and keep the seats open while we waited for passports to come in. She did an amazing job for us.

Kathy Bruce of Biblical Byways has been superb in arranging the Israel Tour side of things keeping us informed and up to date with how things were progressing. Her patience has been everlasting as she's waited for final numbers and passport details. She, of course, has been working not only with us here in Australia, but also with national translators from other nations. There will be 12 joining us from PNG, 5 from India and 1 from Benin (west of Nigeria). It will be great for the Pitjantjatjara mob to share fellowship with fellow mother-tongue-translators from other countries.

She has sent us plenty of orientation material to go through before the trip so we won't be going into Israel totally blind and we've been able to look at some of that material as a group. As we studied this material excitement grew even more amongst the group.



Ina Scales playing her Shofar



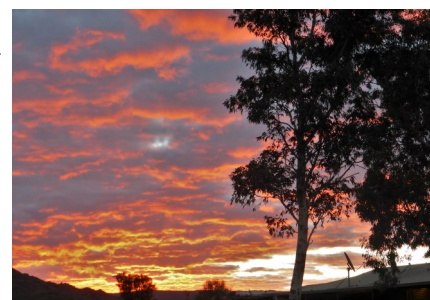
Getting fit for the trip at Amata

An important part of preparation for this trip has been getting fit for the vast amount of walking we will be doing once we get to Israel. So the translators are walking daily as much as they can to improve their fitness – we anticipate with all this exercise and good Israeli food that everyone will come back much healthier.

Then Mike & Rosemary and Louise have been very helpful with organising the bits and pieces part of such a trip – passport pouches, name lanyards, travel stockings, zip lock bags of shampoo, tooth paste, brush, etc and luggage. As we will be moving around so much in Israel the tour group advised us only to bring carry-on so Mike and Rosemary were able to purchase some good light wheelie carry-on cases from Kmart that have been sent ahead to Ernabella ready for

our departure from there on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

All the translators will be gathering in Ernabella on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August for an evening fellowship meeting of prayer and thanksgiving to send us off to Israel. Thursday most people will travel up to Alice Springs on the Bush Bee bus where will have two nights in Alice for last minute preparations before departing on the Alice to Sydney flight on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of August. We will have an 11 hour layover in Hong Kong before climbing aboard on our last flight and landing in Tel Aviv in the middle of the night. That is 40 hours of travelling! Fortunately we will have half the night and the whole day to recover before joining the tour that evening.



For the next 10 days then we will be roaming the countryside and cities of Israel taking in the places and sites that before now we have only had to imagine or see in photos.



Bible Translation Centre  
Pukatja (Ernabella)

We will be returning to Australia via Bangkok to arrive in Alice Springs via Sydney on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 12:50 pm, no doubt exhausted though not the same after following in the footsteps of so many of the people whose stories we translate.

We want to thank all those that have contributed in some way to getting us there. We want to thank God for his faithfulness, after giving us the idea, for seeing it through. Many prayers have been uttered in the midst of this journey and we covet your prayers as we now embark on this trip in a few short weeks.

# Cyclone Lam and Nathan updates

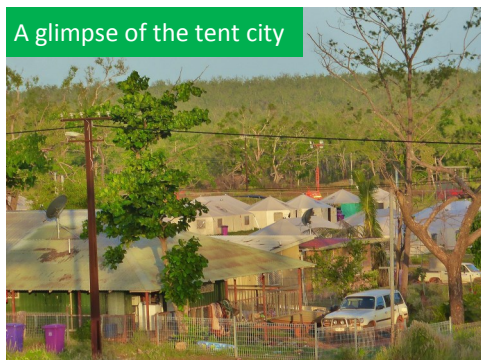
## East Arnhemland

COORDINATOR August 2015

**Margaret Miller at Galiwin'ku Elcho Island:** The lives of everyone living in cyclone effected areas in East Arnhem land continue to be dominated by these two cyclones. Soon after the cyclones an outdoor church was up and running as the church building was being renovated. The Bible Translation Centre opened early April—but operations were not running normally. In May telecommunication services were fully back and homes with minimal damage were restored for people to return to. The church was re-opened. In June Phase 2 begins: 30 demountables now accommodate 300 displaced people in three different areas and 2 more clusters of demountables will be up by the end of August. The tent city has been packed up and returned by barge to wherever it came from. Meanwhile, a bank-up of funerals since last December have begun to happen, about one every fortnight. The arrival of Margaret and Brian Dean was such a blessing as they worked 12 hours days



A glimpse of the tent city



attending to repairs at the translation centre and residence as well as helping with second hand supplies. In July phase 3 begins: excavation machinery has now rolled into town to demolish the 80 houses deemed unsafe. The children's response when they see the excavator in action is: "Ya! Nhäma

"Ya! Nhäma 'Terminator'!"



'Terminator'!" I must confess it is quite confronting to see the houses being demolished. It is changing the landscape of Galiwin'ku totally and feels like another cyclone is happening. Blocks of vacant land are appearing all around the town. One building contractor has begun a 'fast build program for 40 3 bedroom homes, with another building company moving in for the 'slow build' that could well take a couple of years for the remaining properties. The slow build program will also include training for local labour. Everything planned for housing so far has kept to this remote spot! Now in August, needed semester break for the whole teachers who had the worst term adjacent block to the school, meals Shepherdson College's cyclone shelter. term, not knowing who was coming there will be some joy. Galiwin'ku months have run off their feet, putting long they can sustain the pace. It is proving to be a very long year. All this work also requires accommodation for 120 contractors providing 20-30 training job positions for locals. In the coming months there are also plans for a new Barge landing, a Trade Training Centre, a new Emergency Health Clinic and a new ALPA store as well as renovation and maintenance for the 2 administration centres: the Shire Offices and Marthakal.



Margaret and Brian Dean

## Ramingining

**Matjara Garrawurra:** Before the cyclone arrived lots of people were watching it move on the computer screen, some people thought of it as the Lamb of God because of its name—Cyclone Lam, and some other people were reminded of God's name—I am! I had to move from my iron house to my mother's brick house. During the cyclone we could feel the wind lifting the roof iron but it stayed on and we kept dry—God made himself shelter for us. In Ramingining only about five houses were either directly hit or trees fell on them. Lots of rooves had to be repaired. Two houses had to be replaced. So many trees were uprooted and they have all been cleared away and the fences fixed. There was one tree that was not effected, it wasn't even stripped of its leaves. It is the tree near the place where we have worship and rallies and we sit under it for shade. Also the cross outside the church is still standing even though all the other trees have fallen—God was sheltering us!



# Assembly and new printed materials



Coordinate stall at Assembly in Perth

Every 3 years the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia meets. This year it was held in Perth and it was a big deal for the Northern Synod. The incoming President who was installed at this meeting is the lad from Humpty Doo—Stuart McMillan. The Elcho Choir journeyed from one end of Australia to the other to make sure the celebrations were done in Northern Synod style. Marratja Dhamarrandji wrote a song for the occasion, so our translators had a considerable presence in Perth. To take advantage of the occasion Coordinate created a range of new print materials to spread our story throughout the church. A new brochure and a set of postcards—one from each of our four regions to promote our story. With a new banner in their luggage Steve and Judy Orme did an outstanding job setting up a stall and distributing our materials, as well as displaying much of the work of Coordinate. Videos from Galiwin’ku and Central Australia, as well as Bibles, teaching materials and devotional materials in many of our

languages. Our Coordinate ambassador Rev Wendell Flentje is keen to carry a few post cards in his luggage when travelling—they are the perfect thing to give out as you meet people interested in the projects. If you think you have somewhere to distribute these new brochures or post cards let us know and we can easily send them on.



Wendell Flentje Louise Macdonald



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# Get Ready: Maung audio, Printing and 100 year Celebration

COORDN8 August 2015

On the day of the Consultancy check completion, Paul Eckert from Bible Society was in town for the Coordinate Reference Committee meeting so the whole Maung team could get together and start discussing what the Gospel of Mark will look like. **Rosemary Urabadi:** We want an artist from Warruwi to do the front cover and some of the pictures inside. Paul

has suggested that we go through the text and think where a picture would explain a passage that is difficult to understand in words.

Immediately, Heather knew where a picture was needed. The story of the paralytic man

being lowered through the roof of the house—this had been a difficult passage to imagine and then translate. We need to think about which font and what size. Also, we want more than just the Gospel of Mark: The Lord's Prayer, the Communion Service and the songs that we have in Maung should also be included. A very generous donation was given for this work from the Church of Christ in Horsham Victoria and this gives us such flexibility in what we can achieve. Sandra Makurlngu flew to Darwin in July to record the Maung Mark with Lucy Rogers. **Lucy Rogers:** It was great spending the week working with Sandra she is delightful and so efficient. We quickly got into a routine of recording a section and then listening to it to pick up any errors and ensure all the words were correct. We aimed for 4 chapters a day and had no trouble achieving that. There were a few technical difficulties at the start getting the batteries to charge but prayer and problem solving soon fixed those issues and we worked well as a team. I think that God was really in it. There is still some tidying up to do and people still need to decide what format will be most useful but it was a very productive week. **Sandra Makurlngu:** It was nungmalal, kamak! When I started the work I thought it was hard and I had a sore throat but then it got easier. Then as I was going through I was thinking of those children who can't read Maung now, but now they can hear it and listen



Sandra Makurlngu, Mally McLellan, Paul Eckert, Lindsay Parkhill, Rosemary Urabadi, Heather Hewett



Lucy Rogers and Sandra Makurlngu

to it. As I was going, the whole thing helped me understand the words that Jesus was speaking. How he called his disciples and how they listened and followed him. He told them to go out and tell his word. It is these same words that he is speaking to us and to this generation. It was a struggle for him, but then it all worked out. The 100 year centenary of the church on Warruwi Goulburn Island is being celebrated in June 2016 so we are aiming to dedicate this work then.