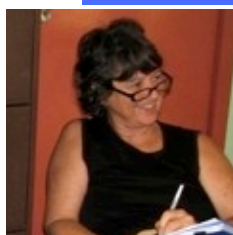




L: Scripture in Use workers
Wängarr and Nändama,
R: children at Galiwin'ku kids'
club.



What is a 'Scripture Use' worker? North East Arnhem Land

By Margaret Miller



Scripture Use¹ has become a widely accepted term in 'mission-speak'. This work endeavours to bridge the gap between a scripture translation project and the active, life-changing use of those scriptures in the heart language of the individual and community.

I began this year very differently by travelling to Dallas, USA with Jan Mountney to study at GIAL. We studied 'Scripture Engagement Methods' under four very qualified and internationally recognised staff.

During two hours of class each morning we learned about many Scripture Use operations around the world, and how people engage with their translated Scriptures within their social and cultural contexts. We had the opportunity to apply our learning by each looking closely at a particular language project in the world, like a case study.

Researching another country's Scripture-in-Use program lifts our horizons, and expands

our understanding about how Scripture-in-Use can operate under different conditions.

When I returned to north east Arnhem Land, Mary Skidmore joined me to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of our own Scripture-in-Use program, and identify clearly those conditions in which we operate. Wängarr and Nändama joined us as we looked into our past successes and frustrations. We particularly identified the achievements of the Scripture-in-Use program in north east Arnhem since the dedication of the Djambarrpuyngu New Testament; we looked at our training activities, workshops and productions. This process has given us some clear thinking about where we have been, and it has helped us to form our directions for the future of Yolngu Scripture-in-Use.

Strategic planning has begun. We will be running a Scripture-in-Use workshop in Darwin, March 2015 alongside Paul Eckert

(Bible Society). Workshop participants will come from across the four regions of Coordinate; the Centre, West Kimberley, West Arnhem and East Arnhem. It is planned that all these Scripture-in-Use participants will identify future directions of Scripture-in-Use for their various regions. This way, we can forge forwards to develop sustainable Scripture-in-Use programs that are relevant to life in Australia's Indigenous communities.

We wrestle with issues that are all too common around the world: decreasing literacy, a new world of digital devices flooding homes, globalisation where the few 'power' languages of the global community challenge the use of smaller local languages, and thus the local scriptures.

Why do we need the scriptures in the local language? I often answer this question with the same question I pose to church youth workers in Galiwin'ku, "What language do the children use when they pray to God?" "Yolŋu Matha, of course!" "Then, if the children use their own heart language to speak to God, then why would God choose to speak to them in a different language, namely English?" Having God's Word in the heart language not only makes sense, but it speaks into anyone's life that they are loved by God, not a lesser being, created to share in a loving relationship with a God who understands their world, values them and communicates clearly.

Our translation and Scripture Use work within Coordinate is privileged with a working relationship with many clan language groups in local Indigenous churches. We have been supported over many years by NRCC, and the Northern Synod of the Uniting Church of Australia, and we look forward to maintaining and building on that relationship to engage the

"We strive towards our goal for a healthy and vibrant Christian community, founded on a love for the Scriptures in the heart language ..."

Margaret Miller

translated scriptures at all levels of church life. Quarterly CSIS Reference Committee meetings are an expression of our partnerships. We enjoy the professional support of Scripture translation partners: AuSIL and Bible Society. Coordinate also partners with ARDS, MAF Learning Technologies, and Nungalinga College.

So in these conditions today, we seek together to support and use the hard work of 30 years, and more, that went into producing Scriptures in the heart language. We strive towards our goal for a healthy and vibrant Christian community, founded on a love for the Scriptures in the heart language... a community that seeks to grow a heart-relationship with God, that is infectious, to be shared, having a sustainable impact in and through community life.

Pray with us

- for participants planning to attend our Coordinate Scripture-in-Use workshop from March 25-26th, 2015.
- for Scripture in Use's directions represented by the four Coordinate regions; the Centre, West Kimberley, West Arnhem and East Arnhem.
- that the Lord raise up a young generation with a vision for Scripture-in-Use and join in this vital work.

L-R: all rugged up in Dallas, Texas!
Wayne & Sally Dye,
Margaret Miller,
Jan Mountney,
Lynley & Tim
Hatcher



OurWord Translation Workshop - a photo report

Nungalinga College, Darwin, 25-28th November, 2014

Photos by Chuck Grimes and Mally McLellan

In November, 12 representatives of 7 languages gathered in Darwin from North East and West Arnhem Land. With support from a full AuSIL team of helpers and experts, translators continued work on New Testament translations. We thank God for safe travels, good health, and a great atmosphere of collaboration (and fun) between all partners. Keep praying for our translators as they continue translation in their home communities.



L: Nyälurj resumes work in Djapu and Dhuwaya languages as Hannah looks on; R: Dr Mally McLellan (AuSIL) and Yurranydjil continue checking Wangurri.



R: Northern Synod Moderator, and President elect of the UCA, Rev Stuart McMillan led devotions on Friday. Translators prayed for him in his ministry.



L: Djawuṯ and Rose Guywaṯa work together on Dharu'mi translation. R: Rev Rronaṯ led devotion from his well-worn copy of the Djambarrpuyṯu New Testament.



R: The Maung team fine-tuned their draft of Mark. Below L: AuSIL staff Glenda and Megan provided wonderful support. Below R: BerriBob, Elizabeth and Louise work on Manmoyi Kunwinjku.



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☐ West Arnhem

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Coordinate welcomes a new Resource Worker - Louise Macdonald

By Peter Jones (Convenor of Coordinate Reference Committee)

This edition of Coordinate will be the final edition prepared by our wonderful Resource Worker Hannah Harper. After a very busy six years in the position, Hannah is stepping aside to focus on other pursuits, including language study.

In her time as our Resource Worker, Hannah has used her God-given talents and abilities in creative and supportive ways. Development of the Coordinate newsletter, establishment of the Bible translation workshops, and working across the four areas of the Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC) stand out as very significant achievements.

It has been one of Hannah's strongest desires to assist Indigenous people to have God's Word for them in their own language, and we give thanks to God and to Hannah for what has been achieved. I know that Hannah has particularly appreciated the personal encouragement through letters and emails from Coordinate readers.

From February 2015, Louise Macdonald will be the Coordinate Resource Worker. Louise is well known to Bible translators in West Arnhem Land also has valued connections with Coordinate partners AuSIL, ARDS, MAF, Nungalinga College and the Bible Society. Louise has been in the top end of the Northern Territory for the last nine years, and has developed connections with the Uniting Church NRCC and the Northern Synod. She has also worked as a nurse in Central Australia.

Like Hannah, Louise is passionate about supporting Indigenous people to be directly involved in Bible translation. We give thanks to God for both these incredible people who have offered their time and talents in His service. Please continue to pray for them in their handover, and new roles.

Joy Morlumbun (1958-2014)

West Kimberley

By Steve Orme (NRCC)

We are deeply saddened by the death of Joy Morlumbun last November. Joy was an elder from Mowanjum, West Kimberley. She had been in hospital in Perth for some months, then returned to Mowanjum to see her family, and sadly passed away soon after. It was a blessing that Joy returned home before her death.

Joy was a Worrorra woman with a passion for her language. Whenever she attended Coordinate Reference Committee, she openly shared her concerns for her language and people. Joy also had a longing to return to the early mission site at Kunmunya, and see something at the site that recognised its existence. With her passing goes another strong connection with Worrorra language and culture.

Rev Andrew Watts, who knew Joy from his youth in West Kimberley, shares "Joy maintained an ongoing love for Jesus and God. Her faith was deep and she had a hunger for learning more. This meant she undertook some studies at Nungalinga and enjoyed discovering new insights in her personal reflections on bible readings, hymns, songs and commentaries throughout her life. She had a tremendous loyalty to the church. She was delighted to be so involved in the planning and leading of the centenary weekend held at Mowanjum in May 2013... We will all miss you, Joy, but we are reassured that you are at peace in the loving hands of God. Thank you for the love you have given to us which lives on in our lives."

We prayerfully support her family and the small congregation at Mowanjum (*pictured right*). Joy's funeral service was held on December 5th in Mowanjum.

"When I was small, the community leaders, the minister, they were opening the church service in Worrorra. I grew up with the sound. It was in the setting of my family, in my home setting. Even if I went to another family, that was the word around, the sound. But today, there's nothing."

Joy Morlumbun (2012)

