

# The Light has Come! Dhuwa Dhanu'mi dedication at Yirrkala.

By Mally McLellan and Yurranydjil Dhurrkay

Clap sticks rang out from inside the Yirrkala Church in North East Arnhem Land. The group of elders standing at the front began to sing the traditional lightning song with loud clear voices, accompanied occasionally with the stamps of thunder. To this accompaniment, a small procession of people walked down the aisle of the church holding the precious book, the Dhuwa Dhanu'mi Gospel of Mark, *God-Wanarrwu Dhäruk Mäkkun wukirriwuy (Creator God's Word written by Mark.)*

It was 5th November 2017, and a group of people filled the church for this special occasion, the first publication of any Scripture in Dhuwa Dhanu.

As the song finished, the Rirratjinu elder spoke out in a loud voice, "In the beginning, God created the earth. And He said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. We have just been singing about the light through the thunder song. And," pointing to the books displayed in front of him, "we are celebrating the light today."



Dhuwa Dhanu'mi elders Daratara Gondarra, blue shirt, Djuwapi Marika, Djalü Gurruwiwi, Witiyana Marika and women, and Wanamula Gondarra

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



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Dhuwa Dhanu'mi is a group of four clan languages: Gälpu, Golumala, Naymil and Rirratjingu. Although their languages are not exactly the same, they are very similar, and so the clans have agreed to use the one translation. The main translator was Djawuṭ Gondarra, a Golumala man, and the celebrations were held on Rirratjingu land where lead singer was Wiṭiyana, a senior Rirratjingu elder. Daṇataṇa, a Golumala pastor, pointed out to all that the cover of the book was the colour of *ratjpa*, ochre, some of which is mined from Dhanu land and traded through the different Yolṇu clans for ceremonial painting. It is significant to Dhuwa Dhanu clans. And the Gälpu were privileged to have their elder, Djalu, with them also. As the singing was fading, several elders called out the ceremonial names of the clans they represented, letting everyone know all Yolṇu clans were joyful with them on this special occasion.

Then Djawuṭ went to the microphone and read from Mark 1:4-9 in Dhuwa Dhanu'mi, to the hushed audience.



Djawuṭ reading Mark 1:4-9

After just a couple of speeches, the celebrations were over, and people were invited to eat great food provided by the NRCC East Arnhem meeting. While we were eating, a delightful Gälpu group sang beautiful praises to the Lord.



Gälpu singers





The translation of the Gospel of Mark is an outcome of the partnership of the Uniting Church Northern Synod and NRCC with AuSIL, Australian Society of Indigenous Languages. It was also wonderful that the Global Recordings Network finished editing the recordings of the reading of the Dhuwa Dhanu'mi Gospel of Mark just that week, and we were able to share it with those gathered also.

It was a low key, but very special gathering and dedication.  
The Light has come!





# Congratulations!

'Our Yolŋu Story of Faith' by Yurranydjil Dhurrkay and Matthew Blyth, a 2017 Christian Film Festival Award Winner for Best Documentary (Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, Matthew Blyth), Best Director (Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, Matthew Blyth), Best Writer (Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, Margaret Miller), Best Cast (Judy Nalambirra, Mary Nāndama, Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, Djawuṭ Goṇḍarra, Ricky Gurruwiwi, Maratja Dhamarraṇḍji, Sandra Wängarr Dhamarraṇḍji), and Best Documentary Fan Favorite (Yurranydjil Dhurrkay, Matthew Blyth)!

This is an inspiring documentary about the great work being done in Australia to reach the indigenous tribes for Jesus – that is a great message! Our Yolŋu Story of Faith: a story about our people, our language, our faith, our culture.

Hundreds of indigenous Australian languages and traditional cultural practices are dead or dying. In remote communities across North East Arnhem Land, a team of learned Yolŋu has worked tirelessly over generations to keep language, faith and culture strong. The impetus for their work may not be what you'd expect.

The credits include Yurranydjil Dhurrkay (Director), Matt Blyth (Director, Writer, Producer), Yurranydjil Dhurrkay (Writer), Margaret Miller (Writer), Maratja Dhamarraṇḍji (Producer), Judy Nalambirra (Key Cast), Mary Nāndama (Key Cast), Yurranydjil Dhurrkay (Key Cast), Djawuṭ Goṇḍarra (Key Cast), Ricky Gurruwiwi (Key Cast), Maratja Dhamarraṇḍji (Key Cast), and Sandra Wängarr Dhamarraṇḍji (Key Cast)!

Congratulations Mr. Blyth and everyone who was in and helped make this film, it was very inspiring and had a great message! God Bless.

## Christian Film Festival October 2017 'Our Yolŋu Story of Faith' Yurranydjil Dhurrkay and Matthew Blyth

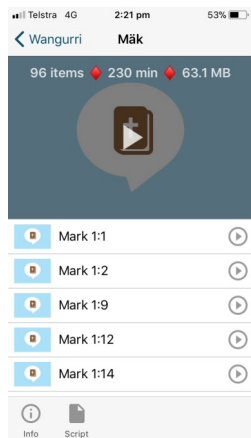


# Partnering with GRN

by Margaret Miller

Mark's Gospel in Wangurri and Dhuwa Dhanu'mi are now available to listen to via the internet!

As a result of our successful recording workshop in May this year at Dharrwar on Elcho Island, these two translations are now available in audio format through Global Recordings Network (GRN)'s website and also GRN's app '5Fish'.



The Dhuwa Dhanu'mi is also available on GRN's website and will soon be available on the '5Fish' app.

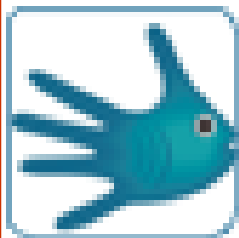
The GRN staff have been working methodically with Coordinate to make this app 'Yolŋu-friendly'. You will find 11 varieties of Yolŋu languages represented here with Scriptures as well as songs. Why not explore the other Yolŋu content on '5fish' while you are using the app.

GRN's partnership with the Yolŋu world began in 1953, continuing through to the 1990's. It has now been re-invigorated in 2017.

We are looking forward together to recording many more Yolŋu Scriptures and songs in 2018 and beyond. Please pray for our partnerships between Yolŋu and GRN and that for our future with audio will strengthen Yolŋu in their faith in Jesus.



Margaret Miller and Cheryl Mason working together on Yolŋu recording.



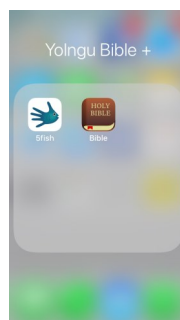
The '5Fish' app is on smartphones and has Scriptures, messages and songs for over 6000 languages from around the globe.

If you have a smart phone, why not take this adventure right now, and download '5Fish' to your phone via the '5Fish' app? You can even listen to Gospel of Mark in Wangurri! Here's how it works...

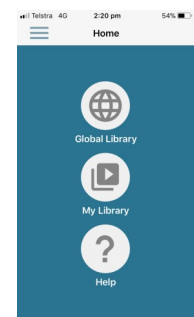
1. Download '5Fish' from your favourite app Store.



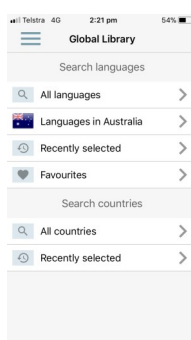
2. Open '5Fish' on your phone's screen.



3. Tap on 'Global Library'



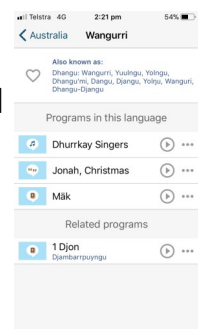
4. Tap on 'Languages in Australia'



5. Scroll languages A-Z until you see 'Wangurri', then tap on 'Wangurri'.



6. Tap on 'Mäk's Gospel in Wangurri!'



# What are they up to in the Pitjantjatjara Old Testament Project?

By Paul Eckert

TRANSLATION PROGRESS in the Pitjantjatjara Old Testament Project:

*Yanyi Bandicha* is working on **Leviticus** — 10 chapters now in 1<sup>st</sup> draft; of those 2 are now in 2<sup>nd</sup> draft

*Katrina Tjitayi* is working on **Numbers** — 6 chapters in 1<sup>st</sup> draft; of these 3 are ready for final checks

*Kanytjupai Armstrong* completed a 1<sup>st</sup> draft of **Deuteronomy** (34 chapters);

*Makinti Minutjukur* is working on **Joshua** — 6 chapters in 1<sup>st</sup> draft

*Murika Ingkatji* has begun translation of **Judges** — 2 chapters in 1<sup>st</sup> draft

*Kanytjupai Armstrong* completed the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of **Samuel 16-31** and several people have been involved in the checks to get it ready for the final consultant checking — *Tjulyata Tjilya*, *Tjayul*, *Nyunmiti*, *Tjikatu*, *Owen Burton*, *Muna Kulyuru*, *Inawinytji Williamson*, *Namiriya Kulyuru* working with *Paul Eckert & Dave Barnett*

*Ina Scales* is working on **1 Samuel 1-15** taking it from an abridgement to a full translation — 7 chapters are in 1<sup>st</sup> draft and *Tjulyata Tjilya* has been working with *Paul Eckert* checking through those drafts

*Areyonga ladies*, *Margaret Poulson*, *Joy Poulson*, *Daphne Puntjina*, *Makinti Windy*, & *Sandra Windy*, have been working on **2 Samuel** — 3 chapters in 2<sup>nd</sup> draft

*Tjikatu Burton* of Amata has been working on **Ezra** — 5 chapters in 1<sup>st</sup> draft

*Lillian Wilton* of Amata has been working on **Job** — 2 chapters in 1<sup>st</sup> draft

*Umatji Tjitayi* and several people have been working on **Psalms** and a number of them have passed final consultant checks are ready for final checks.

*Kanytjupai Armstrong* is working on **Song of Songs** — 3 chapters are in 1<sup>st</sup> draft

*Margaret Dagg* has gotten back into **Isaiah** after a break from it last year and has completed 22 chapters of 1<sup>st</sup> draft.

*Pantjiti Lewis & Inawinytji Stanley* have begun work on **Jeremiah**.

*Tjayul (Deborah) Burton* has begun work on **Lamentations**

*Tjayul Burton & Tjulyata Tjilya* have completed all the checks on the **Daniel comic** and has been sent off to the printers in Hong Kong. The **book of Daniel** was published in 2016. There still remains work to do on the **Daniel Bible Study**.

*Nyunmiti Burton* has completed a first draft of **Joel** and is working on the **Amos & Malachi** sections not available in the 2002 edition.

*Namiriya Kulyuru* has completed a first draft of **Habakkuk** and *Inawinytji W* and *Anne Jack* have carried out checks with *Dave & Paul* to a 3<sup>rd</sup> draft level;

*Janet Tjitayi* has begun to translate **Zephaniah** — 1 chapter in 1<sup>st</sup> draft.







Front Translators -Carl, Paul, Mike, Rosemary, Herbert, Rob

The following volunteers prepare front translations for the Pitjantjatjara translators and also keyboard the 1<sup>st</sup> draft as it is received back:

*Herbert Howell* completed **Deuteronomy & 1 Samuel** and **2 Samuel** 1-10, **Isaiah, Jeremiah.**

*Dave Barnett* is working on **Leviticus, Judges, Psalms, Song of Songs, Joel, Zephaniah, Zechariah & Malachi.**

*Ann Eckert* has completed **Daniel, Habakkuk** and is working on **Ezra.**

*Kathleen White* is working on **Joshua.**

*Mike & Rosemary Last* have completed **1 Samuel** and a few **Psalms** are working on **Numbers & 2 Samuel** from chapter 10

*Rob Bos* completed an abridgement of **Job**

*Paul Eckert* checks through most of the front translations before sending them off to the translators and he and *Dave Barnett* work with translators on editing and checking 1<sup>st</sup> drafts.

The Project would like to thank all these people for their wonderful work. A big thanks also to all those who are praying for them. The Pitjantjatjara translators are often telling me to ask the churches to pray for them as they do this work.

Dave Barnett and his family will be moving to Ernabella in February next year to continue his advisory & resourcing role with the translators, who are really looking forward to their arrival.



Tjulyata Tjilya



Areyonga translators -Daphne, Joy, \_ Margaret, Judy Brumby



Carol Kenny - the 1st Pitjantjatjara person to download Tjukurpa Palya



# What are they up to in the Pitjantjatjara Old Testament Project?

Regular readers of Coordn8 would have seen the recent article about the audio recording of the New Testament. This first phase took place in Adelaide completing 50% of the NT. The second phase to complete the rest will take place next year in Alice Springs starting 29<sup>th</sup> January. Please be in prayer for this as readers travel in from communities to do the recording. Paul & Ann Eckert will be travelling up to Alice for the 9 week workshop and Faith Comes By Hearing recordists will travel from overseas.

## Tjukurpa Palya Wherever I Am

For the first time this year Pitjantjatjara people have access to the Pitjantjatjara Bible on their smart phone or tablet. A dedicated app called **Tjukurpa Palya** ('Good News', the title of the Pitjantjatjara Shorter Bible) was released at the time of the recording workshop and has spread across the lands as people hear about it from others who have it. As one woman said, "Now I can have the Bible with me wherever I am." And another woman said, "I can just pick up my phone during a break from my work [as an artist] and read God's Word – how good is that?"

If you'd like to check out the app yourself it is freely available on the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store – just type in Tjukurpa Palya. It is also available as one of the many translations in the popular YouVersion Bible App or online at (<https://www.bible.com/bible/1737/GEN.1.PITJ>)

Katrina enjoying Tjukurpa Palya on her phone



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