



'AdaptIt' Workshop in Yirrkala - Moving Forward... by Margaret Miller and Glenys Waters



West Arnhem translators joined with East Arnhem translators to learn together about the new computer software called 'AdaptIt'

We have been waiting on the Lord to reveal the way forward, and He has not disappointed!

In the past year, little by little, the Lord has provided. We saw a return visit to Arnhem Land by Bruce and Glenys Waters. Bruce is a developer of the software Adapt It, and he came alongside Coordinate to listen to the voice of our Indigenous Bible translators.

Also in this past year Coordinate has been working intentionally with its partners to seek a way forward together, particularly for Coordinate in the areas of East and West Arnhem.
[see articles: "Coordinate and partners' p1-3 and "Something New!" p6-8 in Issue#24 Dec 2018]

So it was with heightened expectation to see what God was up to, in this new season of

Scripture translation work, when we joined together for an Adapt It Workshop for 2 weeks, from May 27th to June 6th 2019. Would the workshop meet our expectations to quicken our efforts to have the Bible translated into the Yolŋu (of East Arnhem) and Arrarkpi (Warruwi Goulburn Island) languages?

A PROJECT OF THE NORTHERN REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF THE UNITING ABORIGINAL
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NORTHERN SYNOD

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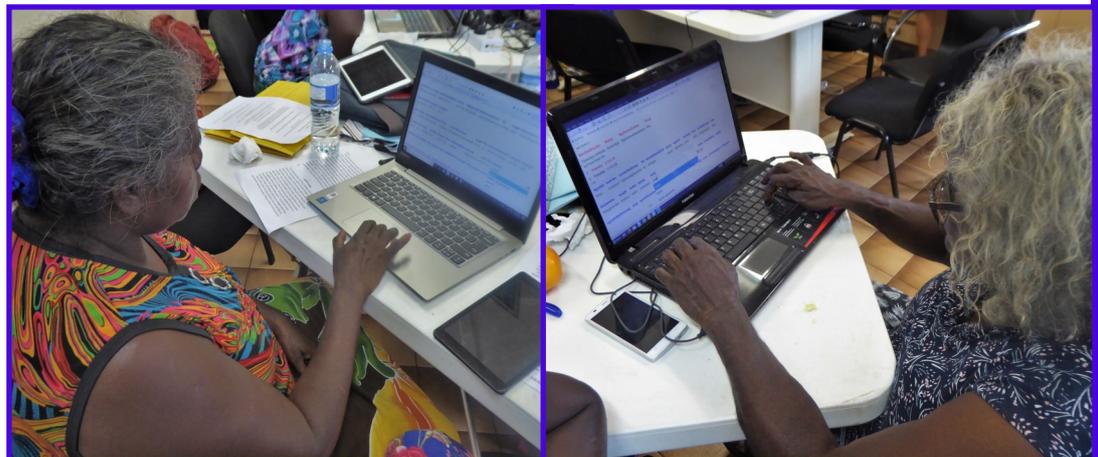
Nancy Sandra and Rosemary flew the furthest with MAF, from Waruwi Goulburn Island

We began each morning with devotions. We were reminded of the power of God's Word in our lives... His Word is 'A Light', (Psalm 119:105) ... 'The Word became flesh' ... 'Jesus is the Word of Life' (John 1:1-18) and 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4)

From there, the sixteen Yolŋu translators were hands-on with their computer keyboards, in order to learn the Adapt It software. They represented sev-

en language groups. Bruce introduced the different features of the AdaptIt program to the participants, with a partner who worked as a mentor alongside each group. By the second day, each group had chosen their book project and were drafting new Scriptures into their language using AdaptIt.

Sandra Makurlngu, Nancy Ngalminydjalmag and Rosemary Urabadi came the furthest from Waruwi, Goulburn Island in Western Arnhem land. They chose to draft 1 and 2 Timothy.



Sandra and Rosemary translating 1 & 2 Timothy



Mally (Coordinate) with Djotja on Warramiri - Matamatawuy and Yungirrŋa on Warramiri - Dholtjiwuy

Warramiri needed to re-work their gospel of Mark in AdaptIt as they considered the two different dialects within their language. Mally gave assistance beside the new Warramiri users of AdaptIt; Djotja on Warramiri - Matamatawuy and Yungirrŋa on Warramiri -



Djawuṭ translating John into Dhuwa Dhaṅu'mi with Anton (MAF)



Abby & Murarrgirarrgi translating John Rumbura and Ṅalambirra translating Luke

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Djawuṭ took no time at all to be independently working in Dhuwa Dhaṅu'mi on his AdaptIt project, drafting John's gospel.

The two Gupapuyṅu translators, Ṅalambirra and Murarrgirarrgi brought a daughter and granddaughter with them - part of their strategy being to 'train the next generation.' Abby and Murarrgirarrgi worked on John, while Rumbura and Ṅalambirra drafted Luke. Corrina of MAF and Lynette of AuSIL worked alongside them.



Mätjarra brought one of her aunts Ṅalmakarra with her to work together on the adaptation into their language, Ḷiyagawumirr. They decided to split the translation of the book of Luke between them so they could get it finished sooner. Ṅalmakarra also translated John 14 so she could share this passage with her community during funeral ceremonies.

Yurranydjil brought Goluṅ to assist her with the Wangurri translation of the book of John. Goluṅ did such a good job (while Yurranydjil was off helping others) that it was decided Goluṅ would finish John herself and Yurranydjil would work on James. She almost had James finished before she left for home!



Rhoda Goluṅ Dhurrkay translating John into Wangurri

When the General Secretary of our Northern Synod arrived at the MAF training room to the gentle hum of computer keyboards getting a 'work out' he remarked, "This room feels like 'God's Control Tower'!"

Abby, Murarrgirarrgi and Lynette (AuSIL) working on John





Anna Seidel and Bruce Waters working with the Maung team

We are indebted to our partnerships that joined together to make this workshop a success. We couldn't have done it with them:

Many MAF staff gave generously of their time and expertise by providing charters, a Workshop venue and morning teas in Gove, accommodation in Yirrkala, Computer and video support and workshop support.

Stuart of Bible Society, AuSIL and newly recruited MAF IT expert, Anton, helped get computers fixed up, set up, and problematic machines replaced. Lynette and Mike Wilson were joined by two new Wycliffe/AuSIL workers, Kathy Dadd and Anna Seidel who worked alongside different language groups as they considered their future roles in North Australia.

From within Coordinate, Louise and Margaret organised the workshop, pulling all the logistics together, overseeing the catering and coordinating all the different people, computers, and tasks involved.

Thank you to Alison and Bruce at the Yirrkala banana farm for their hospitality and to the Yirrkala church for organising accommodation in the church house.



Hearty lunches under Louise's supervision



Yurranydjil advising Matamatawuy and Dholtjiwuy working in Wangurri



Morning worship



The Gupapuyŋu team working it out

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Coordinate East and West Arnhem: Liyagawumirr, Warramiri, Wangurri, Dhuwa Dhanju'mi, Gupapuyngu, Djapu and Maung with... Bible Society, AuSIL, Wycliffe & MAF(LT) 'God's Control Tower' in MAF's Training Rooms at Gove airport

Participants were thrilled to learn how to put their new work onto their phones so they could share the adapted scriptures with friends in the community to get feedback on their translation choices. One lady who had never had an interest in having a mobile phone, bought one just so she could put her scripture translations on to it to share with others. Some took up to 6 chapters home for their community checks.



Kathy Dadd (AuSIL) with the Liyagawumirr team

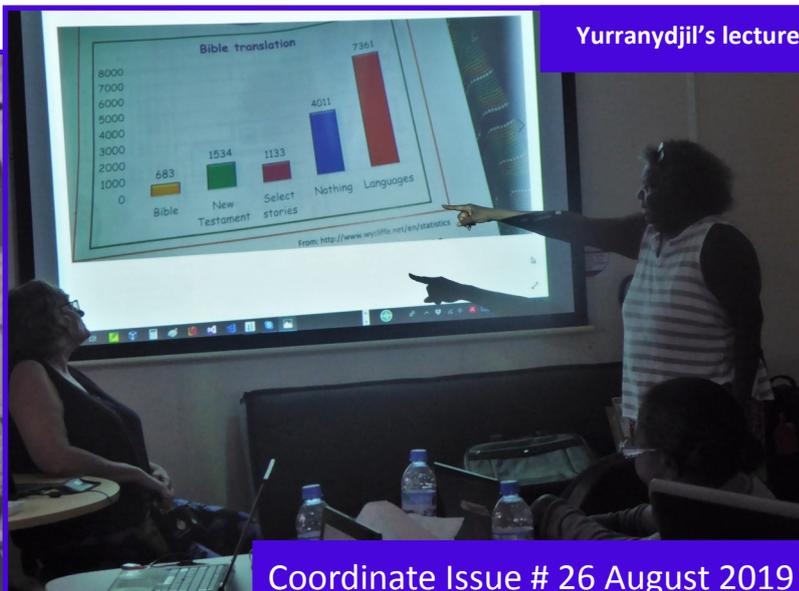


Mätjarra & Nalmakarra moving work from computer to mobile phones for checking in community



But the best thing about the workshop was to see people getting excited about future possibilities and several new people joining the translation teams. Adapt It has the potential to speed up their work dramatically. Each team left the workshop with goals in mind for the coming months and contact details of those they will call on when help is needed.

Rev Haloti Kailahi visited the Workshop, with Alan Rogers (AuSIL). Rosemary Urabadi & Nancy Ngalminydjalmag



Yurranydjil's lecture

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Golun, Stuart
Cameran
(Bible Society)
and Alan

So the whole thing was a massive team effort.

What can we say? ...Thankyou Lord for your guiding hand. We are in awe of how you work. We have hearts full of gratitude for the way you have

joined us together in this new season, moving forward, to further your Word going out to all peoples in Arnhem Land.



A rare chance to relax on the beach

Dhuwaya Mark Dedication, Djapu Mark draft and Gumatj ready to Reprint Presentations.

On the Sunday we attended a dedication and presentation service at the Yirrkala church. It was four hours of honouring translation work. The service opened with a praise time with songs in multiple languages. Each workshop participant read the scripture passage for the sermon in their language and shared how important translation work was for them. So the Bible reading took 20 minutes but no one was counting!

Mätjarra, Nalambirra,
Murarrgirarrgi and
Rosemary



Dedication of Dhuwaya
Mark's Gospel and
presentation of drafted Mark

There were special items by different groups, the sermon was on the importance of the Word, but then a dedication and two presentations were conducted.



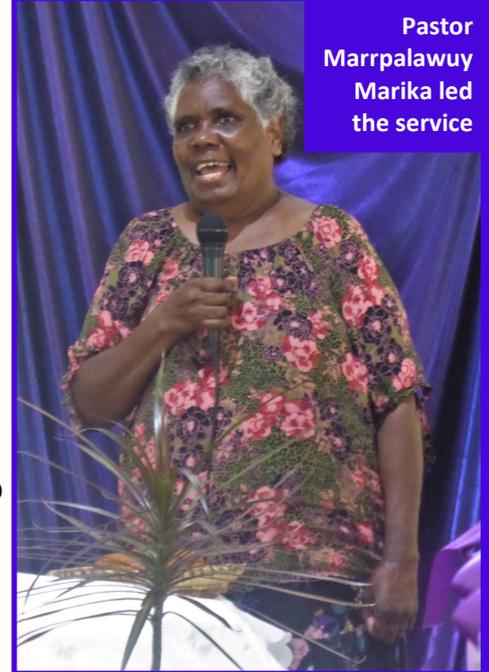
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Dhuwaya Mark Dedication, Djapu Mark draft and Gumatj ready to Reprint Presentations.



Gumatj New Testament and Shorter Old Testament presentation

There wasn't a dry eye in the church when Djawut, Djerrkju and Ma-yalil presented Bändil with a print out copy of the Gumatj New Testament that she had proof-read in preparation for a reprint, along with those portions of the Old Testament yet to be proof-read. She had come at great effort, in her hospital chair, to be present for the service and



Pastor Marrpalawuy Marika led the service

the community honoured her for her work that will leave a lasting legacy. It was also with sadness that all those present at the service remembered the lady who had had the vision for the Dhuwaya and Djapu work who had passed away before its publication. But with this sadness, we also rejoiced at the fruits of her work.

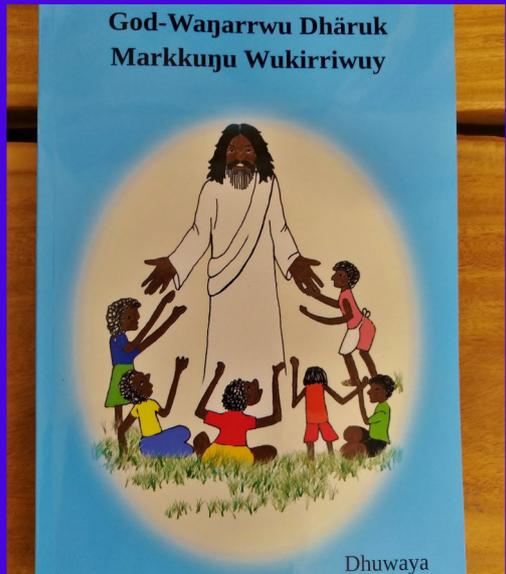
[see articles: "Nyälun Dhuwaya /Djapu p1-2 Issue#23 August 2018 and "Vale Mrs Wununmurra' p6 Issue#24 Dec 2018]

Two Yirrkala women, Yananymul and Dhuluku, were so encouraged by the work presented in Djapu on Mark's Gospel that had been done by the lady who had passed away and by the dedication service on Sunday, that they were keen to take up and continue the work themselves. They joined us on Monday for the last three days of the workshop. They decided to adapt Revelation, a favourite book, into Djapu. And

Yananymul took no time at all to feel quite comfortable operating the computer program.



Dhuluku and Yananymul translating Revelation into Djapu and checking Mark's Gospel



Dhuwaya



Yirrkala Church provided a celebratory meal

Welcome to Bible Society's new Scripture Engagement Worker in the Territory



Louise Sherman, Paul & Melody Kube

A big welcome to Paul and Melody Kube and their children as they settle in the top end. Paul is starting work with Bible Society as their Scripture Engagement worker in the Northern Territory. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Bible Society as we develop a strong Scripture in Use network here in the North.

The Kube's bring a wealth of experience from a decade of work with Indigenous peoples in Siberia and Russia through Pioneers of Australia.

A formal welcome was held at Nungalinya College where Louise Sherman from Bible Society interviewed the Kubes as an introduction, followed by prayer.

We offer our prayers for this family as they settle in the North and acclimatise to the tropics and our diverse cultures.

We are excited about this new initiative. Thanks to Bible Society for making it happen!



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