

L to R: Janet Oobagooma, Kimberley Sunset, Jo & Losana Mar



## Introducing Jo & Losana Mar West Kimberley

Jo Mar, interviewed by Hannah Harper

inside this  
issue...



North East Arnhem



Central Australia



Timor Study Tour

### ***Could you introduce yourself and your family?***

My full name is Josefa Mar, and my wife's name is Losana Vakalala Mar.

### ***Can you tell us a bit about your background - where are you from originally, and most recently?***

I am originally from Fiji, of Chinese background. My mother was from the island of Moturiki and her village is Wawa. Moturiki is in the Lomaiviti province.

Before coming to the West Kimberley I was the minister at Tumbarumba and Tumut Congregations, in the Riverina Presbytery, NSW/ACT Synod. Tumbarumba and Tumut are two different congregations they are 70 kilometres apart, both are located in the Snowy Mountain region.

### ***How did you come into ministry work?***

Three years before going into Theological College my mother twice had visions of me preaching at the Centenary Church, one of the biggest Methodist Churches in Fiji. She heard a voice telling her that preaching is a 'work' that I am called to do.

Two years later in her dream my wife saw me, as I was holding and reading my Bible

a flame came out of my Bible, travelled to her and then came back to my hand and disappeared into the Bible.

The last project that I worked on was the construction of the ANZAC Bridge in Sydney. While working on the bridge deck, I felt this gentle wind blowing, and something vaguely telling me it was time to leave the work that I was doing. While in a work party in Fiji, at one stage I felt God's presence very close behind me. I was so afraid to look back so I said, "Here I am Lord, use me, I won't run away anymore". These visions, dream, and words spoken through the gentle breeze and divine presence were signposts confirming to me the new path that I need to take.

I see that my life was, and still is a guided life, guided by the Holy Spirit through visions, dreams, messages and presence. The Holy Spirit guides me through a 'track' that leads to a definite direction, to a definite location, time and goal. Saint Augustine mentioned of his new direction as, "I am not changed. I have only found myself; I have only changed my path". So too I have found a new path and a new direction that finally led into ministry.



**from page one...**

***It seems that you have a lot of experience working cross-culturally. What or who are some of your greatest influences and examples?***

I come from a cross-cultural background. Apart from my mother who married a Chinese, her aunty [her father's sister] married a German, her first cousin, married a part European man and a niece married an Indo-Fijian. The high tide of cultural changes first came to our village in Fiji in the mid 1930's. In our village, Wawa, we lived with and had a beautiful relationship with four different cultures. So, at the very early age at my very door step, I have experienced and encountered a cross cultural 'family'. Furthermore, I attended two multi-racial secondary schools in Suva, and in Fiji I have lived and worked with people from various cultures. Moving to Australia, first as a student and later in my work, I have travelled to various parts of the country and had my own cross-cultural experiences in adapting to this new 'home' and the people.

In ministry, both the Tumbarumba and Tumut congregations are of cross-cultural setting. At Tumbarumba we had a family from South Africa, an English lady and a Scottish lady as well as an American man, and the rest were Australian-born. At Tumut there were two families from South Africa, a young Korean lady and a Scottish lady. Not only were we cross-cultural in the physical sense in both congregations, but also in ways in which we expressed ourselves in our words, how we have accepted and interacted with each other. We focussed on asking questions on one another's culture and behaviour. It is through these learning experiences, that it is possible for us to understand and respect one another's backgrounds.

I come from one cross-culture and at the same time I crossed into other cultures. In that crossing I worked, talked, ate, worshipped, travelled, relaxed and shared with members of those different cultures. I have found that the more I learn and understand others, the better it is for me and also for them. In this learning process we also learn to respect where, 'one is coming from'. I have received great help in learning about cross-culturalism from Rev Dr Clive

Pearson and Rev Richard Udy, both very learned and experienced men in this area. Moreover, in my learning journey I have made some very close friendships to the extent that they are my family here in Australia, not related by blood ties, but by ties of love, respect and a deep and spiritual relationship. They are constantly in touch with me and I can call them at any time and I feel comfortable in their home, just as they are in mine. Some have been to Fiji, to my village Wawa, met my blood family and feel close to them too.

***Can you tell us a bit about your early impressions of life in West Kimberley? What is it like?***

Weatherwise, as I left the Snowy Mountain region during winter, I have found the West Kimberley to be very hot and with a bit of humidity, not dry heat. Apart from that, in my short stay here I see that this is a beautiful place to be in. When I looked at the paintings and listened to the stories of the Wandjinas, I see that, the West Kimberley, as a very spiritual place, perhaps it is the apex of spirituality in the Northern Synod. The people whom I have spoken to are friendly and helpful.

***I understand you and Losana are living in Derby. Who will you be working with in Derby / Mowanjum?***

I will be working mainly with the people at Mowanjum, with the local prison, caring home, visiting the hospital, perhaps with the Boab Network, the community at large but still very much feeling my way around.

***Do you have a favourite Scripture passage to share with us as we pray for you, and for people in Derby and Mowanjum?***

Acts 16:9 "During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

*Pray that we may all go and help in our Macedonia.*

*Please pray for Mowanjum, the township of Derby and for my ministry in the West Kimberley.*

*Please pray for Jo Mar, who has had some medical issues and surgery in recent weeks. Please pray for good medical care in Sydney, and a smooth recovery.*



## **Transport help**

### **North East Arnhem**

**By Hannah Harper**

Every year, Coordinate spends more than \$10,000 on travel and transport to support Indigenous Scripture work. This figure would be even larger without the partnership of transport companies, who move people and goods at reduced rates. Shaw's Transport and Allied Pickfords pick up donated second-hand clothing from Sydney and Adelaide, and drive them to Darwin. From there, Toll Marine subsidises barge freight to Elcho Island. The second-hand sales in Galiwin'ku (and further afield) fund the activities in the Bible Translation Centre, including Scripture-in-Use programs. Njandama and Wängarr are particularly





## Planning for 2014 Coordinate Calendar

By Hannah Harper

As Christmas 2013 approaches, people around the Northern Synod are busily preparing for the end-of-year events. In Coordinate, we hold the OurWord workshop this month, and in December the Indigenous congregations host Christmas services and participate in school and community celebrations.

This year, we're selling a 2014 calendar featuring photos from around the four areas of the NRCC presbytery. This calendar makes an excellent prompt to pray throughout the year for Indigenous Christians in Scripture work. Consider giving a copy of the Coordinate calendar to a friend or family member to share your interest with them. Perhaps you could advertise this calendar sale through your church or small group.

40% of the sale price will support the work of Coordinate in 2014, so your calendar purchase is

serving two great purposes at the same time: one in your home, and another around Top End and Central Australia!

The calendar is \$20, plus \$5 for postage if you are ordering by mail. Fill in the response form on page 7 to order through the Northern Synod office, or drop into the Parap office to purchase. We now have EFTPOS and credit card facilities, so payment is even easier. If you have any questions, or would prefer to order over the phone, please call Nicole on (08) 8982 3400.

**"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be equipped for every good work."**

**2 Timothy 3:16**

involved in this regular fundraising, and each year, the sales have brought in thousands of dollars towards local Scripture work.

For 40 years, MAF have served the church in Arnhem Land by providing half-price or free flights for church and translation events. This month, Yolŋu communities and MAF personnel will celebrate this relationship with thanksgiving services in Galiwin'ku.

These relationships are deeply appreciated by all the workers in Coordinate networks.

*-Thank God for his provision through corporate partnerships with Shaw's, Allied Pickfords, and Toll.*

*-Thank God for 40 years of mission partnership with MAF. Praise God for the many MAF staff who have served Yolŋu communities by flying planes, and sharing life in the churches. Pray for the MAF's future services.*







# PITJANTJATJARA OLD TESTAMENT PROJECT



## ATATJURA, KULIRA, ARKARA, WANGKARA TJUKARURUNINGI

BY KATRINA TJITAYI

Carefully considering each word, trying different renderings until we got it straight

Ngayuluna pulkara pukularinyi panya nganana tjukurpa tjuta nguwanpa nyangangi kutjupa tjutangu palyantja. Mununa kurunpa winki alatjitu pukularinyi tjukurpa wiru tjutangu.

I've been having a wonderful time looking at translation that others have done. My heart has been really blessed by these great scriptures.

Nyara palulanguruna tjukurpa tjutangu nyakula tjukaruruningi panya English-nguru nyakula palyantja tjuta. Kala nganana tjana palyantja piruku tjukaruruningi, panya tjukurpa kunpu tjuta panya nganana Pitjantjatjara wangkanytja tjuta purunpa. Nganana tjuta atatjura kulira, arkara, wangkara tjukaruru-ningi munula tjuta, tjukurpa wiru kulira, ma-tjunangi munula piruku riitamilaningi panya kutjupa tjutangu piruku ngula nyakula tjukarurulku tjana ngapartji.

I also compared my translation with various English translations correcting it as necessary. Then we went on and checked other people's translations suggesting corrections as necessary aiming to make it good strong Pitjantjatjara like the way we talk. We'd give careful consideration to each word, trying different renderings until we got it straight. Then we'd read it again knowing that later on others would also be checking it through once again making finer adjustments.



Mununa pulkara mulapa pukularinyi panya ngayulu Numbers-nguru Balakanya-tjara palyanu, panya paluru tangkiyingka ankunytjatjara. Kana pulkara pukularinyi tjukurpa wiru tjutaku.

I was particularly pleased that I was able to complete the story of Balak in Numbers, about his trip with his donkey. Yes, I was really pleased at the great translation we were able to come up with.

**Godalalampa wiru tjutangu tjapinma nganana kunpu warkarinytjaku.**  
Please, dear friends, could you pray for us that God would strengthen us for this work.



Wirkima, Katrina & Unurupa checking a Psalm



Yurpiya, Makinti, Yanyi & Wirkima checking Joshua



## A Draft in Daniel

Amata, Central Australia

By Paul Eckert

Today, here in Amata, we finished the last verse of Daniel. Thank you for your prayers. We actually finished up to the last verse yesterday but decided we'd try and get the translators who've worked on Daniel to come and translate the last verse together. So today eight of us gathered to do just that and we made a bit of a show of it. Denis (our Salvation Army Padre who was cooking for the workshop) took some photos and video of the occasion. It was quite a joyous occasion as we worked together on the verse and then spent some time in prayer thanking and praising God for His sustaining power and His wonderful Word.

I then produced bound copies of the completed Daniel to distribute to the 20 odd people who have played some part in this book.

Even though this is the end for us, there are still some reading checks to be done by people in other communities and the first draft translator (Kanytjupai in Alice Springs), a back translation to be prepared (by a woman living in Coober Pedy), and the final consultant check to be done by Dr Carl Gross.

In order to accommodate the increased number of people involved with the Old Testament project and the resources needed to do the work, the Translation Team have put forward a plan to almost double the size of the Pukatja translation office. This will be the hub from which the work is coordinated, and where workshop resources, publications, computer equipment, and associated network and broadband will be housed. Enlarging the size of the current office will also provide the needed space for workshops and checking sessions. Fundraising for this project has already begun, and already the Glen Waverley Uniting Church Community Outreach Project has given a generous donation, in addition to the incredible generosity of the North Ringwood Uniting Church who will send a work party to do the job with relatives of the translators. The NRCC is also being particularly generous, and the Pitjantjatjara Translators wish to thank all those involved in supporting this project.

*Pray for the Old Testament project as translators continue to draft and check. Pray for the many others who are involved in other stages of the work.*

*Thank God for the gifts and supporters for this project, and ask God to provide for all the needs.*



**"It was quite a joyous occasion as we worked together on the verse and then spent some time in prayer thanking and praising God for His sustaining power and His wonderful Word."**

**Paul Eckert**

### Tjukurpa Nyaa Tjutala Palyani?

### Translation Progress

No	Book	Draft	Chapters	Translators
3	Leviticus	1	Chpts 1-11, 16-18, 26	Margaret Dagg (1990s)
		2	Chpts 1-11	Yanyi Bandicha
4	Numbers	1	2:1-34, 3:1-25, 12:1ff, 22:21-41, 23:1-30, 24:1-25, 27:1-23	Katrina Tjitayi
		2	22:20-41, 23:1-30	Katrina, Umatji, Ann, Wirkima
		3	22:20-41	Katrina, Makinti, Yurpiya, Wirkima
6	Joshua	1	1-4, 5:1-2, 6, 7:1-3, 8:1-2, 9:1-11	Makinti Minutjukur
		2	9:1-11	Makinti, Nyunmiti, Katrina, Yurpiya, Wirkima
9	1 Samuel	1	16-24	Kanytjupai Armstrong
10	2 Samuel	1	1:1-17	Areyonga Team
19	Psalms	1	3, 8, 27, 37, 61, 65, 67, 71, 85, 95, 96, 121	Various
		2	3, 8, 65, 67, 95, 121	Various
		3	3, 8, 61, 67, 95	Various
20	Proverbs	1	Chpts 1-31	Kanytjupai Armstrong
21	Song of Songs	1	1-3	Kanytjupai Armstrong
25	Isaiah	1	Chpts 1-7	Margaret Dagg
27	Daniel	1	Chpts 1-12	Kanytjupai Armstrong
		2	7; 8	Adelaide Team 1; Amata Team
		3	7	Amata Team
		4	1-6	Amata team, Ernabella Teams, Adelaide Teams, Kanytjupai

#### ACTIVE TRANSLATORS

**Amata:** Nyurpaya Burton, Nyunmiti Burton, Murika Burton, Lillian Winston, Tjulyata Tjilya, Wanatjura, Nyanu, Leah Brady, Tjikatu Adamson, Stanley Douglas, Alan Wilson, Muna Kulyuru, Anita Watson, Morna Kulyuru, Rueben Burton  
**Ernabella:** Katrina Tjitayi, Umatji Tjitayi, Unurupa Kulyuru, Makinti Minutjukur, Yurpiya Lionel, Ann Jack, Cyril McKenzie  
**Areyonga:** Makinti Windy, Margaret Poulson, Daphne Puntjina, Janet Carroll & Rene Cooper. Several others showed interest in being involved and other teams will be drawn from these: Manatji Brumby, Rayleen Wilson, Theresa Nipper, Esmerelda Burton, Carolyn Windy, Kathleen Windy, Sandra Windy, Kathy Burt, Pastor Djala Andrews, Noeline Kunia, Rachel Tjukintji, Lorraine Donald, Erica Shorty & Charmaine Coulthard.  
**Adelaide:** Inawinytji Williamson, Mulkulya Ken, Yaritji Heffernan, Kevin & Karen Kulyuru, Imiyari Adamson, Amari Tjalkuriny  
**Senior Translators:** Kanytjupai Armstrong (Alice Springs), Margaret Dagg (Ernabella), Yanyi Bandicha (Ernabella), Tjunkaya Tapaya (Ernabella)  
**Front Translators:** Ann & Paul Eckert, Mike & Rosemary Last, Herbert Howell, Dr Carl Gross, Kahlelen White, Sandra Ken  
**Consultants:** Dr Carl Gross, Dr Peter Lockwood

# Maromak Manfatin - Tetun New Testament Service of Dedication, Betun, West Timor

By Wendell Flentje

*"At long last we have the New Testament in our own language ..... at long last!"*

*"Your presence here is preaching to us."*

These words were expressed with great passion by a senior Roman Catholic priest, Father Marsal, who is a Tetun man ministering overseas and in Rome. They summed up the significance of what we from Australia were able to support, share in and be inspired by through our visit to West Timor.

Great events sometimes go unnoticed in our world. How many people in Australia know about the incredible Bible translation programme which is proceeding in Indonesia and many other parts of the world? But is there anything more important than the Bible in all languages, so people of our world can read God's Word?

My view is that the publication of the Tetun New Testament is a truly momentous event in 'Kingdom of God' terms. It has the potential of being used by 500,000 Roman Catholics and Protestants in both East and West Timor. It was so good to join in this dedication and be part of the celebrations

Eight members of the Northern Synod team attended the dedication at Betun on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August. Three Indigenous Christians from North East Arnhem Land, Nyäluŋ, Bepuka and Yungirrŋa. We were warmly welcomed by the local people and were blessed with wonderful hospitality during our visit. Old friendships were renewed, and new relationships were formed.

Barbara and Chuck Grimes and their co-workers had arranged things for us extremely well so we were able to travel safely, eat plentifully and stay in adequately comfortable accommodation. We are very grateful to the Northern Synod, and a grant from the Synod of South Australia, to cover costs.

Each member of the Synod team contributed well to the visit. We were all inspired by the service of dedication with the traditional dress of the participants, the dancing, the singing, and the extraordinary sense of joy that filled the congregation (pictured).

The benefits of attending such events are multiple. Over and over again, we were made aware that our hosts were so thrilled by us being there. We build on relationships established at a Synod level by our presence, but we also build on friendships on a personal level. When we see what is happening in Indonesia, we are inspired, encouraged and stimulated to persevere in Indigenous translation work in Australia. It is instructive to see the way that Roman Catholics and Protestants in Timor have worked together as translators, and shared together in the dedication service.

Some speakers noted that no-one in the Tetun-speaking area is allowed to become complacent now that they have their New Testament. The challenge to

read, preach and study is ahead. That's also a challenge to those of us who have God's Word in our own language!

May God richly bless his faithful servants in Timor, and may our partnership as Christians continue to grow and flourish.

*Pray that the New Testament would be used and loved by people in Timor, that God would continue to build his church.*

Go to [www.coordinate.org.au](http://www.coordinate.org.au) and follow the 'media' tab to see (and hear) the video highlights of our trip.







# Checking Translations

by Dr Marilyn McLellan (AuSIL)

In previous issues of CoordN8, we've seen how people begin a

translation in their own language, and how they go about producing the first draft. Now we will consider the next step - Checking the translation.

So the first draft of Mark's Gospel is done! What a time of rejoicing there is. This represents many hours of work, much discussion, much searching for that right word or phrase. Now it's done! But is it? Many people would love to go ahead and print their beloved book and start to use it in their community. This is the Word of God, and we all want the best and most accurate translation possible, there are checking processes to go through. More hoops!

The first check is done by the translators themselves, and is often called a 'spell check'. It involves a thorough read-through by the translator and hopefully someone else as well. These read-throughs pick up obvious spelling mistakes, grammatical mix-ups, punctuation errors and even sections that were missed, or doubled. We all make those mistakes when we write even a short section of text like a letter! For the Yolngu languages drafted so far, both the original translators and our translation advisor, Yurranydjil, do a 'run through'.

This makes the first draft ready for a 'Community Check'. The translators and advisor organise the right people and a good place for everyone, and they go through the translation with them, looking for advice on language used and natural flow for the language. This is often a time when people will talk about the "pure language" versus the "modern language". We would do the same in English too! The translators must be aware of their intended audience - just what type of language do they need? Modern language, the 'pure language'?

It's good for all of us to keep in mind that the New Testament was written in Koine Greek - the everyday language of the people, whereas writings in those days were done in 'High Greek'. When we translate, what should our equivalent be?

When the community check is done, the translators and the advisor go back to consider the suggestions and make changes where they are needed. This then, is the second draft.

Now the draft needs to be further translated back into English... often called 'Back Translation', which is the topic for CoordN8 #12!



## OurWord Workshop 18-23 November

AuSIL Darwin

By Hannah Harper



Bepuka & Dhawa work together on the Gospel of Mark in Warramiri. Palmerston, 2012

This month, we are looking forward to the 5th annual OurWord workshop in Darwin / Palmerston, in partnership with AuSIL and Nungalinya College. Translators from North East and West Arnhem Land will join to continue drafting various New Testament books in 8 languages. AuSIL staff, Chuck and Barbara Grimes, and Marilyn McLellan will provide training and advice.

*-Please pray for everyone involved in the planning and preparation.*

*-Pray for the translators: safe travel, good fellowship, and productive translation time.*

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'Ga dhunupana ñayi Djesu waṇana  
bitjaya,  
"Way, marr-nherraṇmi, ṇarra  
dhuwaya! Yaka waya beyaṇi."  
Mark 6:50



## Scripture in Use workshop North East Arnhem Land

By Wängarr Dhamarrandji & Margaret Miller

Nyälun invited Nändama and Wängarr, with Margaret to the 'Miwatj' area (ie. the far eastern side of North East Arnhem Land) of Yirrkala and Nhulunbuy. Nyälun has been asking for encouragement and support with planning and producing Scripture in Use products in *Dhuwaya*. MAF flew us there. Hannah, along with friends Kylie and Kerry, provided wonderful support with food, shelter and transport for the workshop. Brett and Peter, MAFLT staff, joined us on Thursday. We shared how we could work together on the Scripture in Use needs in the Miwatj area.

Nändama shared with Nyälun about children's materials. Nändama is working on the Djambarrpuyṇu text for "God's Story in the Outback". The text needs to be made short and easy for the children's Colour-in book. Workers in various children's programs around North East Arnhem have been seeking out such resources in Yolṇu languages.

Wängarr took two evening bible studies on God's Nature and Character to Nyälun's church group. Wängarr has prepared these in Djambarrpuyṇu in multimedia format. The elders and leaders who came to the studies told her how

much they appreciated the studies. They said: "Using yolṇu matha in the Bible Study helped us to understand the truths about God clearly". Even some young boys playing around the church stopped to join in!

Nyälun shared about her artistic ideas for Scripture posters in *Dhuwaya* (pictured above). We ordered a laminator with plastic pouches before we left, so she could make some *Dhuwaya* Scripture posters herself. We encouraged her in her gifting and we are looking forward to seeing those beautiful new Scripture products for *Dhuwaya* speakers!



### Further Study in 2014...

By Margaret Miller

It will be 40 years ago in January 2014, that I began tertiary studies for a Diploma of Teaching at Canberra College of Advanced Education. I have since done some further studies with Summer Institute of Linguistics at Kangaroo Ground, Victoria in 1990, and other smaller courses as well. It seems the right time now, to take up the opportunity for further study, this time in "Scripture Engagement: Methods and Strategies" at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL). This will be

extremely relevant to my Scripture in Use work around East Arnhem Land. However, such a course requires travelling to GIAL in Dallas, Texas.

*I will appreciate your prayers for this wonderful opportunity to study for 4 weeks. Pray that I may be alert to what is most applicable for our Scripture in Use work within East Arnhem.*

**Please consider making a donation to support Margaret's travel & study program. Please write 'Margaret Miller' on the response form to specify your gift.**

Every blessing in your travel and study  
Margaret!