

# BTA Watch - August 2011

Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association  
PO Box 350, Waigani, N.C.D., Papua New Guinea  
[www.pngbta.org](http://www.pngbta.org)  
Email: [watch\\_pngbta@wycliffe.org](mailto:watch_pngbta@wycliffe.org)

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**“Whoever loses his life for Me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?”**

Luke 9:24-25 (NIV)

**\*\*Monday, 1 August – Prayer Day – Praise** God that **Cecily Brenton** at Madang office was able to put the entire Ogea New Testament into the Paratext format in only 10 days! Three Ogea speakers are now working through the job of reading through the New Testament and making final corrections so that their New Testament reads naturally and clearly. Praise God too that **Don Adeb**, **Marib Fanu** and **Daryl Brenton** successfully selected the pictures, drawings and maps they need for insertion into the New Testament.

Pray also for the 8 team members from the Translation Committee who will join **Marib** and **Don** to go to the SIL center in Ukarumpa (Eastern Highlands) for 10 weeks to work on the typesetting of their New Testament. **Daryl** will accompany the Ogea team up to Ukarumpa to ensure that they settle well into Ukarumpa.

Pray for **Cecily Brenton** with added responsibilities while **Daryl** is away from home and office. Pray for safety as she drives around town on her own to do errands. Pray she can rest in God's power to protect her from harm. Pray the memories of being shot at when driving the vehicle some months ago do not overcome her.

Pray for the families of the 10 Ogea men for good health and no emergencies during the 10 weeks their husbands/fathers will be at Ukarumpa from the end of August to the end of October! This is a big commitment for the men and their families.

Pray for strength to go the 'extra mile' and with patience for **Daryl and Cecily Brenton**, as they try to juggle so many daily 'jobs' and still give the work on the Ogea New Testament 100% effort. Power outages, water woes, unusual heat and 'normal' town criminal activities add so much stress to their busy lives right now as the devil tries so many 'little things' to slow down the typesetting schedule.

**\*\*** The Translators Training Course 2 is beginning in Alotau, Milne Bay Province today. Over 30 people from languages in Milne Bay and Oro provinces are participating in this course. Ask the Lord for a profitable time of learning and spiritual growth. Cover both the staff and participants

**\*\*** Denotes happening on this day.

in prayer--for protection from every scheming, plotting of the Enemy to disrupt the course. Ask the Lord for grace to sustain all who are involved. The course is staffed by BTA and SIL people.

**Tuesday, 2 August –** Pray for **Mina Thomas** as she and her fiancé make last minute preparations for their wedding set to happen at the end of this week.

**Wednesday, 3 August –** Praise the Lord for a successful translation workshop on the Book of Jonah for the **Tairuma (Gulf)** language project last month. **David Loea** conducted the workshop and had this to say: *“We would like to thank everyone who prayed for the Tairuma Jonah Workshop. Though it is my first experience to run a weeklong Workshop, the LORD is to be praised and honored for the tangible progress that is now upon this translation group...”* Pray for **Badi Vila** and **Elizabeth Povo** as they work together with their people in the translation project.

**Thursday, 4 August –** Pray for the **SOMSIBO Cluster** language program in Morobe. Pray especially that there will be good understanding and team spirit fostered amongst the members of the **Mabe, Borong and Somba Siawari** language programs. Pray for **Dan Tumaka, Jerry Tekare** and others as leaders in this group.

**Friday, 5 August –** Two senior translators of the **Sinaugoro (Central)** translation program who served faithfully over many years died in recent months. This is a great loss to the team. Pray that their passing on to be with the Lord will not weaken the translation work. Ask the Lord to raise other people to work with **Kidu Magi** and others in the team. The Sinaugoro New Testament was completed and launched over ten years ago.

**Saturday, 6 August –** Thank the Lord that **Simon Potinu's** passport was renewed recently. Pray that visa for UK will be granted soon (before end of August) to enable him to go to the UK to undertake a 2-year study program at the Bible school there. Simon recently joined the BTA staff, to serve in the Church Engagement team. This study program will enable Simon to be able to return to assist in encouraging churches to participate in the Bible translation movement in PNG. Pray that the finances to help Simon

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with his school fees and living allowance will be fully provided before he leaves for the UK. He plans to travel to England end of August in preparation to start classes 12 September this year.

**Sunday, 7 August** – Praise God that **Ken Nayau (Manambu, East Sepik)** had sufficient funds in his program account to purchase a laptop computer while in Madang recently. This will enable him to continue the language work he is currently involved in.

**\*\* Monday, 8 August** – From the 8-12 August, **David Gela** and 8 other leaders from the Wycliffe Asia Pacific Area and SIL Pacific Area will be meeting in Brisbane for a time for exchanging ideas and planning for the work in this region. Ask the Lord for wisdom for them and hearts to discern the Lord's direction, will and purpose. Pray for safety and protection in travels for these men and women to the meetings.

**Tuesday, 9 August** – Thank the Lord for the three new people who were elected to the BTA Board in June. The three include **Ruth Kissam, Judah Waffi** and **David Gudiri**. Eight who served in the previous years were re-elected. An orientation was held for the Board on 8th and 9th July to help those who are new to learn about BTA and the role of the board. Praise God for their willingness to serve on the Board.

**Wednesday, 10 August** – Praise the Lord for the plans that are being made for the Churches and Christian mission organizations in the City of Port Moresby to host an event on 2nd, 3rd and 4th September to celebrate the Word of God. This will also commemorate the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible. A planning committee was appointed by the Pastors & Christian Leaders Fraternal in Port Moresby recently to work on the program for that weekend. Pray for creativity and favour with the city authorities as they approach them for various aspects of this event. Ask the Lord for unity among the churches, Christian mission organizations and the general public to support this event and look forward to making it a great time of celebrating the Word of God.

**Thursday, 11 August** – Pray for **Orim and Tingkui Joel**

\*\* Denotes happening on this day.

as they move to live and serve in the City of Lae, Morobe Province. The Joels will be the Church Engagement reps in Lae to work closely with the churches there to encourage and develop the vision of Bible translation. They have begun moving their personal effects to Lae and will physically move there this month. This is a major transition for them as they have lived at Ukarumpa for over 28 years. Ask for God's grace and enabling for them during this time of transition and change. Pray for a church and a Godly pastor or someone they can relate with for spiritual encouragement. They are looking forward to this change and the ministry they will have with the churches in Lae. The Joels have two sons, **Essau** and **Seth**. Pray for these two young men in their school work and clear direction and God's clear direction for their future vocation.

**\*\* Friday, 12 August** – Starting this evening to Sunday 14th August, four leaders from the Wycliffe Asia Pacific Area will be meeting with the BTA Board for prayer and planning (envisioning) as to BTA's part in encouraging Bible translation in the Pacific. This will be conducted in a retreat fashion. Pray that the Lord will "open the windows of heaven" to the BTA Board members and staff to understand His plan and purpose for the small Pacific island nations, and what part He wants BTA to be part in His plan.

**Saturday, 13 August** – Thirteen staff people who have recently joined BTA staff attended a 2-day orientation, 12-14 July. This gave them opportunity to meet one another, some of them for the first time, and to learn some of the important information about BTA. This has encouraged them to recognize that each has a very unique part to play in contributing to providing God's Word to the language groups in PNG.

**Sunday, 14 August** – Praise the Lord for the positive progress that the **Ubir (Oro)** storytellers are making in their language community using the approach of Oral Bible Storytelling to share the Gospel. Churches visited and shared with include the Anglican, Covenant Ministries International and Christian Revival Crusade. In each of these churches, they shared Bible stories in place of the traditional sermon preaching. The response from the congregation was very good. The team also shared Bible

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stories with schools, which resulted in a further request to teach the storytelling principles to Elementary teachers during their In-service program. Storytelling clubs have also been introduced to share and teach the skill of telling Bible stories to many others. Praise the Lord for the impact of the Gospel through the Oral Bible Storytelling approach. Pray for the team **Graham Weyan, Cassius Oyanamon, Tryphena Sosor** and **Linda Giaru**.

**Monday, 15 August** – Pray for **Charles Kowak (Nyindrou-Manus)** in his multi faceted role of encouraging the use of the vernacular Scriptures as well as literacy skills to people in the language communities of Manus Island. He was recently asked to assist sixty women from the Sepik Province to learn how to read and write. He is also experiencing problems with his laptop computer. Pray he will get technical help to detect the problem and have it fixed.

**Tuesday, 16 August** – Pray for God's solution for **Aluis Simatab's (Arapesh-East Sepik)** laptop computer. As a translation consultant he needs a good laptop to help him in this work. A laptop computer that was recently purchased for him by one of his supporters in the USA has stopped working and there is no warranty for it in PNG so cost of repairs could be more than it is worth. Ask the Lord to give wisdom to SIL's computer technicians working to repair it.

**Wednesday, 17 August** – Pray for Madang translators **Godfied Angurup (Nai-Tanggu)** and **Andrew Gaiama (Miani)** as they gain momentum again in translating the New Testament into the language. Pray for peace in the areas where they live and for traveling mercies as they come long distances from home to the Madang BTA office. Pray that they will be encouraged to go the 'extra mile'.

**Thursday, 18 August** – Pray that Madang Staff can complete their 4 projects by end of September in spite of being so busy with the Ogea Typesetting.

**Friday, 19 August** – Praise the Lord for the successful one week Bible translation workshop organized by the **Bible Translation Organization Tonga (BTOT)** in which twelve people participated. BTOT was setup recently and

seeks to engage the people of Tonga in Bible translation and to challenge them to consider Bible translation as a calling. Pray for **Tevita Lālahi** (BTOT secretary) heading up this work in Tonga. **Mr. Lālahi** visited BTA during the National Conference and his testimony was a great encouragement to the BTA members.

**Saturday, 20 August** – Sickness can bring a lot of discouragement and hinder the work progress. Many of BTA's members and or their families are experiencing health issues at this time. Pray for **Badi Vila's (Tairuma-Gulf Province)** father who is very ill. He has been suffering from diabetes for three years. He is currently in the hospital in Port Moresby. Badi had to travel to Port Moresby straight after the Jonah workshop to be with her dad.

**Sunday, 21 August – BTA Day** – Praise the Lord for the opportunity that **George Clarence (Miniafia-Oro)** had recently to share the Word of God at an Anglican Church service in his village. George usually attends the Seventh Day Adventist church. George shared the Word using the Bible storytelling method and many people, especially the elderly were very interested and encouraged in their faith. Pray for George and the other Miniafia Oral Bible Storytellers namely **Rufus Baibaisia, Viola Yariyari** and **Merolyn Genabin** in their work as they share God's Word through Bible Storytelling to their people.

**Monday, 22 August** – Pray for the seventeen villages that make up the **Tainya Dawari (Oro)** language community as they work towards setting up a Translation committee to bring direction to their work. Ask the Lord for Godly men and women to catch the vision of Bible translation and commit themselves to serve as leaders for the work. After the Translation Awareness Workshop that was conducted at the end of May this year, the people have taken the onus to raise funds towards a Translation workshop planned for next year. Pray for them in these efforts.

**Tuesday, 23 August** – Continue to pray for wisdom for BTA's team working on the Comprehensive Planning. A meeting is scheduled for the first week of September in Australia to meet with partners and work further in this plan.

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**Wednesday, 24 August** – Pray for **Awi Manga (Amam-Morobe)** and his colleagues as they work on the back translation of John 1, 2 and 3.

**Thursday, 25 August** – Pray for the new Board of BTA, that each of the 11 people who have agreed to serve will find and make the time in their busy schedule to attend the meetings (3 or 4 meetings a year) to lead BTA for the next two years. Ask the Lord for much wisdom for each of them. Pray that there will be positive and healthy relationship between the Board and the Admin. The people who are on the Board are; **Andrew Kwimberi** (Chair), **Dominic Sebong** (Vice Chair), **Saki Ipata** (Treasurer), **Gail Edoni** (Secretary), **Pastor Marco Paul**, Ruby Zarriga, **Ruth Kissam**, **Judah Waffi**, **David Gudiri**, **Dr. Samuel Lahis** (Alternate), and **Pastor Tony Dalaka** (Alternate).

**Friday, 26 August** – Praise the Lord for His mercy and grace. **Ken Nayau (Manambu-East Sepik)** who has been having extreme pain in his right arm has received some relief from the pains. Ken is working hard to complete the translation of his Manambu New Testament.

**Saturday, 27 August** – Pray for the Translators Training Course in Alotau that is coming to an end in the next few days. Ask the Lord to help each of the students as they return to their language communities and apply the skill and knowledge learnt to their work.

**Sunday, 28 August** – Praise the Lord that **Victor and Ana Opungu** and their children have returned safely back to PNG from the Philippines. Pray for them as they settle back in their village, work and ministry with the **Mekeo (Central)** translation project.

**Monday, 29 August** – Pray for the Bible Society starting a programme to revise the Tok Pisin Buk Baibel. **Dr. Stephen Pattemore**, United Bible Society consultant who will be heading up the programme said their aim is to make a good translation better.

**Tuesday, 30 August** – Pray for the East Papua Area Office staff who've been very busy with courses and workshops lined up for this month and into September. The

National Translators Course (TTC) ends this week and preparations will begin soon after for the Oral Bible Storytelling workshop that is scheduled to run in the middle of September.

**Wednesday, 31 August** – Pray for **George Tumai** and his colleagues in the **Barai (Oro)** Old Testament translation project. Ask the Lord to give them strength and wisdom in their work.

Pray for Daryl Brenton as he travels to Port Moresby to meet with the other BTA staff to prepare for the comprehensive planning meeting, which starts on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept in Brisbane, Australia.

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