



MICHEALS' MEMOIRS

Wycliffe 
Partners in Bible Translation

July 2008



Triumph After Tragedy

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
John 8:32 (NIV)



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Special Praise Points

- **PRAISE!** For our daughter *Maria and Josh (and their 2 boys Ryan & Kody) who celebrate a new baby girl just born in Germany (they work with SIL there). Mother and baby are doing fine!*
- For students on two **GET Global** short term trips that just left to experience Bible translation work in Mexico and Guatemala.
- For our daughter *Jenny who is getting married in October to Kevin Struyk (a seminarian at Reformed Theological Seminary) and a Pastoral Assistant at St. Andrew's Chapel in Sanford, FL.*



Jenny & Kevin

Swept Away by A Tsunami

In 1998 we reported on a tsunami that struck the coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG) where Americans John and Bonnie Nystrom were doing translation work since 1988 among the Arop people. At the time they were in a traditional language program. They operated as an expatriate team working with only one vernacular language.

On July 17, 1998, tragedy struck. On that peaceful evening, while we and the Nystroms were at Ukarumpa, PNG a 7.0 earthquake offshore triggered three tidal waves, each 30-50 feet high. Waves crashed onto the beach with a deafening roar. Of the 2,400 people living

there at the time, half were killed.

The tsunami left only a narrow strip of sand, less than 170 feet wide, where once the village had stood. Hundreds of gravesites dotted the beach.



Before the Tsunami there were several hundred Arop homes here, including the Nystrom's village house

"Half of the people we came to translate for died in one day," says Bonnie. "That completely changed our whole thinking, our whole attitude about Bible translation and the project we were involved in." The Arops began to realize that people from other languages had died without God's Word. They

knew they needed to work together so that nearby languages would receive God's Word at the same time so none would be lost.

As a result, the Arop people decided to rebuild two miles inland.

Then, something unexpected happened when the Nystroms moved with them. They found they were living close to other languages not related to Arop.

However, the Nystroms reorganized the work and today are part of the 11 multi-language West Aitape translation program, a change of direction brought about by the hand of God in that great tsunami.

(Con't on page 4) people who spoke

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE

www.cbmicheals.com

Our USA Recruitment Ministries Team



Our Current Team

Yellow dots represent current recruiters on Chuck's team. Green dots represent new places where we'd like to begin recruitment work.



WANTED!!!

**Recruiters Needed
Across The USA!!!**

**REWARDS!!!
Eternal**

PRAY!!!

**Recruit 1000 new Wycliffe
members by 2011!!!**

**REWARDS!!!
Eternal**

WANTED!!!

**Administrative
Assistants for
Recruitment team!!!**

**REWARDS!!!
Eternal**

West Aitape PNG Bible Translation Project!



New West Aitape Bible Translation Center



John Nystrom and National Co-Workers



Pusai and Herman Ume Work On A Back Translation



Reading The Book Of Jonah To A Young Arop Boy



Bonnie Training An Arop Man On Handling Finances For Translation Workshops



Translator Peter Marokiki Prepares Work For The Day



Translators from Three Dialects Participating in Checking The West Aitape Romei-Barera Translation of Luke 9



Partners in Bible Translation

Check out more of our photos by logging on to our web site www.cbmicheals.com!



MICHEALS' MEMOIRS



Thank you for your continued support!

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**CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE!
WWW.CBMICHEALS.COM**

Triumph After Tragedy

(Con't from page 1)

The Initial Steps

The first step in the new direction was holding a translation awareness workshop in September 2001. Two translators were appointed from each of 11 different languages and these people in turn brought others who were interested.

For two weeks they worked at figuring out alphabets for all of the languages. Sebby Nugia, a translator from the Sumo language, put it this way: "When you have just one language working alone, there's no support. But when all of us from different related languages work together, that's when we think of more than one way to say things and that really brings out the sweetness of our language."

"And they were able to do it," says John, with obvious delight. "It was amazing."

Men from each of the 11 groups then worked on a first draft of the book of Jonah. Because the 11 languages are from three language families, each with three or four related languages, they could help each other. For all of them, except for the Arops that the Nystroms had been working with all this time, it was the first Scripture that they ever had in their language.

"There are plenty of Bibles in English, and we have one in Pidgin too. But now that I'm translating into my own language, the secret things of the Bible are coming up clear for me and for my village."

Maris Murum - translator for the West Aitape Ramo people

Progress As of 2008

Since 2003 the multi-language team has made steady progress. Translation of the books of Jonah, Ruth and Matthew are complete.

The first draft of Luke was finished in December 2007. Work continues on the book of Acts while several national translators are taking a beginning Greek course.

The translation team also tested the computer program, *Adapt It*, which helps translate from one language to another. The Arop team

had already done a lot of Scripture in good quality drafts prior to the tsunami.

Using *Adapt It* with these translated Scriptures is speeding up translation in the other languages.

Wycliffe USA members Ben and Mandy Pehrson joined the team in 2003. They are working with four dialects of the Onnele language in West Aitape.

With translation required in up to 400 language groups in Papua New Guinea, multi-language teams are one way to help many of these people

groups to receive God's Word sooner.

The goal of SIL in PNG is now to get translation work started in the last language in PNG by 2025 - around the time Barb and I should be ready to retire.

John said, "A lot has to happen for us to be able to accomplish our work, and only a miracle-working God can do it" - the kind of God that brings triumphal hope, even in the wake of tragedy and death.

Thanks to everyone who stands with us to deliver

that hope as we continue to recruit a future generation of translators who will finish the task!!!



Pray for God's guidance as we seek to recruit 1000 new Wycliffe missionaries in the next three years!