



Butbut Kalinga

“Don’t Read That Book!”

Translators are no doubt biased, but they’re nearly unanimous in their belief that Bible translation is one of the most important ministries in the world. One reason is because the Bible is the greatest evangelist the world has ever known—even greater than Billy Graham. It’s been said that the book of Romans alone has won more souls to Christ than all Billy Graham Crusades put together. One message that Satan proclaims loud and clear is, “*Don’t read that book!*” Because Satan knows that if people stay away from the Scriptures, he’s already won a decisive victory in their hearts and lives.

- **Pray for the Butbut Kalinga translators as they carry on this most urgent work.**

Translation Headlines

A revision of the Gospel of Mark has been completed, and now that book is ready for reprint. Corrections made by the local Scripture reviewers were recently incorporated into Mark. Editing of 1 Timothy, Philemon and James is currently underway so that these can be reprinted as well. The book of 1 John is now close to the trial printing stage.

The team continues to labor on their second drafts of Matthew and Romans. Community testing of Romans is in progress and it will soon be ready for a consultant’s review. Chapters 8-24 of Luke’s Gospel and the book of Titus are still with the consultant.

Computer Tools Workshop

Translator Alfred attended the computer seminar, as planned. More specifically, it was a translation tools workshop and lasted a week. Alfred acted as co-facilitator. His wife Racquel and mother-tongue translator Summy attended as participants.

Alfred shares: “Acting as co-facilitator at the workshop was a good experience for me. I enjoyed sharing what I know with my colleagues and at the same time learning more as I prepared for the workshop. Most of the participants said they learned a lot at the course and realized there are many computer tools/programs out there that they’d not been using that are valuable for translation. I was also glad to see Summy helping the other participants during the hands-on sessions. This shows that he learned well what I’d taught him in the past.”



- **Location: Philippines**
- **Number of Speakers: 8,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2004**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2011**

- **Pray that the team can accomplish their translation goals in the Lord’s time.**

- **Praise God that the tools workshop was of great benefit to the participants.**



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Making the Scriptures Culturally Relevant

The Butbut Kalinga team attended the *Crisis Meets Culture—Culture Meets Scripture* workshop, as scheduled. At that course they were exposed to creative and insightful strategies to get the Butbut Kalinga Scriptures into people's hands and hearts in more culturally relevant ways.

Alfred writes: *“Attending the workshop was well worth the time and effort. Ten Butbut Kalinga speakers came. Most of them are members of the Scripture reviewers’ committee. It was a blessing to see them sacrifice a week out of their busy farming time just to attend the workshop. This showed that we now have their support of the translation work and that they’re eager to learn how they can bring Scripture impact to their own churches and people.”*

“Many of the participants were challenged to study more about the underlying beliefs in their rituals and practices and to see what the Scriptures have to say about them. It was also good that they were able to listen to other neighboring people groups who had the same struggles and how they were able to overcome them. As one of their action plans, the participants hope to hold a seminar/workshop on the topic and pass on what they’ve learned to the rest of their church members. Also, they want to look into how they can do more Bible studies that would help them deal with their cultural values.”

Vital Matters for Prayer

Alfred and Racquel ask for prayer: *“Pray for more concentrated time in our translation work, as we’re into some changes with our kids’ schooling by June (BJ is enrolling away from home in a one-year basic Bible course before college and Bethel and Boaz are back in a home school program).”*

- **Pray that Alfred and Racquel can stay for a lengthier period of time in the village setting and get reconnected again with the people.**
- **BJ, Alfred and Racquel's eldest son, will have his fourth eye operation for his retina this month. Pray for complete healing and that the silicon oil in his eye will be removed and not just replaced.**
- **Pray for good health for the mother-tongue translators, as they're often sick with colds and coughing.**

- **Pray for great discernment as the team seeks to make the Scriptures—which transcend culture—speak to the people in their unique cultural setting.**