



East Papua Storying Cluster*

Young and Old Spellbound by Scripture

The storytelling team for the Are language prepared Bible stories for children in a school, and then they were requested to tell the stories to adults in church. An altar call was given afterwards, which doesn't normally happen in this particular church. The team felt that God was with them and the stories had a lot of impact on the audience.

In another village, the Are team told Scripture stories in church, even though they were only invited by the Sunday school. In the class, the teachers noticed that the children were listening so intently that storyteller Amy was almost distracted when telling her Bible story. The children also participated in the discussion of the Bible story afterwards. The teachers commented that the children need to have this ministry of oral Bible storytelling so that they'll hear the gospel clearly and in a way that reaches their hearts.



The Are team

No Dillydallying between Workshops

During the six months between the March 2011 workshop and the September 2011 workshop, which was held on schedule, most of the storytellers told Bible stories in a variety of community programs. Many of them gave encouragement to the storytelling clubs in which they've been training others to tell the stories and helped these groups to grow. In these clubs the Bible storytellers can get good feedback and improve their craft and the groups can discuss the Bible stories and what these stories mean to them.

The eight language teams continue to craft and improve their Bible stories in their villages in preparation for the next workshop scheduled for March 2012. The tellers are finding more and



- Location: Papua New Guinea
- Number of Speakers: 40,160 from 8 language groups
- Year Project Began: 2010
- Expected Completion Date: 2012

- Pray that churches and other groups in the East Papua Cluster will be interested in listening to the crafted Bible stories in each of the eight languages (Are, Buhutu, Lausaha, Maiwala, Miniafia, Suau, Tawala and Ubir) and in supporting this work.

- Pray that the teams will continue to use every chance to tell the Bible stories between workshops.
- Pray for lively Bible storytelling clubs where others can learn to tell the stories.





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more opportunities to tell the stories in church services and small groups. They're seeing spiritual transformation within their extended families as they share the stories with relatives. Evangelists are noticing the power of Bible storytelling.

A Hive of Activity

At the September workshop, the storytellers crafted and checked five to eight stories about Moses. They also made further plans for using the stories in their communities. The next set of Moses stories is now being developed. Work on stories of Abraham and of Jesus' Passion is also ongoing, since these are major episodes in the biblical drama.

Just before the workshop, six story crafters participated in a three-day session to be equipped as facilitators. This prepared them to lead part of the training during the workshop and to lead devotions using the Bible stories.

A member of the Bible Translation Association was trained to do a high quality recording of the final stories at the workshop. Various types of recorders were tried out to see which ones were the most effective and easiest to use. A system was also designed for recording and storing the stories to be used at future workshops. Two stories were recorded for each language during the afternoon sessions of the second week.

One of the Suau storytellers passed away during the second week of the workshop. The group took time to grieve with the family. The teams completed the workshop and again, as in March, a number of the Bible stories made it through the entire checking process.

Ultimate Aims

The Bible Translation Association and East Papua Storytellers are committed to carrying on with story crafting and storytelling in each language group and expanding the strategy to other languages in Papua New Guinea. Helping people delve into the Bible and letting the message impact their lives are the teams' ultimate goals. This is done through local testing of the stories, training others in the work and building partnerships with local churches that provide the major network for telling Bible stories.

- **Pray for the teams as they prepare for the March 2012 workshop in their villages.**

- **Pray that God will empower the teams to serve Him in this vital work.**

- **Pray that the stories will touch lives and open people to a relationship with God.**

Six Steps of Translation

- 1. First Draft:** translators analyze what a passage says and produce a first draft.
- 2. Team Check:** translators check each verse for accuracy and clarity.
- 3. Community Testing:** translators share drafted Scripture with community members to test how well it communicates.
- 4. Back Translation:** translators translate the draft "back" into a major language for a non-native consultant.
- 5. Consultant Check:** a consultant checks the translation with the team to make sure expected standards are met.
- 6. Proofread:** translators rigorously proofread the final draft for errors before publication.

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