



Isles of the Sea Cluster

IG-NT-OT*

AUGUST 2011

“Now Do It for My Nukuria People!”

Tom, the junior advisor for the Nukuria Bible translation project, reports on his family’s recent visit to the language area: “We were warmly welcomed by the Christians and their extended families with a big feast. It was really a time of joy meeting church and village leaders, an experience I’ll never forget. The people were so kind and friendly and the supply of food for my family was unbelievable.

“I called a public meeting the next day at the local government office and talked to the people about the Bible translation. The support was overwhelming and they hope I’ll give the best training to their translators. Midway through the meeting, the village chief got up and walked over to me amid a hushed audience and wrapped a very colorful cloth around me saying, ‘Son, see to it that our Bible is completed before you leave our shores. You’ve done it for Takuu [on Mortlock Atoll in Papua New Guinea], now do it for my Nukuria people!’ I wept openly before the audience. I’ll never forget that request.”

- **Praise God for this village chief’s passion and enthusiasm for the Bible translation.**

In Full Swing

The **Carolinian** translation team has been putting finishing touches on the completed New Testament in their mother tongue. They’ll try to publish it by the time their advisor goes on a six-month furlough in October. Most recently they’ve second-drafted 1 Corinthians through Titus and third-drafted 1 and 2 Corinthians. The Gospels of Mark, Luke and John are in a trial publication.

The **Woleai** team has been concentrating lately on Mark in their language as they checked it for accuracy and clarity. That book along with John are in second draft and Matthew, Luke and Acts in first draft. The team plans to increase the number of members on the reviewers’ committee in an effort to maximize the quality of the Bible translation.

The **Satawai** team has been polishing off their team check of Mark and has begun translating the other Gospels. So far, they’ve drafted Matthew.

The consultant check of the Old Testament in the **Kapingamarangi** language is in full swing. The translators continue to process the consultant’s comments as these come across their desk. The revision of the New Testament is ongoing.

Consultant checking of most of the first five books of the Old Testament in the **Nukuoro** language has been done. The team will start working through the consultant’s comments soon. Meanwhile, the entire New Testament has been reviewed by the translation committee, except the last two chapters of Romans!



- **Location: Pacific Islands**
- **Number of Speakers: 34,150 in 12 languages**
- **Year Project Began: 2010**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2013**

Note: The Isles of the Sea has a wonderful website with more details about the translation projects, the teams, and many great maps. (www.isles-of-the-sea.org) On their home page you can also sign up to be informed when the website has new news to report about the projects. Please have a look at this superb resource.



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The new **Mwoakilloa** translation project has started up! Preparations to begin this exciting work are underway. The startup was approved by three local churches.

Project director Nico continues to monitor the progress that the **Nukuria** translators are making. Assessing the need for BGAN and laptop equipment for this project has been a priority as well. Work on two of the Gospels continues.

Translator Edmond is laboring in the crucial tasks of correcting and village testing the New Testament in **Nukumanu**, a Polynesian Outlier Cluster language in Papua New Guinea. As he finalizes these tasks for all the books, he'll proceed to do consistency checking. This is an advanced stage where the translation is nearly at the point of typesetting. This step includes such matters as ensuring that key biblical terms and parallel accounts in the four Gospels are rendered faithfully and consistently. Lately Edmond has worked on Matthew and John, which were recently consultant-checked.

The project leaders' communication with the **Tikopia** translation team hasn't happened yet. Nico still hopes to go to the Solomon Islands this year and try to get the work up and running again.

Typesetting of the New Testament in **Paicî** is now in progress, in answer to prayer. Next, it will be ready for printing.

- **Pray regarding a setback in typesetting the Paicî New Testament due to the death of the facilitator's father, who'd been ill.**

Work on the Children's Bible in the **Cemuhi** language was completed, so now the focus has shifted back to working on the New Testament. The translators are currently doing a second team-check of Acts and have come to chapter 17.

The four **Niuafu'ou** translators received training in how to use the Paratext 7.1 program, as planned. The four Gospels and Acts are now ready for publication.

Half of the Psalms has been translated in the **Pa'umotu** language, according to schedule.

The project leaders hope to visit the island where **Rapa'iti** is spoken in 2012. No activities are planned for the rest of 2011.

News is still forthcoming from the **Pingelap, Mokilese** and **Polowat** language communities as they're discussing among themselves whether or not to start a Bible translation. Nico's move to Guam in October may facilitate this discussion.

- **Praise God that the Mwoakilloa translation project is in the initial stage.**
- **Pray for Edmond as he's hampered by eye problems. This slows him down.**
- **Continue to pray that word will come from the Tikopian translation team.**

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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