



Majukayong New Testament

Standing for His Faith

Some years ago, a Majukayong man was killed and the two families involved were forced to move out of town to settle the matter and prevent more bloodshed.

While in Balangao at an elders' meeting last month, translator Ignacio met the victim's brother. His family had put him in charge of avenging his brother's death. But he told Ignacio:

"Thank you for ... translating His Word so that people can understand. I think this is our only hope of experiencing real peace in Majukayong, when we will truly understand what God is saying and accept his offer of salvation.

"When we left Majukayong ... I met a Balangao woman who believed in God because she read God's Word in Balangao. ... She led me to also believe in God. Some years after joining their church, the congregation decided to make me one of their elders. That is the reason why I am in this meeting.

"Now, pray for me so that when our Majukayong New Testament is finished, I will go back to Majukayong and teach it to the people. And pray hard so that even if my relatives will call me a coward, I will stand for my faith."

- **Pray that this Majukayong brother will have strength to steadfastly follow Jesus and be a witness to his family.**

Translation Office Finished and Dedicated

Workers have laid down their tools, as the translation office is now complete. Ignacio emceed a great dedication program on July 10, 2011. Such a large crowd came for the celebration that the space overflowed, with standing room only. The teams sang and the mayor spoke. Pastor Nardo's message from the translated book of Nehemiah compared the opposition and celebration of building Jerusalem's wall to the building of the translation office.

A representative from the Translators Association of the Philippines encouraged the Majukayong and Balangao translation teams to help the Mangali translation team and others of the Kalinga cluster group.

The dedication prayer called for all the teams to work together for God's glory — Balangao, Majukayong and beyond. This office building may well serve a much wider range of translation efforts than first dreamed.

Following the program, the celebration meal was served up: a cow, two pigs and 500 pounds of rice.



- **Location: Philippines**
- **Number of Speakers: 10,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2002**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

- **Praise God that the translation office is finished. Ask God to use it to multiply Bible translation work in the Philippines.**



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It takes the whole team to make such a project possible and that includes the prayer team. Many expressed thanks to you, their faithful prayer partners.

A Timely Message

The Majukayong and Mangali mother-tongue translators finished drafting 2 Corinthians during their joint sessions together. As they began the next step in the process, checking each other's drafts, the message took root. With great excitement, mother-tongue translators commented that this teaching must be taught to their churches. They've noticed that cults and false teachers are coming into the area and that many people cannot tell the difference between biblical and false teaching. Some think that all religious teachers are the same since they all teach about God from a book they call the Bible.

Checking Preparations

The Philippine Bible Society consultant was to be on hand for three days to check Galatians and Ephesians. Thinking ahead, Ignacio wondered what the team could do beforehand to speed up the consulting process. He decided to lead the team in one more review of these books, focusing on any areas that might need discussing with the consultant. They previously checked their drafts using the Revised Standard Version, New Revised Standard Version and the New International Version. This time, they checked them against the Today's English Version. Unfortunately, the consultant had a conflict and rescheduled the checking session for August.

Translation Goals

Due to the dedication of the translation office, the team postponed back translating⁴ 1 Corinthians. They'll work on that next, do further community testing on it, then head to Manila for the consultant checking session. Also, they'll set up their workspace in the translation office. From the new office, they plan to do Majukayong revisions, help the Mangali team and the Balangao translators. They'll also reach out to the inter-church fellowship — a key relationship, as these church leaders will promote both the Majukayong and Balangao New Testaments.

- **Pray that Majukayong will clearly understand God's Word and discern truth.**

- **Pray that the consulting session moves along quickly, with any difficult areas carefully addressed.**

- **Pray that the team will be able to finish back translating 1 Corinthians and do another round of successful community checking, getting good feedback.**

- **Pray that each team member continues to have good physical, mental and spiritual health.**

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.

MAJUKAYONG NT PROJECT UPDATE—2

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104
Arlington, Texas 76015

Toll Free: (877) 593-7333
www.theseedcompany.org

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