



New Ireland NT Cluster*

“Now My Eyes Are Opened”

Luai, the lead Nalik translator, went to a faraway village to test part of her Bible translation with the local people. One of the women listening was sick, feeling so bad that she was crying. When Luai visited her again the next day, the woman asked Luai to test more translated Scriptures. When Luai asked “Why?” the woman said, “Although we go to church, we don’t read the Bible in our worship.” She said she didn’t know anything about the Bible, but listening to the translation “now my eyes are opened.”

So Luai tested more translated Scriptures with this woman. Her church became involved, then another church joined in, and another! Luai had shared with this sick woman how sometimes God



Luai

allows suffering to bring us to Him. The woman later found out she has breast cancer. Because of this, Luai says she has a special burden for this woman to help her understand clearly what God says in His Word.

11th Course in Session!

The 11th four-week course of the New Ireland Translation Institute (NITI) is now underway. It’s being held from October 5 to November 1. The mother-tongue translators in the 15 participating language groups worked on their Bible translations in their villages in preparation for the course. Their advisors checked through some translations as well.

Three SIL translation consultants are on hand at the course to check 12 New Testament books in seven languages plus do a first check of some Psalms in an eighth language. In addition, they’re aiming to complete the check of the whole New Testament in Sokarek.

Prior to the course, three translators from the Fanamaketa team and one from the Feni team went to the main center of SIL at Ukarumpa on the mainland of Papua New Guinea for an intensive six-week introductory course in New Testament Greek. All four were consistently at the top of their class. It’s now being decided whether or not to send them back to Ukarumpa for a five-week Greek II course, especially since they all excelled in Greek I. But this also needs to be balanced with their translation progress.



- Location: Papua New Guinea
- Number of Speakers: 31,850 in 15 language groups
- Year Project Began: 2006
- Expected Completion Date: 2014

- Pray for this Nalik woman as she battles sickness. Pray that local churches will use the mother-tongue Scriptures. Praise God for the breakthrough that Luai has seen.
- Pray for good headway in checking translated Scriptures at the 11th course. Pray that each team will be able to complete their goals for this course.
- Pray that the two new Sokirik translators will learn how to use a special computer program for adapting their translation based on the existing Patpatar translation and that they’ll be able to draft the rest of the New Testament at the course.



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Three Inspirational Testimonies

Neiman, one of the three Fanamakēt translators, told how translating God's Word is bringing many changes in his own life. Early on while translating the parable of the tenants in Mark chapter 12, he became a preacher in his village. Encouraged because the first consultant checks of Fanamakēt Scripture portions passed with flying colors, he firmly believes that God is empowering the translators to do this work.

Wilson, one of the two Hinsaal translators, reported that when he was testing the translation of Mark with a woman from his village, she said that when she heard the words in her own language it was as if she felt "an anointing of God on His Word."

Notsi-Madak translator Penias became involved in the translation project when Joseph, one of the two translators, died over a year ago. He's thankful for the opportunity to join in the work. When he was recently testing the translation of Mark with people in his village, they had tears in their eyes and said it sounded so clear.

- **Praise God for these testimonies to the value of His Word in the heart languages.**
- **Pray for the Kandas team; their leader in the faith, Nio, died on September 1. His leadership, not only of the Kandas team but of all the teams, will be sorely missed.**

Learning To Read Against Odds

Translating the Bible into the various New Ireland Cluster languages is of little benefit if the people don't know how to read it! Notsi speaker Josephine tells how translator Paul shared with her from the mother-tongue Scriptures. But she didn't know how to read it herself. Wanting to learn, she actually came to the first literacy training held by NITI. Apparently she found learning to read her language fairly difficult, for she ran away from the second training opportunity. But she came again and reported that she's finally feeling like she's making progress in learning to read and write her own language.

- **Pray that speakers of the New Ireland Cluster languages will avail themselves of all opportunities to learn to read their languages and will persevere as Josephine has.**



Neiman with a fellow translator



Wilson



Penias (center) with three other translators



Nio (right) with fellow translator Tokiva

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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