



VITAL IG Cluster*

Flesh-and-Blood Examples

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel are replete with flesh-and-blood examples of what the Lord desires and doesn't desire for His man or woman who's serious about serving Him.

The prophetic ministry of Samuel occupies the first seven chapters of 1 Samuel. Israel's first king, Saul, from his election till his rejection is the subject of chapters 8-14. Then the sacred author devotes biographical fullness to the account of Saul's fall and David's election as king in 1 Samuel 15:1 to 2 Samuel 5:5, since this happened according to Samuel's prophetic word in 1 Samuel 15:28.

David's government in its strength and glory is described in 2 Samuel 5:6-8:18. The high point is the covenant God gave to him in chapter 7. Another biographically full section is chapters 9-20, in which David's reign is recounted in its decline, again according to the prophetic word (this time through Nathan after David's sins of adultery and murder). The close of David's reign is given in the last four chapters of 2 Samuel (21-24).

- **Pray that the colorful message of 1 and 2 Samuel with its many illustrations of how God deals with sin and rewards obedience will change people's lives.**

Spotlight on Judges and 1 and 2 Samuel

The latest Bible translation workshop (the 20th module) of the VITAL (Vernacular Initiative for Translation and Literacy) Cluster took place in October. It was represented by 11 language groups (Anuki, Are, Buhutu, Ghayavi, Iduna, Kakabai, Kanasi, Kaninuwa, Maiadomu, Taupota and Wedau) with 31 participants.

Each group translated selections from Judges and 1 and 2 Samuel (242 verses). They completed a first draft,¹ which was then checked² for naturalness, including a self-check and advisor check, in preparation for village testing.³

The Kanasi team wasn't able to complete the advisor check because their literacy person didn't make it to the course. The Kakabai team's literacy person also couldn't attend, but they were able to finish their checking with Kakabai speakers in the town of Alotau, where the workshops are held.

Working with "Fresh" Teams

The daily schedule was altered at the October workshop. Unlike earlier workshops, each team did advisor checks at the beginning of the 9:45 session. This allowed mentors to work with a "fresh" team rather than trying to complete advisor checks in the evenings when team members were tired from the day's work. To facilitate this change, exegetical sessions were moved to 3:00.

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- **Location: Papua New Guinea**
- **Number of Speakers: 50,000 in 15 language groups**
- **Year Project Began: 2009**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2014**

- **Praise God that the consultant check of Genesis was held for Iduna after the workshop.**
- **Pray for the lamelele team, who wasn't able to attend the workshop.**

- **Pray for the teams as they prepare for the next workshop set for February 2012.**





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The teams had from 9:45-12:30 and the time immediately following lunch (1:30-3:00) to complete advisor checking, self-checks and checking of literacy materials. The translation resource facility was open each evening from 6:00-8:30 to allow teams to complete their first drafts¹ of the passage covered in the afternoon exegetical sessions.

Language Detectives

The language discovery component at the workshop was on verb tense, aspect and mode. The strategy was twofold. To discover how one's own language works in preparation for translation, one must formulate hypotheses and then test these against one's data. The analogy they used was that of a "language detective" who figures out what seems to be happening in the language, verifies it and if necessary changes his or her theories.

Crucial to doing language discovery, each team was then asked to do a bit of linguistic probing — that is, to investigate stories and texts previously written down by mother-tongue speakers to determine whether or not their initial hypotheses about the nature of a particular set of verb forms actually reflected the structures they were exploring.

"Big Books"

During the literacy component of the workshop, all of the teams translated eight "Big Books" for easy use in front of literacy classrooms: "How People Lived in Bible Times," "Plants in the Bible," "Sheep," "Work in Bible Times," "Animals in the Bible," "Who Will Help Me?" "The Big Mouth Frog" and "How the Bird of Paradise Got His Plumes."

Some groups had already translated "The Big Mouth Frog" (Anuki, Buhutu, Ghayavi, Topura and Wedau), but two of these teams (Anuki and Buhutu) chose to redo the translation. A couple of teams also translated extra big "Big Books" — the Buhutu team drafted two and the Are team drafted three.

- **Pray that each team will make the most of their language discoveries to produce an idiomatic and dynamic Bible translation.**
- **Pray that these Big Books will be a hit in the classrooms and encourage reading.**
- **Praise God that a number of teams made progress on a study guide for Acts.**

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.

VITAL IG CLUSTER PROJECT UPDATE—2

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