



The

Storyboard

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How We Translate By Marsha Relyea

In the article Celebrate! below, we mention that David and Sharran Pryor arrived in PNG in 1977 to begin translating the Kire New Testament. In this article, How We Translate, Marsha Relyea outlines the long translation process that they had to go through in order to finish the task.

Accuracy and understandability are of extreme importance in translating the Word of God. There are *many* levels of checking through which PBT translators in PNG take each passage of scripture before it is ready for publication. This is a brief description.

✓ **Rough Draft.** This stage involves background research of the text we are translating—reading commentaries and translation helps and studying the original Greek, several English translations,

and the Melanesian Pidgin translation. We then discuss the meaning extensively with our co-translators (native speakers of the language who work with us on the translation as part of our team). We discuss key terms and any difficult translation problems in the passage. Afterwards the translation team works together to generate the initial draft. Then we read it aloud and make any obvious revisions. Finally we type it into the computer.

✓ **Exegetical Check.** We next go over every aspect of the draft to check for accuracy, faithfulness to the original meaning, omitted or added parts, good language style, logical connections, implied information, consistency with other biblical passages, smoothness, spelling, and punctuation.

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Celebrate! by Lori Witham

Praise the Lord! We can now shout to the world that Pioneer Bible Translators' very first completely translated New



David and Waisi working on the final read-through of the Kire New Testament

Testament is typeset and on its way to the printers. In 1977, David and Sharran Pryor were one of the first two PBT teams to arrive in PNG to begin translating the New Testament into the heart language of a PNG people group. (PBT is now in other countries as well.) In September of last year we cheered as the Pryors and the Kire co-translators finished the final checking of the Kire New Testament before typesetting began. That was put on pause, though, as the Pryors needed to return to the States early for health reasons. David made a special one-month trip back to PNG in April of this year to work with me on completing the typesetting.

As the final "camera-ready" copy of Revelation was printed out and I held it

up for David to see, his eyes lit up with great joy. Later I asked him, "When did you realize the Kire New Testament was finished?" He told me it was at that moment when he saw the book of Revelation printed out. Just imagine the great excitement all the Kire people will have in seeing the entire Kire New Testament held up in front of them! God willing, the Kire New Testament books will return from the printers by the end of this year. The Pryors hope to have the dedication ceremony by early 2002. Please pray that God watches over all the work involved in printing the books and all the preparations involved in the planned celebration.

Lori is involved in the last step of translation work, typesetting scripture books before they go to the printers.

Blessed to be a Blessing by Bonita Pryor



In less than a week most of the hardwood floor was nailed into place at the Owens' house.

When God called Abraham, He said to him, *"I will bless you . . . and you will be a blessing . . . and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"* (Gen. 12:2-3 NIV). When the mission team from the First Church of Christ in Burlington, Kentucky was here for two weeks—and even after they left—everyone kept saying, "They were such a blessing." Christians give and receive blessings all the time, but sometimes we are re-

mindful of them more by certain people God brings into our lives. That was the case with this special group of people. Just like Abraham, they were "blessed to be a blessing" to us.

The team travelled with Lori Witham as she returned from her furlough in the U.S. Lori works in our computer department doing desktop publishing, and the church at Burlington has supported her ministry since she came to serve here in Papua New Guinea. One of the first encounters we had with them was when they introduced themselves during PBT's Sunday night fellowship the day of their arrival in Madang. When Tommy Baker, their pastor of involvement, shared that night about the church's emphasis on missions, we knew that these folks were going to be a group of encouragers.



The Owen children were thrilled to show off the coffee beans grown at Uria.

The group first split up to go to two villages, one to work on the house of Todd and Angela Owen in Uria, and the other to speak and do some Bible dramas at the community school in Norm and Jill Weatherhead's village of Pasinkap.

Later, as three of the team worked on PBT's new workshop/apartment in Madang, the remaining four came to our village of Samban to share dramas and testimonies in our community school's religious instruction class and in our local church. In the few days they were here, they

had time to make strong impressions. It encouraged people to know that these Christians, though they live far from PNG, were praying for and concerned about them. The teachers and school children will remember how the team took polaroid pictures of each class group for the children to keep. The eagerness to see and sample all they could will never be forgotten by the village folks.

We were most impressed when Tommy shared how this and other teams have been formed for mission trips. Their church supports about 40 missionaries all over the world, and their goal is to visit each of these missionaries



*Arriving in PNG, top from left: Bud Smith, Myron Williams, Tommy Baker, Joe Rectenwald
Bottom from left: Etta Wilson, Kellie Willoughby, Jamie Blevins and Lori Witham.*

with a mission team. They have already done this for about 35 of these, Papua New Guinea being one of the last because of the distance. Often the trip will influence the team members to become involved in another type of ministry back home. It has different effects on different people, but the big thing is that it does make a difference. Just hearing about the ways that lives have been changed was an encouragement. Because of the blessing that this group from Kentucky was to our lives, we have been "blessed to be a blessing" as well.

John and Bonita Pryor, along with interns Caleb Christman and Rute Dias dos Santos, have been witnessing the blessing of great growth in Sunday school classes. They have been praying the prayer of Jabez found in 1 Chronicles 4:10 (NIV): "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory!" and God is granting their request.



Meet Lynn True *Lynn is our newest PBT member. Arriving in February of this year, she just completed the Pacific Orientation Course, and is ready to begin working as a literacy specialist. Lynn will be teaming up with William and Robin Butler as they translate for the Banaro language group. Robin and Lynn have something in common - they are sisters!*

Give Thanks for Your Bible

by Mark Shreve

Have you ever considered how the Bible came to be written in our heart language? When was it first translated into English? Who were the translators and what did it cost them?

Although portions of the Bible had been translated into English since the early stages of the language, the entire Bible was first made available in English during the Protestant Reformation period. Bible translators of this era wholeheartedly believed that every man, woman, and child should have access to the Holy Scriptures in the language of their heart, their indigenous tongue. Considered heretical by the Roman Catholic Church, many of these translators were martyred for their bold faith in action.

John Wycliffe (1320-1384), an Oxford professor, was one of the great theologians of his time. Though facing opposition from the church, Wycliffe translated the New Testament from Jerome's Latin Vulgate Bible into Middle English, the language of the commoner. The church insisted that common people could not understand the Scriptures without a priest to explain it to them and so discouraged a common language Bible. But from the lecture hall and pulpit, Wycliffe denounced papal authority, ecclesiastical law, and church tradition in support of the Scriptures alone as the ultimate standard by which all other teachings must be tested. In 1377 Pope Gregory XI demanded his imprisonment.

Wycliffe completed the first New Testament in English by 1380 and the entire Bible by 1382, making every copy by hand. Although the church had forbidden use of the Bible by laymen, he believed that the church could only be reformed if commoners had the Bible in their own language. Wycliffe died a natural death in 1384. Forty-three years later his remains were exhumed and burned by the church.

William Tyndale (1494-1536) was a distinguished scholar at both Oxford and Cambridge. Catholic leaders in Tyndale's day were also against an English Bible. Advocating the continued use of Latin Scriptures and reliance

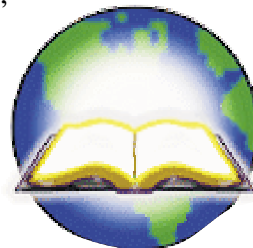
on priests' interpretation, they sought to keep the Bible from the commoner. Yet Tyndale's dream was for the plowboy to know the Scriptures even more than "learned" men.

Wycliffe had translated from a Latin version, thus producing a translation of a translation. But Tyndale translated from the original Hebrew and Greek to ensure accuracy. Using the Gutenberg press, his 1525 New Testament became the first English Scriptures to be mass printed. Until recently almost every English New Testament was basically a revision of Tyndale's. About 95 percent of his choice of words passed into the King James Version. Due to his pioneering work and lasting impact, Tyndale is known as the Father of the English Bible.

In 1536, Tyndale was martyred by strangulation and then burned at the stake. In his final words Tyndale prayed, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes." In less than a hundred years, his prayer would be dramatically answered with the publication of a Bible reportedly authorized by King James I. Within three years of Tyndale's death every parish church in England was required to make a copy of the English Bible available to all its parishioners!

Wycliffe, Tyndale, and other bold Christian leaders made critical contributions to the Reformation Movement through the ministry of Bible translation. In spite of intense persecution, these faithful men provided intelligible access to God's Word through the common language. For centuries some have attempted to hinder God's plan to reach all peoples with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Every time their plans are confounded and eventually fail. The Will of God prevails. His Word stands eternal, for in it He proclaims, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" — Mark 13:31 (NIV).

Mark and Diane Shreve have begun language and culture learning among the Abu people group in preparation for translation and literacy ministry.



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Bringing the Word to Life

Video evangelism. Scripture teaching. Translator recruiting. Does such a versatile tool exist? It does, and we at PBT-PNG would be thrilled to put it to use. Outreach International has developed a portable projection system specifically designed to show the *JESUS* film and other Christian

videos to unreached people groups in remote areas. Known as the Jesus Evangelism Tool, or JET Pack, the system is composed of a 60 lb. suitcase and a 30 lb. generator. "The airtight, waterproof case is a must when facing dusty roads or monsoon rains! It has traveled by outrigger canoe, been strapped to a horse, and dragged behind a water buffalo to reach remote villages!" Doesn't this sound ideal for the rugged climate and terrain of PNG? The case includes everything required for video presentation in PNG villages: a camcorder, video projector, sound system, portable generator and the *JESUS* film in Melanesian Pidgin. Outreach International donates the labor to assemble the system and then provides it to qualified ministries at their cost of \$5,500.

Reaching out with video

by Mark Shreve

In addition to the *JESUS* film, the JET Pack would enable us to show the *Kam, Yumi Pul* video (see the Spring 2001 *Storyboard* article) to people in many remote villages who otherwise would not have an opportunity to see it. Making a powerful contribution to *Vision 2025* (the goal to see Bible translation in progress in every language group that needs it by the year 2025), this system will be in frequent use and will help equip us to do our part in reaching the Bibleless peoples of PNG.

Is there a part you can play in this project? Yes, there is. If you would like to contribute financially toward the purchase of one mobile video system, please send your tax-deductible gift to *Pioneer Bible Translators* (with a separate note indicating that it is for the *PNG Video Fund*) at

7500 W. Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75236.

How We Translate ...continued from page 1

- ✓ **Village Check.** Here we read the passage *out loud* to two or three groups of villagers who speak the vernacular language who were *not* involved in the translation (called "naive" speakers). They tell it back to us in their own words. We ask them questions to find out whether the passage is communicating accurately. If the average speaker does not understand it clearly, we know that we need to work on it some more, and it goes back to the translation table. But if it communicates well, we are on the right track.
- ✓ **Peer Check.** At this point another PBT translator comes in and checks the translation. (While this other translator checks *our* work, we also check *his* work. Thus we help each other to complete this stage.) To prepare for the peer check, we must first translate the whole passage back into English (called a "back translation"). The peer checker checks everything thoroughly, comparing our vernacular-to-English back translation to the original Greek and to many versions of English, as well as the commentaries. After discussion we make revisions, and then comprehension checks with "naive" speakers, on anything that we change.
- ✓ **Consultant Check.** An outside translation consultant does a final, very thorough check.

He always works with our vernacular-to-English back translation. He checks everything over with a group of "naive" speakers. They listen to the translation and he asks them questions to discern accuracy and naturalness. He is the one who recommends the final version for publication, as soon as he believes it is ready.

- ✓ **Publication.** This stage involves typing in all final revisions, footnotes, picture captions, glossary, study helps, and maps. We check for things like spelling consistency and correct punctuation. It also involves choosing pictures, cover style, and printing options. Our PBT computer staff assists us by doing the computer layout and typesetting. Then we have it printed. AND WE CELEBRATE!

We hope you can now better understand what goes into each stage of the translation process. Translation is *very intense work*. We deeply appreciate your prayers at each stage. And we invite you to celebrate with us as we make progress on our translations, in answer to your prayers.

John and Marsha Relyea recently completed 100% of the Aruamu New Testament in draft form or better! Currently 19 of the 27 New Testament books are entirely through the translation process. Several of these books are being published before the Relyeas return to the States for furlough.

✓ **Rough Draft**

✓ **Exegetical Check**

✓ **Village Check**

✓ **Peer Check**

✓ **Consultant Check**

✓ **Publication**