



Winter  
2008

The

# Storyboard

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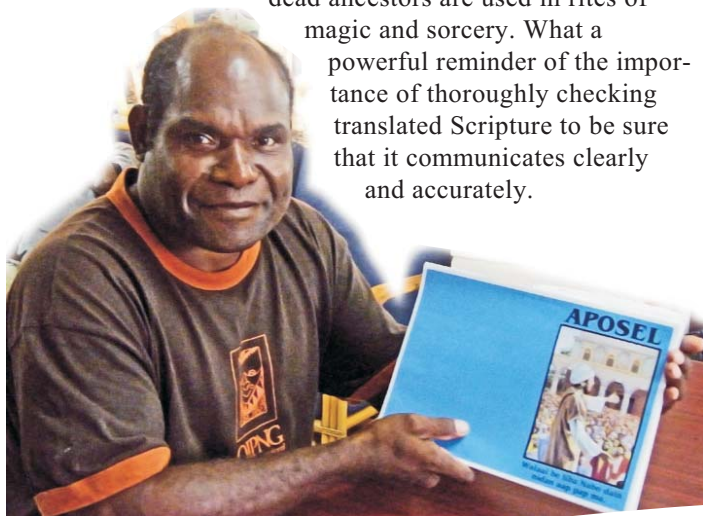
## One Busy Week

“By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.” (Hebrews 11:22, NIV).

Writing to people of Hebrew origin who were very familiar with the history recorded in the Old Testament, the writer of Hebrews knew he didn’t need to say more. His audience would know exactly what instructions Joseph had given concerning his bones (Genesis 50:24-25).

“But what about Papua New Guineans in 2008?” the consultant wondered. So he asked the men with whom he was checking the translation of Hebrews into their language, “What instructions do you think Joseph gave them?” After discussing briefly among themselves, the men replied, “We think he told them how they could use his bones for sorcery.”

Not exactly! How did they reach that conclusion? Not knowing the Old Testament background, they filled in the “missing” information from their culture, where the bones of dead ancestors are used in rites of magic and sorcery. What a powerful reminder of the importance of thoroughly checking translated Scripture to be sure that it communicates clearly and accurately.



Maso Leko has reason to smile as he holds the final printout of Ap Ma Acts in his hands! Typesetting Acts was only one of many accomplishments during our busy week

**William and Robin Butler** serve the Waran people of Papua New Guinea. They desire to complete the Waran New Testament within the next two years. During our branch’s “busy week” they moved closer to reaching that goal as Titus and the three epistles of John were checked by a translation consultant – someone specially trained to discover “oopsies” like the misunderstanding about Joseph’s bones.

In Titus 2:7b-8a, Paul tells Titus, “In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech.” *Soundness of speech* refers to speaking a message that is accurate.

The Waran team intended to translate with this meaning: “You must teach them the talk that is straight/correct with the Gospel,” meaning that the “talk” is accurate when compared with the Gospel. However, the translation actually said, “You must teach them both the talk that is straight and Christ’s Gospel.”

When questioned by the consultant, the men assisting with the checking indicated their conclusion that there were actually two things Titus was supposed to teach: the talk that is true and the Gospel. That made it seem like the Gospel was not true talk! The translator had misunderstood “with” as accompaniment (the talk that is true *along with* the Gospel) and had very accurately – yet very inaccurately! – translated what he thought the meaning was.

By God’s grace 10% of the Waran New Testament has been consultant checked this year and momentum is building toward finishing on schedule. *Pray that God will protect William, Robin, and each member of the Waran team as they push toward their goal. Pray that God will continue working in the hearts of the Waran people through the Scriptures they already have, transforming lives and deepening their hunger for more.*

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Checking Titus and the epistles of John in the Waran language

While William, visiting translation consultant **Norm Weatherhead**, and the Waran team crowded into the one-room flat where William was staying, typesetter **Lori Witham** huddled in her little corner of the office. For nearly a month she had been putting in long hours checking the final copy of the book of Acts in the Ap Ma language and struggling to make a new suite of typesetting software tools do the work that she knew it was designed to do. For the past week she had worked side-by-side with Ap Ma translator **Maso Leko** to be sure that the printed copy was right: no text inadvertently deleted, no missing commas, periods, or quotation marks, all footnotes correctly placed, pictures and maps well located, overall spacing “just right” for maximum readability. At one point Lori even changed some settings, then generated a whole new copy. Maso pored over it in search of even the tiniest error or omission that would need to be corrected. By the end of our busy week, the final copy had been printed and Maso had given it his last “okay” before leaving town to return to his home in Samban village. *As you give thanks for Lori’s capable work typesetting Ap Ma Acts, ask God to guide her through the next step of preparing the master copy of the book to be sent to the print shop.*

Elsewhere in our office, in a small room ordinarily designated as a play area for children, **Mike Herchenroeder** and **Augustine Angani** pored over another translation of Acts, this one in the Akukem language. They were checking to see if key terms such as *worship*, *Gentile*, and *high priest* had been consistently translated. The consultant check had already been completed. Checking the key terms was the last step before beginning the typesetting process. The Akukem have never had an expatriate Bible translator living among them and working full-time with them. Rather, they have a draft of the New Testament generated from the text in Aruamu, a

### One Busy Week: The Highlights

- ✓ Typesetting of Ap Ma Acts
- ✓ Consultant check of Waran Titus and epistles of John
- ✓ Key terms check of Akukem Acts
- ✓ Translation of literacy curriculum
- ✓ Assistance with Aruamu Esther
- ✓ Preparation for consultant check of Mbore Titus and epistles of John
- ✓ Translation of Tay Mark

related language, and several PBT missionaries have worked with the Akukem people to check and correct the text. *As you thank God that the Akukem people, who already have the Gospel of Mark in their language, will soon also have Acts, please pray that God will mobilize the Akukem churches to stand behind the current Akukem translation team and that He will raise up additional men and women to join the team. Pray, too, that PBT’s experiences in working with the Akukem will prepare us*

*to make effective use of computer capability to help meet the needs in other languages closely related to those in which we already work.*

During the week Mike and Augustine were joined by **Steven Dazim**, a mother-tongue translator who is taking leadership in translating the Old Testament into Aruamu. Steven wanted to enter handwritten corrections for the book of Esther into his computer. Mike gave him the help he needed, and Steven left town a few days later a little more equipped and a little more encouraged to continue the work he is doing. *As you thank God for Steven Dazim and the other Aruamu translators, ask God to encourage and enable them as they work with no regular contact with expatriate missionaries.*

During this week three other men were hard at work at the only space available to them – a table in one end of the reception area of our office. Nend-speaking **Justin Bane** and Waran-speaking **Max Kamgru** and **Kevin Mong** are literacy facilitators in their respective language groups. Last summer when they attended PBT’s literacy teacher in-service course, they noted that many teachers struggle to use the curriculum for teaching young children how to read and write in their own language. The reason they struggle is that the curriculum was written in English rather than Melanesian Pidgin. “Many more teachers could use these lessons if they were translated,” the men observed, “and we are willing to do that.” **Eunice Herchenroeder** agreed to facilitate their work. They arrived in town in October and worked hard for almost a month. By the end of this busy week they had translated all four terms of the

**Editor’s** **Notes**  
*It’s pretty quiet around the office right now — quite a change from last week when every available work space was in use and we still didn’t have room enough for everyone! How grateful we are for the additional office space that God has provided! This Storyboard is a little different. We wanted to give you a feel for the many facets of ministry in which we engaged during the*

*week of November 2. Though we’ve devoted most of the space in this issue to telling you about it, we still have not been able to relate everything that made it so significant. We praise God for busy weeks . . . because the things that make us “busy” will ultimately enable more Papua New Guineans to encounter Christ through His Word in their mother tongue.*  
— Eunice



Translating village literacy materials so they can be more widely used

curriculum and had proofread and corrected the first two terms. And visitor **Jill Weatherhead** had completed the massive job of typing the men's hand-written copy so it could be printed and corrected. (She did most of her work at her dining room table because we had no work space to offer her in our already full office!) *As you thank God that these men saw a need and took the initiative to meet it in ways that will potentially impact literacy in countless other language groups, ask God to provide for these men and their families as they receive little tangible support from the communities they serve.*

During this busy week **Jan Messersmith** worked hard to tie up loose ends related to our branch's new internet service. For quite some time our e-mail and access to the internet have been severely limited as demand far outpaced our service provider's capacity. *We praise God for providing the opportunity to switch to a satellite system, and we thank Him for all the people He sent our way to assist Jan in doing all that was needed to complete the switch.*

And that wasn't all that Jan was doing this week. Besides addressing several IT issues that surfaced, he was also overseeing the final stages of work on our office extension. After crowding and improvising work space during our busy week (since the construction rendered our existing conference room unusable), *we are deeply grateful to God that our office extension is now nearly complete.*

**Eunice Messersmith** is always busy, and this week was no exception. In addition to her regular responsibilities in logistics, finance, and overseeing every aspect of our branch's support services, she was deeply involved in two major fund-raising events for Country Women's Association, an organization that supports projects designed to improve the health, education, and overall welfare of women and children in Madang Province. *As you thank God for Eunice's ministry with PBT and in the Madang community, ask Him to raise up men and women to fill critical needs in technical services, IT, and general support services.*

With all this going on we probably don't have to tell you that our director **Kyle Harris** was also busy. Besides all his day-to-day responsibilities and the interactions he had with the steady stream of people in our

## Office Extension . . . a.k.a. Elbow Room by Kyle Harris

This really is an exciting time here in Madang. You've read about all that was accomplished during our busy week and about the many people, both missionaries and national co-workers, who filled our office to overflowing.

Having several groups in Madang at the same time working on a wide variety of tasks is becoming more and more the norm for us. For that reason, earlier this year we undertook the construction of an extension



to our office facilities. It was a bit of a leap of faith for us, in that at the start of construction we were still around \$30,000 short of the projected cost. But God is faithful and He supplied what was needed through the generosity of His people.

We broke ground the first of September. The rapid progress was exciting to watch. The work crew quickly had a slab poured and the walls and roof on. The finishing work took awhile but as I write this in early November we are within about a week of being able to occupy the new building.

And what a blessing it is going to be. The ground floor will be the new home of our publications department. It will house

office, he was also in regular contact with various stateside people as the PBT Board of Directors prepared to meet late in the week. And any time we have this many people coming and going, **Kathy Harris** is one busy woman as she oversees housing for both expats and nationals and takes care of food distribution to nationals who are in town to work (like Maso, Steven, and all the others mentioned above). *As you thank God for Kyle and Kathy's selfless service to PBT and the peoples of PNG, ask Him to continue providing all that they need for living and ministering here. Pray, too, that*

our new color printer and will have plenty of space for the work of publishing translation and literacy materials. The top floor is



a multi-purpose area. It will contain work space for national translators and literacy specialists and can be used as a meeting room for translation checking sessions and workshops. We will now have suitable space for multiple checking sessions and other events to be going on simultaneously.

With this project nearly complete, we turn our attention to raising funds for housing for our national translators and literacy workers to use when they are in town. It is great that they now have a



Pouring the slab, working on the second floor, and the completed multi-purpose room – only a few of the step-by-step pictures you can view at [www.pioneerbible.org.pg](http://www.pioneerbible.org.pg).

place to work. It will be wonderful when we can also provide a suitable place to live while they work.

**Kyle Harris serves as branch director and as translation facilitator for the Marang language.**

*he will enable them to devote time to facilitating translation and literacy.*

While all this was happening, **Erastus Otairobo** was quietly but busily at work in his little corner of our office preparing to consultant check Titus and John's epistles in the Mbore language. He was also working on the translation of the New Testament into Baegu, his mother tongue. *Pray that God will enable Erastus to fulfill well both his ministries both with PBT and to his own people in the Solomon Islands.*

(continued on page 4)

## Take Time to Pray

Prayer is vital to every aspect of our lives and ministries. That's why we've woven opportunities for you to pray throughout this *Storyboard*. Here are a few other requests that we'd like you to lift up on our behalf. Please join us in praying:

- That God will raise up missionaries and mother-tongue translators to finish the task of Bible translation here in Papua New Guinea.
- For God's protection of every member of our PBT team and of our ministry resources here in the face of an upswing in crime.
- For continued provision of financial resources for our group and for individual teams despite the current economic downturn.
- For God's protection and provision for every mother-tongue Bible translator and literacy worker in each language in which PBT serves.
- For God's provision of the funds needed (about \$4,000) to furnish our new space.
- For God's provision so we can build suitable housing in 2009 for national co-workers when they come to Madang for checking sessions, training, and other work.

*We invite you to join our branch prayer team. To receive weekly updates of praises and prayer requests via e-mail, please write to [prayer@pioneerbible.org.pg](mailto:prayer@pioneerbible.org.pg).*

## One Busy Week ... continued from page 3

All this activity kept other members of our team busy, too. **Lois Bayyom-Nai**, our bookkeeper, juggled her regular work load with all the extra requests that came her way. **Kathy Wesley**, our receptionist, graciously helped manage the flow of traffic while responding to myriad questions and requests. **Agusta Ban** and **Agusta Lekari** kept our office sparkling clean despite all the traffic, and **Andrew Lekari**, **Gosel Gemo**, and **Ruben Kabul** saw to our technical services needs. *Thank God for these co-workers who help us do our jobs each day and who enable us to be good stewards of our resources.*

We're running out of space without having told you about **Steve and Rhonda Hayward**'s busy week at Ukarumpa in the PNG highlands, which started with celebrating that their daughter **Carissa**'s high school basketball team won first place at a



*Steve Hayward and Tay co-translator Yuwolim and Alfias translated part of Mark during our busy week.*

weekend tournament and continued with the arrival of Tay co-workers **Yuwolim** and **Alfias** to work with Steve on translating the Gospel of Mark. Or about **Laura Roberts**, who spent the first part of the week with suitcase packed because it looked like she might need to accompany her roommate on a medical evacuation out of the country. Or **Jenny Hudson**, who may have had the most "normal" week of all of us – and "normal" for Jenny is teaching a room full of fifth graders, mostly boys, at Ukarumpa International School (where Laura also serves, teaching English as a Second Language). *As you thank God for Laura and Jenny's ministry as teachers, ask God to continue to multiply their impact on Bible translation throughout PNG as they teach the children of missionaries and nationals. And as you thank God for Steve and Rhonda Hayward's translation, literacy, and Scripture in Use ministry among the Tay people, ask God to enable them to make rapid progress toward finishing the New Testament during this current term.*

Nor have we told you about new arrivals **Derek and Sally Varejcka** who, with their four children, are busily becoming oriented to Papua New Guinea. *As you thank God for this new family He has sent, ask for His protection on them as they acclimate and His wisdom as they*

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for more information about these  
and other personnel needs.

*seek to know His desires regarding which people group they should serve. Or about team members currently in the US: **Martha Wade, Chris and Lori Urton, and Ellen Rohrer.** As you thank God for this opportunity to take a break from their ministries here (Martha among the Apal people, Chris and Lori among the Sob, and Ellen in our publications department in Madang), ask Him to grant seasons of refreshing and to use them to recruit additional co-workers and prayer and financial partners to join our team.*

A busy week indeed! Not typical, because every week is unique. But not atypical either, because every week is devoted to doing those tasks that God puts before us as we strive to fulfill our ministries here, each doing our parts so that the people of Papua New Guinea can have access to the transforming Word of God in their own language.

**William Butler**, who provided the material used for the first page of this article, is a Bible translator serving the Waran people. **Eunice Herchenroeder**, who provided the balance of this article, serves our branch as a missionary care facilitator.