

# Port Moresby Bible Translation Centre—Provides Strategic Rallying Point

Report for Project Funding by David Gela, Executive Director

September 2008

## PNG Bible Translation Association

### The Centre Provides Opportunities for Sharing in Ministry

#### Special points of interest:

- Centre provides many opportunities for sharing in ministry
- Centre built in 1991
- Built and maintained by volunteers
- Volunteers include Duloids, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship visitors
- More volunteers needed.

The center in Port Moresby built by Wycliffe Associates of USA in 1991 has been the rallying point for the Church and the Bible translation movement in PNG. The centre provides many opportunities for sharing ministry for many people—both citizens of PNG and visitors from all around the world.

The centre was built to provide facilities for BTA and SIL to serve both organizations in networking and relating to the many church groups, government agencies and NGOs in the City of Port Moresby.

Since its establishment, and its heavy use, the facilities are in need of repair, maintenance and renovations. BTA has the title deed to the centre and is responsible for its upkeep and further develop-

ment.

Early this year Wycliffe USA graciously responded to



Main gate gets a face-lift with a colorful mural painted by the Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship volunteers

the need for funding to carry out some of the maintenance and renovation work.

The project to begin renovations began in April with volunteers helping to cut down costs of labour. The first group of volunteers were from the OM Ship *MV Doulos*. The ship was in

Port Moresby for three weeks serving the churches. The young people did some painting and scrubbing. The Wycliffe Associates (USA) PNG manager organized for one of the local carpenters

from Ukarumpa to begin renovation of one of the flats. Then in July a group from Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, TX, USA, did more painting and various jobs.

This project will continue into 2009. Many aspects of the project remain unfinished and will be carried out with further volunteer help in the months ahead.



Top and bottom: Members of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship team repaint walls to BTA offices

### Serving the Bible Translation Movement in PNG

The centre provides facilities for BTA and SIL staff to serve the Bible translation ministry in PNG.

Currently BTA has four staff members working out of the centre. The functions this staff are responsible for include church mobilization and partnership development, finance accounting, language pro-

gram coordination, literacy training and promotions.

BTA also handles visas and work permits for those wishing to work with BTA, and providing essential link to the local churches.

SIL staff on the other hand provides the vital services of taking care of expatriate missionary work permits

and visas, meeting international guests and workers, as well as providing transit accommodation to their members and co-workers.

BTA staff entertains many visitors, both locals and international traveling through Moresby at this centre.

**A meeting and training venue place**

The main meeting hall can seat up to 150 people, with facilities for catering and amenities.

This hall is heavily used for meetings and training courses. The administration building has 13 office rooms. BTA and SIL staff use this hall and other rooms for meeting and work. Six rooms are rented out to other Christian organizations. The rentals help towards the upkeep of the facilities.

Many church groups use the centre for their meetings.



Duloid volunteers with BTA staff



This is what the centre is for—providing the scriptures for Papua New Guinea. Tim Lithgow and David Gela showing copies of the Auhe-lawa New Testament .

International guests connected with the Bible translation ministry transit through the centre throughout the year.



Freddy Boswell, SIL International Executive Director, meeting with BTA Board at the centre in July

Opportunities exist for more volunteers to help out.

**Opportunities exist for more volunteers to help . . .**

This renovation project has several components yet to be completed. The funding has been made available for this renovation and maintenance to be carried out.

Many different kinds of skills are required to continue the work. Skills range from carpentry, cabinet/joinery making, electrical, plumbing, tile and brick laying, sewing, landscaping, etc.

Wycliffe Associates, USA, is supervising this project. Volunteers can contact their PNG

program manager or direct their inquiry to the BTA office in Port Moresby.

**Maintenance Listing**

- Renovation of two flats for staff housing
- Repair and remodeling of bathrooms/showers in three staff homes
- Relocating steps to one staff home
- Remodel of hall and catering facilities

- Rebuild toilet facilities for office and hall;
- Plumbing repair and re-direction
- Drainage & easement access
- Construction of modular work stations
- Renovation of reception and offices to cater for additional staff...AND MUCH MORE.

**Contacts:**



Simon Savaiko, Literacy trainer and coordinator maintains regular contact with language teams by two-way radio

**BTA Moresby Office**  
 PO Box 350  
 Waigani, NCD 131  
 Papua New Guinea  
 Phone: +675 325 1132  
 +675 325 4956  
 E-Mail:  
[Director\\_pngbta@wycliffe.org](mailto:Director_pngbta@wycliffe.org)

**Wycliffe Associates USA**  
 PNG Program Manager  
 E-Mail: [wa-progmgr@sil.org.pg](mailto:wa-progmgr@sil.org.pg)