

Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Translators' Training Course

April 29-June 3, 2009

Ukarumpa, Eastern Highlands Province

Report by Victor Opungu, interim TTC Principal

Purpose

To equip men and women with Translation skills, language discovery skills, study skills and to gain Bible background knowledge in order to translate God's Word into their own languages.

For this reason TTC 09 started, April 29 and ended June 03. This TTC had three classes going on at the same time: TTC 1, TTC 2 and TTC 3.



TTC 2009 class



TTC 1 staff & mentors



kitchen staff

The components offered in each class and staff responsible were as follows:

In TTC 1:

1. Translation - Nafian Saremo and Ken Andi
2. Language Discovery - Susan Frey and Terry Borchard
3. Bible Background - Peter Toy
4. Study Skills - Kara Willems

In TTC 2:

1. Translation - Bonnie Moeckel and Phil King
2. Language Discovery - Pip Duley and Phil King
3. Bible Background - Aaron Willems
4. Introduction to Hebrew - Bonnie Moeckel, Phil King and Anne Henderson



TTC 2 Class with staff & mentors



TTC 2 staff & mentors

In TTC 3:

1. Translation - Mark Hepner, Elly Van Bodergraven, and Sakias Bafimi Darasi
2. Language Discovery - Mark Hepner and team as mentioned above
3. Introduction to Greek - Jim Henderson and Barry Moeckel



TTC 3 class with staff & mentors



TTC 3 staff

Class	Province	Language Group	No of Participants	Mentor(s)
TTC 1	Central	Rigo Cluster 1. Sinaugoro 2. Taboro 3. Boku	7	Kidu Magi with the help of Terry & Janet Borchard.
	Madang	1. Wagi	3	Jeong, Bo Young
		2. Awad-Bing	5	Katimus
3. Domung		4	Noel Diru	
4. Madi		4	Roman Saremo	
5. Nankina		4	Barbara Hodgkinson & Hubert Asengarak	
Morobe	Angaatiha	5	Ainde Wainzo	
TTC 2	SHP	West Kewa	2	Aaron Willems
	Madang	Sam	5	David & Sarah Troolin
TTC 3	EHP	Kamano-Kafe	5	Rich & Joyce Mattocks
	Madang	Maia	2	Linda Weisenburger

Funding

TTC is funded by BTA and SIL PNG and PBT. In addition to this, the SIL community raised quite a big amount of money from the Sunday offerings and that covered part of the expenses. The independent teams were also funded by the Mother Tongue Translators' Fund. It is also a practice that participants are encouraged to bring with them K200 community support money. Most of them did that, which is an encouragement to see Papua New Guineans realising the importance of Bible Translation in their own vernacular.

Aiyura Valley Community Participation

We were privileged to have the Aiyura Pastors come and share in the devotions from 29 April to 22 May. The remaining days were given to students and mentors to share. The pastors encouraged us all to stand firm and also to be transformed in order that others will see the change in us and do likewise. We in TTC would like to commend David Gudiri for engaging the Aiyura Valley pastors and scheduling them to come and share God's Word with us. Praise God for a wonderful and faithful servant such as him serving for the extension of God's Kingdom. In the end, the valley churches even contributed food such as kaukau, bananas and vegetables for the graduation which is a great blessing. We thank God for doing this during this TTC.

Abraham Meal



An Abraham meal was held on one Saturday, thanks to William Butler who was Abraham and his wife as Sarah. He set up his tent across the kitchen and welcomed his guests to a Hebrew meal. As a result all the participants had a taste of what our forefathers' food tasted like. They had unleavened bread, dates, olives, fig, grapes and other foods for the first time in their lives. They only read about them in the Bible but now they actually tasted them. On Friday, the afternoon before, the participants were shown how a lamb is slaughtered. They even saw how it is skinned. They don't see these kinds of things because they don't have sheep in the villages.

We really appreciate William for his willingness to do this even in his busyness and going into lengths in obtaining the food he served to make the meal authentic.

Sports & Entertainment

Most afternoons after classes and during weekends participants played volleyball. They were also asked to play soccer with the SIL community one weekend. Movies were shown on Friday nights. Some commented that they'd rather do their homework than watch videos or play sports.

Students' Feedback

Every year on the last two days the students are given opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions on how they thought the facilities were like and how the food was like and even how they thought the course helped them. This was also done this year and there were a lot of positive feedbacks. However, the ones from the coast complaint of the cold weather up here. Nevertheless, praise God that none of them came down with severe colds to keep them away from class. A few even commented on the food. My opinion is that there was enough food. Why do I say that? Because they had breakfast at 7:00, tea break at 10:00, lunch at 12:00, tea break at 15:00 and dinner at 18:00. I believe that is more than enough. Five meals a day is a lot. Maybe next time we should cut down on the tea breaks and have only one tea break. Forget about the 3:00 pm tea break. This is just my opinion.

Some also want the course to be longer. However, one experienced guy who thought five weeks was short also tried the seven weeks course and said that five is the perfect length of the course. It's not too long neither is it too short.

Some feedback from the final staff meeting minutes

What went well?

TTC 3

Good to have Mark back, and for all the work he did preparing the course book.

Friday a very special day for Mark - lights were going on in people's minds - after weeks of persevering with doubt. Repetition of the procedure again and again lead them to see the need to do the exegetical work *before* drafting.

Good to see people working together.

TTC 2

Pip: Good being in a small class.

Bonnie: Both teams valued the consultant checking, found it very helpful.

Anne: Because Phil had asked the consultants to treat it as a training time.

TTC 1

Bo Young: I enjoyed working with the gp. I had heard negative things from people, because it is run in English, but I found it was going well.

Nafian: V. good to have technical people around, and the inclusion of Scripture in Use as Badi did yesterday. Good eye-opener for them, and also kept them busy to the end of the course.

What needs to be improved?

TTC 1

Try to have continuity of staff members, and give them more training
Finish the lesson plans a month before and make a course book

TTC 2

Are we teaching a process, or helping them to translate those passages? If trying to teach a process, would need shorter passages. Take process from TTC1 and use it.

Didn't have mentors who could speak the receptor language, and translators didn't have enough English.
Need people who can help them with the English materials.
How to support people between courses?
Workshops between courses?
Staff need to work together more before the course.

TTC 3

Good to have passages pre-drafted, so the method can be applied more times in the time available, but have one passage (perhaps in Acts) that they have not drafted before.

Be more thorough in Language Discovery

Base the method on shorter passages, so the method can be done more often.

Some students requested a Greek course book and workbook.

Principal's Remarks

Although it was my first time to take on the role as interim principal, things went well because of God's help and with the help of all the people who were involved, especially my national colleagues Nafian Saremo, Ken Andi and Sakias D. Bafimi. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank God for the people who prayed so that this course was a success. And also adding to the list are the funders and our SIL community who also raised a big amount of money to support the work of Bible translation here in PNG. Praise be to God. My appreciation also goes to the Aiyura Valley Pastors' Fraternal who willingly gave their time to come and share in the morning devotions and in the end helped in providing kaukau and vegetables for the graduation mumu. Praise God for all involved.



TTC 2 Sam language group (Madang) re-enacting Exodus 15



TTC 2 West Kewa SHP



Little Hebrew kids

To God be the GlorHonour, Power and Praise, Amen

Victor Opungu

TTC Interim Principal 2009

