



IN OUR WORDS

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From the Director's Desk

To the BTA staff and field teams, I take this time to thank you all for your support and for helping me run BTA operation for the last 6 months. I acknowledge your families for the undivided and unpaid effort, time, skills and resources they have given to support you.



The last 6 months began with the historic 35th BTA Conference that brought the leadership transition to formalities. I began to have a feel of the leadership role. I visited the regions extensively to understand the state of the language programs and to fellowship with the field teams. It made me understand our programs better and feel closer to our colleagues. The result of this exercise was presented in a 2-day planning workshop and board meetings.

We can go into the future with some information and celebrate God's goodness for the achievements. The board has endorsed the 2016 budget and also Activity Calendar for the year. Consultants Maria Vega and Morris Johnson were instrumental in assisting us to develop the Language Program Management Strategy for the next 3 years. With this plan, we have identified our priorities where resources, skills and effort can be rationalized. We also have some data to share with our partners so they can be part of what God is doing in PNG. What we are encouraged to do now is to plan, trust in God and leave the results to Him. Like Mary in John 2:4-5 who said, "Do whatever he says," referring to Jesus when he turned water into wine.

I look forward to serving with you in 2016. I request that you help me to serve you well. Let's appreciate God's blessings and be good stewards of the resources he's blessed us with. Let's believe for local harvest of resources in PNG going forward. God is raising an army all over the world and PNG is no exception. If there is a time to serve God, it's now.

Together with my family we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2016. Take good care and we'll see you all in good shape and in high spirit in the New Year. ★

Tony Kotauga - Executive Director

BIG DREAMS, BIG IDEAS

By Ana Opungu

Director Tony Kotauga has made inroads into the heart of Bible translation work since his installation as the new CEO for the Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association (PNG BTA) on July 5, 2015. To start off, he created a five-man Management Team to give him a handle on translation, finance, recruitment, business development and strategic relations who went to work immediately.

In his leadership role, Tony attended meetings with like-minded leaders both in-country and overseas to



Tony Kotauga shares his big ideas to the SIL PNG leadership team in Ukarumpa in November.

continue sharing ways to work together. But personally, his biggest goal for the year was to take stock of what he has in hand. He has taken giant steps to know, feel, and understand the pulse of this organisation. He says, "This period is all about understanding what's been done, determining what the future is and working out the details of how to get there. I spent three months travelling, meeting and fellowshiping with the field leaders."

Barton Maino travelled with Tony to assist him in program planning. Barton sat down with the language program leaders to make a three-year plan; a small first step providing something to work on and improve. They did this in five regions (Morobe, Central, East Papua, Northern, and Highlands) and at six centres (Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Buka, Ukarumpa and Alotau).

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(Big Dreams ... continued from front page)

The seventh centre they visited was Manus in the NGI region where they only did program audit. Their initial findings in all their visits were:

- 17 New Testament published for the last 35 years.
- Out of the 52 active programs, 29 Submitted 3- year plans.
- There are 9 programs with high activity; 20 with medium activity, 23 with low activity and 4 that are dormant.
- There are 19 groups indicating interest in starting a translation program.

The initial data collected was used to develop the 2016-2018 Program Management Strategy to be incorporated into the BTA Corporate Plan. A Language Project team is set up to help the language programs increase activity and community involvement. With an effective monitoring and evaluation process, plans can be improved and the weak programs may learn from the strong teams.

Meanwhile, translation work accomplished in the last six months include:

- Consultant checking for Keapara (Luke and John), Nobnob (Leviticus), Manambu (John), Guhu-Samane (Isaiah 43-66) and Amam (Genesis 1-35, Ruth, Jonah).
- Urat in Sepik Province has just completed their typesetting, and dedication is planned for July 2016.
- Ono Bible Translation Program completed and opened their translation centre in July.
- Kalo raised K30,000 for reprint of their New Testament.
- Two *Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation* (MAST) workshops, facilitated by Wycliffe Associates (WA), translated the Open Bible Story into Tok Pisin and the Yaleba Cluster language. BTA translators who participated gave reports to WA. They have identified both positive and negative aspect of this approach, which will be discussed next year.

Eight-Year Vision

A strategic plan was laid out in November spanning the framework for BTA's operation for the next 3-8 years including but not limited to:

- Highlighting languages that are near having



Barton Maino coaching the Enga team during the program planning for Highlands teams in Ukarumpa.



Victor Opungu checking Isaiah in Guhu-Samane with Tom, Pastor Podza, and Tuna.



Praying for Josh Kitchen (Seed Company) and Matt Croslan (PILAT) after they shared at the staff meeting in Port Moresby.



BTA teams with WA Manager James Forkkio translating the Open Bible Stories into Tok Pisin using MAST.

both Old and New Testaments.

- Projection of the completion and publication of 8 New Testaments and 6 Old Testaments and 24 new language programs in operation by 2024.
- A nationwide and worldwide media campaign on translation awareness and Scripture in use initiatives.
- Inclusion of all Bible translation agencies.
- Adoption of language programs by churches; pilot community-run projects.
- Develop new centres in Lae, Bougainville (Arawa), Popondetta, Alotau and Manus.

As Tony tries to grasp what it will take to get to the finish line, here are some of his thoughts he shared to his senior staff in October during the annual staff meeting:

- * "We have implemented a no-report, no-stipend approach to try and get some updates; results have been great."
- * "In order to take a shorter time to translate the Bible, we need to move from a linguistics approach to missional approach. Linguistics is important and has its place. We have a mission to fulfil."
- * "The Church must be behind every language program. If the Church is not behind a translation program then there should be no translation program. The Church is the 'mama graun' for the translation work for the Bible will go back to the Church to be used by the Church."
- * "We need to work interdependently with our partners but we need to have our own system so that we can translate and print Bibles." ★

BTA's Mission:

Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Association exists to glorify God in PNG by working with the people to provide the Word of God in their heart languages so that they become disciples of Jesus Christ, living like Him.