

Taylor Tidings

Matt and Christy Taylor, Kaitlyn and Nathan

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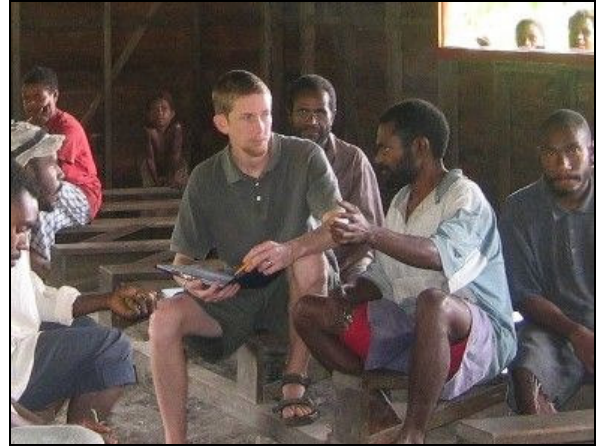
Partners in Bible translation in Papua New Guinea

The ABC's of Nukna

When a language has never been written before, like the Nukna language, one of the first steps in any Bible translation program is to develop an alphabet. In early November, we met with Nukna community and church leaders to do just that. Some alphabet decisions were made quickly and unanimously, while other thornier problems took much time and discussion. For those of you who were praying for us during this workshop, thank you – we know your prayers made a big difference!

Designing an alphabet is one thing; putting it into practice is quite another! Will the Nukna people be happy with it? Will it be easy for people to read? These questions are of vital importance, since, sadly, there have been cases in other language groups where the Bible is not read by the people simply because they have difficulty with the alphabet. The Nukna leaders have written a “Nukna Spelling Guide,” which includes an introduction to the new alphabet, examples, stories written with the new alphabet, and a small sample dictionary. We hope to publish it soon and distribute it around the language area, inviting people’s comments and suggestions for improvements to the alphabet.

The title of this section, “The ABC’s of Nukna,” is actually misleading; it should really read “The AÁB’s of Nukna.” The newly designed Nukna alphabet has no letter C, but does include the letter Á, which is Nukna’s sixth vowel.



Discussing alphabet issues

The Nukna Alphabet

(22 letters)

a á b d e f g h
i k l m n ng o
p r s t u w y

Cutting-Edge Computer Program Aids Work

As we continue to learn the Nukna language, we are blessed to have the use of a new computer program named FieldWorks. Though still a beta (pre-release) version while Wycliffe programmers continue to refine it, FieldWorks is a powerful organizational and analytical tool as we endeavor to understand the complicated grammar and sound system of the Nukna language. Below is the first line of a Nukna story, interlinearized (broken up) into its basic component parts.



Christy, Kaitlyn and Nathan at the Christmas Eve church service in Ukarumpa. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas celebrating our Savior’s birth!

Title	Eng	Pandanas Turns into Man				
	Nuk	Am yángyárunɡ				
Edit	Interlinearize	Info				
Word	no	binga	gáman	mindet		
Morphemes	no	binga	gáman	me	-inde	-t
Lex. Entries	no	binga	gáman	me ₁	-inde	-t ₁
Gloss	I	story	one	say	NF	IS
POS	Pronoun	Noun	Determiner	Verb	Verb:Tense	Verb:Subject
Word Gloss	I	story	one	I am about to say		
Word POS	Pro	N	Det	V		

Free: I am going to tell a story.

“Gágán me wawu nágán atguguyan gup, hang nágán gálu yamá.”

– Psalm 119:105 in Nukna

Bible Translation 101

During November, we also held an introductory translation workshop, teaching on the basic principles and methods of Bible translation. The men and women in attendance were from several different Nukna villages, and it was exciting for us to see that many of them are ready and eager to begin the Bible translation work. In the workshop, we covered topics such as the ABC’s of translation (there’s that ABC theme again!): A) Accurate – we must ensure that the Nukna translation is faithful to the meaning of the original Scriptures; B) Beautiful – the translation must sound sweet to the Nukna people, not fumbling and wooden; it must be written like a true Nukna speaker would write it; C) Clear – the meaning of the Bible must be presented clearly, not hidden in obscure terminology or archaic language.



Translating Psalm 119:105 into Nukna

After learning about the ABC’s of translation, we put it into practice, translating several short Bible verses to get some first-hand experience. The first verse chosen was Psalm 119:105: “Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path” (see the Nukna translation above). What a joyful and momentous time, to be part of the first Bible verse ever translated into the heart language of the Nukna people!

Several people indicated their desire to be part of the Bible translation team, some part-time and others full-time. Other men were selected to oversee the translation work as members of the Nukna Bible Translation Committee. How encouraged we were to see the Lord calling workmen from among the Nukna people, to bring His Word to the nearly 1,000 Nukna men, women and children!



Nukna workshop participants

Taylor’s Calendar...

A few of the things on our upcoming schedule:

January 24 – Kaitlyn starts 3-year old preschool

February 8-24 – Two Nukna men will travel to Ukarumpa to work with us, finalizing and printing the Nukna Spelling Guide, among other tasks

March 23 – Our family will return to Hamelengan village

Thank you for your partnership and prayers! You make it possible for us to be here, serving the Lord in the task of Bible translation.

In Christ,

Matt and Christy

Our contact info:

Matt and Christy Taylor
SIL, Box 288
Ukarumpa EHP 444
Papua New Guinea

E-mails: taylormissions.com
m-c.taylor@sil.org.pg
Website: www.taylormissions.com



Contact Wycliffe:

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

www.wycliffe.org