



Wycliffe
Bible Translators

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Thanks to Rick Fairy

Kangaroo Ground
Work Team

**Good News
in Anyone's
Language**

Associate Action

Go MAD in the Solomon Islands

On 28 April this year, a team of volunteer young people embarked on a Solomon Island adventure. Led by Dave Wake, the group were attending the dedication of the Gela New Testament. However, they were not just spectators at this important event; they had come to help train the Gela people in Scripture use.

Taylor and Alison Coombe worked on this translation for 17 years. During that time they observed that when a portion of Scripture had been printed, many of the people kept it with them to protect themselves, a little like a lucky charm. They failed to understand that the value of the Scripture was in reading it, not just holding it. While this is an understandable extension of old beliefs it underlies the importance of Scripture use training.



L-R: Dave Wake, Kevin Mellow, Timothy Playfoot, Rachel Coombe, Alexandra Lim, Hannah McKenna, TJ Coombe on the transport truck

The MAD (Ministry, Adventure, Discovery) team members were Timothy Playfoot, Isaac McKenna, Hannah McKenna, Alexandra Lim, Matthew Lim, Kevin Mellow, Gary McMaster, Taylor, Philip, TJ and Rachel Coombe.

Team members said that the trip had given them a new appreciation of the value of their own Bible and the ease of reading it in their heart language. To many the trip was an eye opener, to some it may have been God's call to future translation work.

Ministry: The team's main ministry was to assist in teaching the Gela people to use the translated Word. Members of the Coombe family conducted teaching sessions in the Gela language while the MAD team used puppets, games, skits, drama and mime to make the lessons memorable and interesting. They also gave testimony to God's work in their own lives. Philip said, 'We can't obey God if we don't know His Word.'

Adventure: For some of the team it was their first visit to the Solomon Islands and the whole trip was an adventure. They experienced travel in small boats on the open sea from island to island, eating village food and roughing it in the



Gela men re-enacting the approach of early missionaries

village. The waterfall visit was also an adventure highlight. Hannah enjoyed doing crazy things with the team and appreciated the way they encouraged her.

Discovery: Living in another culture was not only an adventure; it was a time of discovery. Every member of the team discovered something new on the trip. Sometimes it was things about the Solomon Islands, or the Gela people. For some it was God revealing something about themselves and how they can serve Him better. For others it was re-enforcing the value of the Scriptures and their vital role in the Christian life.

Matthew learnt to be braver when sharing his faith. For Rachel it was learning to trust God and gaining the peace of knowing God is in control. This was also important to TJ especially when things appear to go wrong, such as when the canoes did not arrive on time.

Tim discovered how to make things from palm leaves; courtesy of the village children. He also gained an appreciation of God's Word and learnt not to take it for granted. Kevin said that he learnt to seek treasures of heaven rather than wealth in this world. Isaac appreciated the relationships formed on the team and having no first world distraction such as phones. Alexandra valued getting to know God better on the trip.

For everyone it was a memorable adventure of ministry and discovery.



A Gela woman reading the NT in her own language



Editorial

by Yvonne Gillespie

This edition focuses on the top end with stories from Darwin and Dili. But no matter the location, the thread that connects all our stories is the servant heart of God's people everywhere.

From mid-teens in the Solomon Islands to mid-seventies in Darwin, age is no limiting factor for Christian servanthood.

In Galatians 5:13 we are urged to **serve one another humbly in love**. I have been greatly encouraged by the work of the MAD team serving the Gela people in the Solomon Islands and those who went to Darwin.

The work of the Associates is the work of volunteers - people who take the opportunities God gives them to serve others. It may be a one day a week commitment, a two year experience made in the middle or end of a career, or a week or two on a work team. All contribute to the wider work of Wycliffe.

I thank God also for those who come back time and time again to serve on work teams.

When dates are set and the work planned we have no idea who will volunteer so we rely on God to direct the hearts of His people. He is faithful, may we be faithful too.

A Win Win Solution

The Australian Society of Indigenous Languages (AuSIL) (www.ausil.org.au) in Darwin had been looking for appropriate accommodation for some time. The lease on the office in Palmerston (Darwin) was due to expire and they needed more room for their expanding staff and ministry.

Darwin is also home to Nungalinya Theological College, owned jointly by the Anglican, Uniting and Catholic Churches and devoted to training and empowering indigenous Christians for ministry. AuSIL and Nungalinya have long been cooperating and supporting one another, however it wasn't until late last year that the idea of sharing building space with AuSIL was suggested by one of the church partners.



Bill Keenan and Peter Gillespie pulling up old carpet

The location of the Nungalinya campus is ideal for interaction with the indigenous population. It is close to the airport, the hospital and of course the college. It offers a pleasant setting with lawns and trees for informal interaction, something that was sadly missing at Palmerston. It is also close to Charles Darwin University for academic interaction and close to a number of church offices.

Nungalinya have a large building that had once been used as a resource centre and art work shop for screen printing but was now underutilised. The synergy of the situation seemed obvious — Nungalinya needed income and AuSIL needed office accommodation. By March the two boards agreed and plans were put in place for the move.

However, a lot of work needed to be done before the building could be occupied. It was full of long steel tables designed for screen printing and painting, as well as cupboards and other disused equipment. The walls were covered in paint splatters, blackboards and stains from the possums who occupied the roof cavity.



Brian Stirk painting the bookshop doors

Wycliffe Associates were asked to assist and a small team gathered in Darwin to help prepare the facility for occupation. With the help of the Nungalinya property manager Neil Black, all the equipment was moved out and the work of washing walls, plugging holes, sealing, undercoating and painting began. There was also a new door to be put between the two sections of the hall and a Director's office to construct in one corner of the building.

As well as the large hall building, a nearby elevated house with storage room underneath was part of the lease. The storage area was turned into three translators' offices designed to give them a quiet place to work away from the noise of the open plan administration area and bookshop.

After four weeks of intense work the building was ready for occupation and with the AuSIL Indigenous language bookshop close at hand, it is able to offer resources to staff and students of Nungalinya as well as the general public.

AuSIL has now moved in and is enjoying the new facility and relationship with the college. This is a *win win* for both organisations and for the Indigenous community they both serve.



The office ready for occupation

Sharing in Ministry with Aboriginal Christians *by Dr Jude Long*



**Dr Jude Long, Principal
Nungalinya College**

Nungalinya College is very excited to welcome AuSIL to their site in Darwin. AuSIL will be renting two buildings on the Nungalinya campus to host their

Darwin offices. Volunteers from AuSIL have been hard at work renovating the buildings ready for the move.

Nungalinya had already appreciated the willingness of AuSIL to support their educational work with Aboriginal Christians across the Top End. Many of their students have low levels of literacy and numeracy so they usually require all students to start with

the Foundation Studies course which uses the Bible as the subject matter for literacy learning in English. However, they also really want to support students in their reading of the Bible in their own languages. Therefore AuSIL have been coming to visit each Foundation Studies intensive block to put the appropriate language Bible on the students' phones. It was immensely encouraging to recently see a student do a Bible reading in chapel in Kriol using her phone the day after AuSIL's visit.

Access to Scriptures in their heart language as well as culturally appropriate biblical education are vital ingredients for the Aboriginal church to flourish. The presence of the AuSIL Resource Centre on site at Nungalinya, will mean that students will be able to purchase these sorts of resources to take home.

These are just two examples of how our shared commitment to Aboriginal Christians having access to biblical materials can benefit students and in turn their churches. As we look to the future, I am confident there will be further ways that our close physical proximity will assist this vital ministry.

www.nungalinya.edu.au



Students reading Scripture from their phones

Dili Dilemma

Since our last visit to Dili in Timor Leste two years ago, three new teams have commenced work there; two translation teams and a literacy/education consultant.

Dili is a very difficult city in which to find appropriate accommodation and what is available for lease is far from ideal with major plumbing and drainage problems and unsafe electrical wiring. Renting in Timor is quite different from Australia. There is no landlord responsibility and tenants are expected to bring the dwelling up to a liveable standard at their own cost.

The new Wycliffe teams were not immune from these housing difficulties



Helem and Jessé Fogaça with daughter Rebeca (centre) Pastor Carlos and Jim and Karla Smith's grandchildren Jamie and Joanna



Jim Smith and Peter Gillespie find a broken pipe

and after much frustration with bathroom floors flooding every time a tap was turned on, taps that did not work or would not turn off, along with electrical faults, an SOS was sent out.

Ray Leach from the Darwin office was preparing to go and assist. However before he was due to fly out, his son had a serious workplace accident and Ray and his wife Glenda, flew to Sydney to be with him. In God's providence we were able to bring our trip to Darwin forward and allow ten days to go to Dili before the work team in Darwin was due to begin. It was good to renew relationships with old friends and meet the new translation teams working in East Timor. But the situation with drainage and electricity was not so good!

The welcome we received was warm and friendly. The weather was more than warm! Working inside a building without ventilation (no electricity to power the fans) in high temperatures and humidity is ideal for losing weight.

The visit was short, but problems were solved and strategies put in place to overcome future problems. We were greatly encouraged by getting to know the new teams and thank God for their enthusiasm and commitment to the work of Bible translation.



Jessé Fogaça and Peter repairing a pipe

Thank you Rick

During last year, I began preparing my house for sale with retirement from Bible translation in mind.

It was a great surprise to receive a phone call from Rick Farey, a professional painter. He was spending some time 'on holidays' travelling around Australia and with contacts from Wycliffe Associates, was helping a number of people in Darwin with painting jobs.

He cheerfully agreed to help me out too. Over a number of days he advised me and painted several rooms in my house. I am enjoying the difference the coats of paint have made. Thanks so much Rick!

Margaret Mickan

Moving with AuSIL

Barry and Kaye Martin have been actively involved with Wycliffe for ten years, although their contact began back in the early 80s after visits from Barry Borneman and Pete and Liz Linden.

During the last ten years, they have helped move the office in Darwin three times. The first time was when AuSIL was moving from Berrimah and Barry and Kaye helped paint the new office, pack and move. They have been going to Darwin for up to three months each year ever since.

Their volunteer work does not end in Darwin, as they also work from home doing such things as organising visas, establishing a graphics database and administrative work.

Before Wycliffe, Kaye was managing the home after a career in nursing. Barry was employed in management with local government and was offered long service leave in the hope that he would not retire early, but be willing to return to work. The plan failed. Barry offered his services to Wycliffe and AuSIL put their hand up first.

His experience in administration and management proved to be good preparation for his work with AuSIL, so much so that he was elected to the Executive Committee in 2012 and then Chairperson in 2014 - a position he still holds.



Their annual journey to Darwin has only ever been interrupted by the birth of grandchildren.

Their work with AuSIL also led to teaching English at Alor University in West Timor (reported in previous editions of Associate Action).

This new avenue of service has been both challenging and rewarding. They have established many great relationships with students and staff that are ongoing. The university is acutely under-resourced and to have the services of two native-born English language speakers is a great asset.

Barry and Kaye are an inspiration to many and an example of how God uses people who are open and willing to go where he leads.

USED STAMPS

Continue to send stamps to Ann Wiggins at her home address:

6/26 Jackson Street,
Croydon,
Vic 3136, or to the Wycliffe Office at Kangaroo Ground.

Ann's email address is ann_wiggins@wycliffe.org.au



HELP NEEDED Building & Grounds Maintenance

WORK TEAM AT KANGAROO GROUND 3-21 October 2016

Due to demand for the Wycliffe facilities the old conference room needs an upgrade. Building skills are helpful but not essential. A servant heart is what God wants.

Grounds maintenance volunteers are also needed.

Please come and help. If you cannot come for the whole time, come for some of it.

Comfortable accommodation is available and meals are provided at low cost.

Please promote this work team in your church. Contact Peter Gillespie (see contact details below)

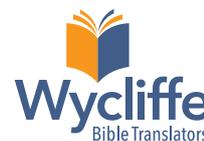
WYCLIFFE WORK TEAMS AUSTRALIA

Peter and Yvonne Gillespie
National Coordinators

Email:

peter-yvonne_gillespie@wycliffe.org.au
50 Clarence Street, Tenambit NSW 2323

Phone: 02 4933 2512
Mobile: 0427 059 662



Wycliffe Australia
70 Graham Road
Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097
PHONE (03) 9712 2777
EMAIL info@wycliffe.org.au
WEB www.wycliffe.org.au

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