



Opening The Bible to the Kimberley

When Jesus got into the boat to start back, the man who had been healed begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him off and said, "Go back home and tell everyone how much God has done for you." The man then went all over town, telling everything that Jesus had done for him.
Luke 8:37b - 39

To our friends at Revival Church,

We want to thank you for your faithful commitment through prayer and finances for our project. You have played an integral role in this unique project of Oral Bible Translation in the languages of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia.

Your generosity has already helped Kimberley Kriol speakers hear the stories of Jesus from Luke's Gospel in their own language of Kimberley Kriol for the first time.

Progress continues on the Oral Translation of the Gospel of Luke into the Kimberley Kriol language, and while the impact and repercussions of the pandemic has hampered long term plans in making workshop logistics difficult, Mother Tongue translators continue to express a desire to see this work continue.

Thank you for partnering with us on this oral translation journey.

Successful workshop in Broome

The first Oral Bible Translation workshop in Perth in March 2020 had to be ended prematurely due to covid restrictions. This led to a successful 3 week Oral Bible Translation workshop in Broome in late April early May this year. This gave the project the reboot it needed.

Jen Brownhill, Translation team Director of YWAM Perth's 'Every Tongue Ministry' and her team spent the final months of 2020 in fortnightly contact with the Kimberley Kriol Mother Tongue Translators ensuring this project didn't lose the momentum from the March 2020 Perth Workshop. The Mother Tongue Translators were still very keen to continue with this project, often in the midst of significant health and family issues.

After much negotiation it was decided that a workshop in the Kimberley would be the best path forward and a 3 week workshop was planned for Broome in early 2021. Even as the workshop started there were issues with Perth going into lockdown.

Fortunately the majority of the 'Every Tongue/YWAM' Team along with Bible Society's Consultant Carl Gross had already left Perth on the long road trip avoiding the lockdown. Bible Society's Louise Sherman was scheduled to fly to Broome from Adelaide for the workshop via Perth, but the day before departure she was able to rearrange her flights making stop offs in Alice Springs, Darwin and Kununurra, avoiding Perth.

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Overview of Oral Bible Translation Process at Broome Workshop



During the 3 week workshop there were **2 teams recording concurrently**, each team consisted of translators and a recordist. Each team working on a different story set. The 4 story sets were from Luke 8 and included the stories *Jesus calming the storm*; *Jesus healing a man with demons*; *Jesus healing a sick woman* and *Jesus raising Jairus' daughter*. These stories were chosen in response to the translators' requests to have 'the stories of Jesus' translated first, particularly stories highlighting Jesus' power over nature, sin and death were considered important for the communities to hear.

The translators present at the workshop included: Judy Butters (Hall's Creek); Lizzie Jingle (Fitzroy Crossing, speaks Jaru, also Kriol & Gooniyandi); Mary Spinks (back translator); Rodney Rivers (based in Perth but experienced working in the Roper River Kriol Bible translation) and Peter Brandi (Kununurra).

The **first stage in the drafting process is learning the story**: This involves listen to the story several times in English (Good News Translation), then retelling the story to each other. Role playing the

story, using props to help memorise the story, as well as storyboarding and illustrating the story are all used to **help translators 'internalise' the story**. The effectiveness of these techniques was seen as one translator drew a picture of Jesus calming the storm and was able to retell the entire story without missing a detail from that one drawing. This process is followed by **detailed discussion** about the story by the team and then the **team selects a translator to retell the story** in the target language (Kimberley Kriol) while the **rest of the team listen and give feedback on the recording**.

There was a detailed discussion from the story of the woman with the issue of blood from Luke 8 about how best to communicate the specific illness of the woman in the story. The team decided that it is an important element in the story that the woman is clearly shamed by her condition and is not accepted or welcomed by society and this needed to be conveyed.

Difficulties arose about how to make this issue (probably a menstrual issue) culturally appropriate, so that both men and women are

able to read the story and the story can be read in church. The team of translators decided the best way to address this would be to have a male translator read this story to show this is a story appropriate for men to hear.

Once the first team had finished recording the story and were happy with the recording it is passed on to the other team for **peer review**. The **other team listen to the story in English and then listen to the translated recording and provide feedback**. The story is then **sent back to the other team with their suggestions** and the **first team rerecorded the story incorporating the suggestions** of the second team.

After this point is the **Community Checking stage** in which the translated stories are play to community members of the target language to gain their feedback. **Listeners are asked specific questions** about the story, written by the translators, to ensure comprehension by the wider community. The Every Tongue/YWAM team travelled to Fitzroy Crossing (4 hrs from Broome) during one week of the workshop for the purpose of Community checks, also conducting checks in Broome with visitors from Hall's Creek.

This helps to ensure there is **greater community engagement** with this project and works as a public relations exercise further promoting this work among the language community.

Once the Community checking was completed and changes made, according to community recommendations, the stories are prepared for **Back Translation**. The stories are translated back into English in preparation for the **Consultant Check** by Carl Gross (Bible Society Consultant). This was completed in the final week of the workshop. The role of the Consultant is to ensure that the meaning of the translated Scripture is consistent with the original New Testament Greek (Scripturally accurate) as well as being a natural translation, which is understood clearly by the language community.

As previously mentioned **all 4 Story Sets** planned for this workshop were **completed and consultant approved** at the completion of the 3 weeks and translators were provided with MicroSD cards with the stories on them to share with their families.



*Previous page top image: Keeley discusses story with Carl Gross and translator Rodney Rivers.
Above: Translators Rodney Rivers and Mary Spinks listen to the story.*

Financial Acquittal:

Item	2021 (Kimberley Kriol) Budget	2021 (Kimberley Kriol) Actual
Translation consultancy fees	\$20,000	\$14,500
Travel costs for translation consultant	\$5,000	\$4,800
Kimberly language translators	\$8,000	\$0 <small>Funding from other partners.</small>
Language survey & research	\$0	\$1,500
Transcribing & typesetting for production	\$10,000	\$0
Publication & distribution	\$6,000	\$3,500
Project Management	\$4,000	\$4,000
Monitoring & Evaluation	\$2,000	\$2,000
TOTAL:	\$55,000	\$30,300

It was decided, after detailed discussions with the translators, that a workshop conducted in the Kimberley would allow more translators the opportunity to participate and so the OBT Workshop was relocated to Broome.

Review of expenditure for Oral Bible Translation Project

The difference between the budgeted and actual costs for this project is due to the reduction of OBT Language Workshops. 3-4 workshops were scheduled for 2020, but workshops were unable to resume after March 2020 until 2021.

Originally 4 workshops were planned now reduced to 2 workshops in a calendar year due to covid. It was decided, after detailed discussions with the translators, that a workshop conducted in the Kimberley would allow more translators to participate and so the OBT Workshop was relocated to Broome, meaning funds allocated for travel/airfares for Kimberley language translators were not required, however this did mean an increase in workshop costs in terms of catering and accommodation. Funds budgeted for payments to Mother Tongue translators were sourced from another partner (Faith Comes by Hearing).

Funds allocated for transcribing, publication and distribution of a published Gospel of Luke in Kimberley Kriol is still a possibility in the future however with reduced workshops the oral translation was not ready for this to occur within this reporting period.

We are planning to make up this shortfall in expenditure through increased 'Distribution' through the purchase and distribution of a large number of durable, portable audio devices (Megavoice audio players) loaded with the story sets translated from Luke's Gospel to communities across the Kimberley. While these devices are small and made primarily for personal use, their volume capabilities enable small groups to gather together and listen to the stories. These are useful for those who struggle with literacy and/or have poor eye health or vision. One of the Kimberley Kriol Translators Pauline Manning receives constant requests for these devices loaded with Scripture. Bible Society was keen to make these devices available to the community so that once the Oral Bible Translation recordings are completed communities are already familiar and comfortable with using these devices to listen to Scripture.

Additional funds will also be used for Translation Consultant Carl Gross to attend an international online Oral Bible Translation Conference on behalf of this project.



40 Days of Prayer

YWAM are initiating '40 days of prayer' for the Kimberley beginning on Monday, August 9 to September 17. Please join us by committing to 1 day spending some time praying for this region.

Please contact samuel.collins@biblesociety.org.au for specific Prayer Points.

Future Plans

'Every Tongue Ministry/YWAM are in the process of confirming dates for the next 3 week OBT Workshop in the Kimberley in October.

Most, if not all, of the Kimberley Kriol Translators also speak other more traditional Kimberley languages, including Jaru, Gooniyandi, Kija and Walmarjarri. Which means these same translators are now skilled and experienced in the Oral Bible Translation technique and could have involvement in another Oral Bible Translation Project in a more

traditional language without having to learn new skills.

Plans are also in place for a 6 week online Oral Bible Translation Training Course coordinated by 'Every Tongue' Ministry/YWAM in November. There is interest from key translation organisations in the Northern Territory to receive training in this method of translation and pilot Bible Translation Projects in the Territory using Oral Bible Translation Techniques.

Thank you for your commitment & generosity.

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