



Opening The Bible

for communities in the Kimberley

'We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people – the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world – just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.'

Colossians 1:3-6, NIV

To our friends at Revival Church,

We continue to thank God for your ongoing partnership in Bible Translation for our Indigenous brothers and sisters in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Both your financial support and commitment to prayer has played a significant role in supporting the work of Bible Translation and ministry for the many remote Indigenous communities in the north west of Australia.

As you may be aware, Bible Translation is a long process and requires significant commitment over many years. Your willingness to support a long-term initiative like the Kimberley Kriol Oral Bible Translation (OBT) Project is a testament to your faithfulness and understanding of long-term missionary service and the wonderful impact these long-term projects can bring.

Thank you for partnering with us on this translation journey.

Project on hold with a focus on building relationship and trust — vital for successful translation

Plans for the Kimberley Kriol Oral Bible Translation (OBT) Project in 2023 included a new process model; however, the passing of a key translator, extensive flooding in the Kimberley and several other factors affecting the translation teams meant that the project was 'on hold' for most of the year.

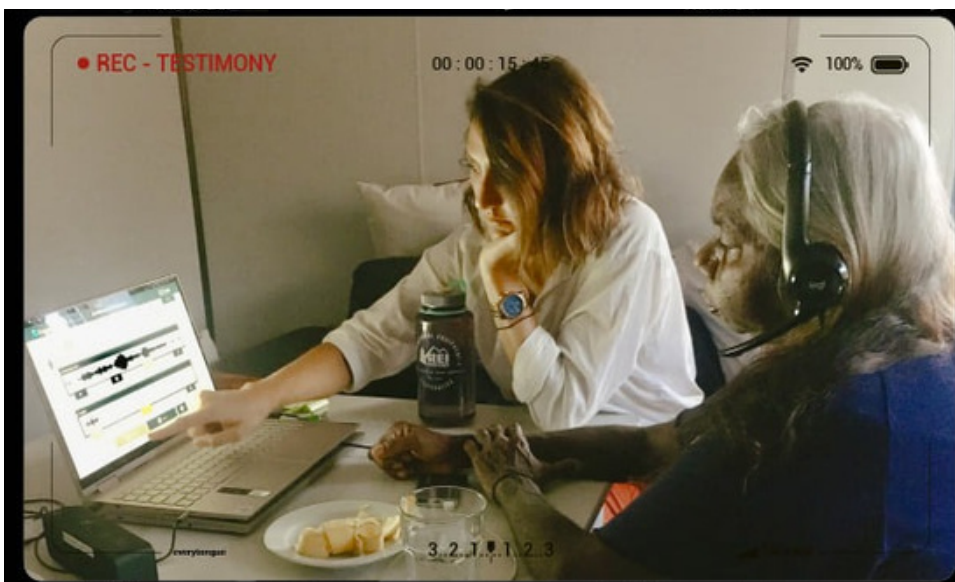
This new approach to the translation of the Kimberley Kriol centred around the translators keeping the equipment and working steadily and independently on translation throughout the year, with one group drafting while another group did the peer checks.

The next steps planned for the Kimberley Kriol OBT Project were to set up a small team of translators in Looma. This team would work on drafting, these drafts would then go to Pauline (Kununurra) for peer review. Once these had been reviewed, they would be sent back to Looma community for community checking. The team in Looma, led by Raelene, were happy with this new approach moving forward. Raelene had indicated that there were three others in the community keen to be involved as translators. Jen Brownhill (Director of YWAM's Every Tongue Ministry) had met with the Looma team and had commenced some initial training with them, giving them an indication of what would be involved. The broader community in Looma were willing to be involved in community checking.

Unfortunately, with the passing of Pauline Manning, a key community leader and driving force for the project, the project began to stall in early 2023 and the plans for this new approach were put on hold.

'After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.'

Revelation 7:9, NIV



Meeting with church leaders and elders in the Kimberley to promote unity and Bible Translation



An extensive 'relationship-building' trip was scheduled for April 2023, once the communities were again open after extensive flooding and road closures. The purpose of the April Trip was to present the Kimberley Kriol translators' desire for more unity across the denominations as well as to distribute Kimberley Kriol recordings and begin the set-up of the new model for the Kimberley Kriol Project – a model focused on more deliberately working together cross-denominationally.

Sydney-based, Pastor Grant (who oversees 52 ACC churches in NSW and Aboriginal liaison for ACC in the Kimberley) attended this trip and was able to connect with local church leaders and acknowledge some of the historical difficulties between Pentecostal and Conservative denominations in the Kimberley.

Jen commented after these meetings: "Most pastors were open to partnership with other denominations however trust relationships would need to be built to see change in the future ... The commitment from all ... was that they would come together for the sake of Bible Translation."

This was clearly an open door to Bible Translation and was a huge change as many of the pastors in the past have said Bible Translation was not needed in the Kimberley, and were not supportive. Further conversations are needed to determine what working together might look like and what the 'next steps' might be and all communities remain open to having YWAM teams come and minister. This trip resulted in visits to 11 different locations, over 7,000kms travelled and 29 meetings with Pastors, church leaders and elders for 7 different denominations.

This trip was not as fruitful with regards to the Kimberley Kriol project. Raelene had already spent a month in hospital with her grandson, later diagnosed with Rheumatic Heart Disease in May. Since this time, Raelene has remained positive about the Kimberley Kriol OBT Project, but her focus has been on her family and she has been unable to continue working on the project until her family situation stabilises. Jen keeps in regular contact with Raelene and remains hopeful that in the future the project will start up again.

Other Language Groups:

As a direct result of communities in the Kimberley hearing the recordings from the Kimberley Kriol OBT Project, three other language groups in the Kimberley have approached YWAM requesting for assistance with Bible Translation in their traditional heart languages, along with 4 other interested groups. One such language group is Nyikina, spoken by an Indigenous-led Church plant in the community of Jarlmadangah. The community of Noonkanbah also have Nyikina speakers as potential translators. Bunuba speakers in both Junjuwa and Bungardi communities expressed interest in Bible Translation, with the local elders committing to following up possible translators. Bidyandangah, the largest Indigenous community in Western Australia represents 5 language groups (Karajarri; Juwalinny; Mangala; Nyungamarta and Yulpartja) and there is interest in Bible Translation, many of these languages have no Scripture translated.

When summing up the April trip Jen Brownhill said: "It was a discouraging start 3 years ago when the pastors of various denominations in the Kimberley said Bible Translation in the Kimberley was not needed. As we met with pastor after pastor, it was encouraging to see how this has changed ... their change in support, endorsement and requests for completed Kimberley Kriol recordings and seeing the evidence of how the work of translating the Bible can bring unity to the church has been deeply impacting."

"Most pastors were open to partnership with other denominations however trust relationships would need to be built to see change in the future ... The commitment from all ... was that they would come together for the sake of Bible Translation."

Jen Brownhill
YWAM Every Tongue Ministry



Financial Acquittal

for Oral Bible Translation Project

Item	2023 Budget (Kimberley Kriol)	2023 Actual (Kimberley Kriol)
Translation consultancy fees	\$20,000	\$0
Travel costs for translation consultant	\$5,000	\$1,664*
Every Tongue/ YWAM Translation Team	\$0	\$1,943
National Collaboration	\$0	\$3,299.69
Publication & distribution	\$6,000	\$1,000
Project Management	\$4,000	\$250
Monitoring & Evaluation	\$2,000	\$250
TOTAL:	\$37,000	\$8,406.69

"During a time of evangelism, we spoke to an Aboriginal couple who read the Bible and were Christian, but when we spoke to them about the Bible, it didn't excite them, it wasn't meaningful for them. I share about how I am currently serving a translation team, who is translating the Gospel of Luke into Kimberley Kriol, the local language, their body language changed, and they lit up. They were super excited to hear that."

Phoebe (student on Discipleship Training School, DTS with YWAM)

Review of expenditure for Oral Bible Translation Project

There is a significant difference between the budgeted funds for the Kimberley Kriol OBT Project and the actual expenditure for this project. The reason for this is due to the project being 'on hold' for most of the 2023 year. No specific Translation Workshops were held for the Kimberley Kriol project, therefore there was a significant reduction in funds required for Translation Consultancy and associated costs (e.g., travel and accommodation costs for Translation Consultant). This also meant a reduction in Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation costs.

There were some additional indirect project costs recorded. This included fuel costs for the April Trip. As a way to further develop the capacity of Translation Consultancy for this project, YWAM Translation Consultant-in-Training, Chris Adams* was offered the opportunity to attend and observe a Pitjantjatjara Consultant Checking workshop in Adelaide, this experience of a Traditional Literacy-based translation was deemed an important

opportunity which will, in turn, benefit the Kimberley projects in the future. Some funds were also allocated to cover fuel expenses for the April 'Relationship Building' Trip.

Jen Brownhill was also offered the opportunity to attend a National Gathering of Bible Translation Agencies and has become a member of the newly-formed Australian National Bible Translation Committee. This committee aims to support further translation work across Australia and Jen's input on this committee will bring more benefit and support to the Kimberley Bible Translation work.

Bible Society continues to provide resources and audio players to communities in the Kimberley region through Kimberley Kriol Translators, Rodney Rivers and Pauline Manning. However with Pauline's passing, a major avenue of Bible distribution across the Kimberley is no longer happening.

Please continue to uphold these projects in prayer

We thank God for all that has been achieved through this project so far, we continue to uphold the translators and their families as they endeavour to continue this important work.

We pray also for the Every Tongue/YWAM Team as they travel to communities meeting with both translators and church elders and leaders. We continue to pray for unity among the churches across the Kimberley, may they continue their journey of collaboration inspired by the work of Bible Translation and the impact of seeing communities receiving the Bibles in their own heart languages for the first time.

Future Plans

Oral Bible Translation Kimberley Project

Funds that have been allocated for the Kimberley Kriol OBT Project which have not been used in 2023 will be held by Bible Society Australia for use for workshops in 2024. Given the interest from several other language groups across the Kimberley for Bible Translation, these additional funds will be used, with your consent, for workshops for these language groups also.

Thank you for your commitment & generosity.

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