This may be the most AWESOME three months we have ever documented in one of our newsletters. We had visitors from Australia, experienced a scripture dedication, and hosted two translation workshops and meetings for the board of an indigenous translation organisation. ‘Everything is awesome...everything is cool when you’re part of a team” (The LEGO Movie, 2014)

Kuni-Boazi dedication...

The year began with a trip to Western Province for the dedication of the New Testament in the Kuni language. To witness people receiving the Scriptures in their heart language - an answer to thirty years of praying and hoping - is a powerful experience.

Perhaps there were some who longed for this moment yet did not live to see it. For those that received a Bible, in print or audio form, their lives will be impacted greatly from this point forward. There are little ones who will grow up reading these truths in the language of their people, with expressions that they understand and can relate to. As the people declared during the dedication ceremony, “God has come to the Kuni people”. Lives will be changed forever.

Some very vital statistics ... (for SIL/BTA* work in PNG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NT dedications (as of Jan 2016)</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT dedications scheduled for 2016-2017</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages with a translation in progress</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages in need of engagement</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*SIL – Summer Institute of Linguistics / BTA – Bible Translation Association

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Prayer points

‘Much praying is not done because we do not plan to pray.’
D.A. Carson, ‘A call to spiritual reformation’

Ministry

- We hosted translators from the Huon Gulf cluster – a group of five languages that come together for workshops – and those continuing the recording of the Urii NT. Praise for the effective time spent in Lae for both teams.
- BTAPNG - Bible Translation Assoc. of PNG – used Lae Centre to accommodate 12 Board delegates during 3 days of meetings and events. We set up a room as ‘Cafe Lae’ to provide meals. Pray for the work of this indigenous translation group, that their Board lead in wisdom and godliness.
- That we manage the time and resources to convert an office and storeroom into effective space for translation recordings and other tasks.

... [continued page 2]
Humble beginnings...

Saleng visited our office recently, with a precious package to be sent to the main centre in Ukarumpa. He had just completed the first draft of Deuteronomy – yes, that is hand-written in two exercise books. Our work brings us into relationship with some amazing servants of the Kingdom.

I asked how long it took to complete, and this gracious and humble man could only quietly recount the weeks spent in various places – including at our Lae Centre – often working from early morning to the close of the day. I never really did get an answer. The task is one dear to his heart, and it just isn’t his way to count the time spent in service of the Kingdom.

Saleng retired from teaching over 20 years ago, joining his younger brother Isum in working with Wycliffe translators, David and Yohana Hynum, on a Numanggang New Testament.

Initially, only the Psalms were included with the finished work dedicated in 2006. However, as the people began reading in earnest, the vision for completing the Old Testament was born. After their experience with completing the NT, Isum and Saleng have progressed through the OT draft in record time, and have just six more books to rough draft. Several years of revisions and checking lie ahead, but the goal of a complete Numanggang Scripture is in sight.

Please Pray...

- That Isum and Saleng be sustained through the coming months of work.
- Praise God for the way in which the translated Scriptures are impacting peoples’ lives. (Isaiah 55:11)

Prayer points

Family

- Hannah – that she see God’s grace at work in her life.
- Elisabeth & Shawn – E is looking for full-time employment, and S is preparing for a kick-boxing match early April (at least we know he is quite capable of protecting our daughter!)
- Keith’s brother-in-law (Phil) passed away March 1. Pray for the family as they support Helen, Ruby and Ed.
- Thanks that Keith had the opportunity to see Phil and family in Sydney last month.

Personal

- Thanks for times of rest and a holiday in January.
- Continue to pray for good relationships with our PNG staff. It is so critical to everything we do here.
- Pray that we be prepared for our furlough – returning to Australia October 1 – in terms of our work and relationships here in PNG, and plans for the six months or so back home.
- Thanks for the many encouraging comments we receive from those coming through our Centre – both from a work and a personal perspective. Pray that it doesn’t go to our heads, and have us feeling indispensable!

[There is a Don Francisco song about the story of Balaam, that reminds us that God can use even a donkey to do His work!]

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Refreshing company...

... by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. Romans 15:32

January gave us our first opportunity for a real holiday. We met Elisabeth and Shawn (daughter and son-in-law) at Port Moresby, flying out the next day to the Kuni dedication. We returned home for a ‘stay-cation’, opting for some local tours while enjoying the ease of being based in Lae. First was a half-day boat tour into the mangroves around Labu just south of Lae, giving our visitors a small taste of PNG village life and hospitality. Then two days snorkelling and relaxing at Salamaua (a little further south). We’ll let the pictures do the rest of the talking!
A group of PNG National translators have been in Lae during March recording the New Testament in their Urii language. Here to assist them with technology and direction as needed is Ross Webb whose parents, Tom and Gwen Webb, completed the NT translation over 30 years ago.

Ross grew up in PNG, and he and wife Lyndal worked as translators in another language ‘up the river’ from Urii for 17 years. Now, after 12 years as Director of SIL in Vanuatu, they have taken up another translation role in Vanuatu. Ross is taking time from that role to assist with the recording project.

Koreng, one of the original NT translators, along with three young readers, came to continue the Urii recording which has been happening sporadically over the last few years. Working as three teams, with some of our rooms acting as makeshift recording studios, they have actually managed to complete the task. Ross has kept the laptops and recording equipment functioning – not without issues – as they recorded day and night. They have been very patient and gracious with us as our day-to-day operations created some unwanted background noise at times! Some amateurish sound insulation in the form of foam mattresses provided minimal assistance.

Please Pray...

- That any significant errors will be found in the finished recording before it goes to the people.
- For an effective strategy for distribution to the many Urii villages to be devised.
- That Mambap will find more heart-motivated Urii people to help him in distribution of the audio Bibles.
- That God will use this to strengthen the faith of the Urii people and bring new believers to follow Jesus.
- That the recording be a useful tool in assessing the need for a revision of the Urii New Testament.