Coordinate: Supporting Indigenous Scripture

Acts 2:1-13 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The profound event of experiencing being filled with the Holy Spirit through the power of God's Word ultimately is the mission of Coordinate. Supporting the work of translators to transform God's Word into the heart languages of their communities and resourcing others to transform this work into ways of communicating God's Word that makes it accessible through Scripture in Use - this is the work of Coordinate and this year has been another exciting journey to carry out this mission.

Starting close to my home, by the time you read this The Gospel of Mark will have been dedicated at Warruwi Goulburn Island. With many who have put such effort into this production: the efforts of AuSIL, Heather Hewett and Mally McLellan who supported the main translators Rosemary Urabadi and Sandra MakurIngu. Then Lucy Rogers and Sandra have produced the audio version and Paul Eckert with Bible Society has published the print version. Our prayers are with you all to continue with this work.

In Jabiru, I was approached in January this year by a group of women wanting to translate the Bible into Mayali - the language of Central Arnhem Land. We have met for a number of day workshops starting with the Gospel of Mark and using the SEFT work of Dave Glasgow as the front translation. There has also been interest from Maningrida to start translation in Njebbena.

East Arnhem continues with its long commitment to Bible translation and Scripture in Use Work. Much hard work has come to fruition with the dedication of the Gospel of Mark in Wangurri at Dhalinybuy. The bulk of the work having been completed by Yurranydjl Dhurrkay. Djawut Gondarra has this year completed the draft of Mark in Dhaqu'mi and we are just waiting for the consultancy check expected to be completed later in the year. Nyaluq Duniwuy continues with her reworking of Mark into Dhuwaya from Yirrkala with support from Hannah Harper. Matjarra Garrawurra continues working in Liyagawumirr from Ramingining. IS)alambirra₇ also in Ramingining continues work in Gupapuyqu.

September last year we held a 2 day workshop meeting at Riyala with translators and Scripture in Use workers from across the Northern Synod. The most significant issue to come from our time together was a lengthy discussion on how translators choose what they translate - that is which books of the Bible do they next commence work on, who chooses and what motivates the work. From the many different language groups represented there were many paths to selecting text: family elders, cultural decision making processes, local ministers or congregational requests, expectations from experts and personal passion, but ultimately the most powerful motivation was discerning God's word. This conversation, particularly in East Arnhem land has broadened into a discussion about how translation projects are designed, how consultation occurs and what do translators translate from. This is an ongoing conversation which could lead the work of translation into new directions discerning and following the will of God.

After a very enjoyable visit last year to Mowanjum in the West Kimberly and meeting with the ladies there, they showed interest in using the Gospel stories that they have in Wororra as part of a language reclamation project to illustrate children's' books using both Wororra and English. We have made a start on this project and will see where it goes. Jo Marr and Howard Amery continue to transcribe the translation work of JR Love.

Down in the APY lands, much has been going on! During a visit to Pukatja in July last year I was persuaded to accompany them on their Pitjantjarra translator expedition to Israel in August. Although they had done most of the work over the last 2 years to get them there, I joined in for the last months of panic over passports, medicals and finances. Finally meeting 15 translators in Jerusalem for a stupendous journey through the Holy Lands from Abraham to Jesus in 12 days - the fruits of this trip are still being enjoyed. Over Easter the Book of Daniel was dedicated in a wonderful display of how translation is embedded in the ministry of the church throughout the APY lands and the comic of Daniel is also near to completion. The translation team is spread throughout the APY lands, Alice Springs and Adelaide, with multiple books of the Old Testament being worked on, at present people are working on Job, Samuel, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

In general Coordinate continues to work to budget with much appreciated contribution from donors, Congregations from within the Northern Synod, Synod and NRCC. The challenges for this year include working on the web page, and newsletter and determining the best ways to communicate our stories amongst ourselves and to our generous supporters, without whom much of this work would not be possible.

Louise Macdonald Resource Worker