

Coordinate Report to Synod October 2019

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language... Revelation 7:9

Coordinate is a project of the Northern Synod UCA and NRCC that supports Indigenous people to access Scripture through translation and Scripture in use. We are made up of all those in the Synod who are working in Indigenous Bible translation and Indigenous Scripture in Use.

Our primary resources are the relationships we have between Indigenous and Balanda Scripture workers, our relationships with local Indigenous Churches, our relationships with our partners such as Bible Society, AuSIL, Nungalinya, MAF and GRN, and our relationships with our donors and supporters.

Financially we are grateful for support from the Northern Synod which provides an annual grant, significant support from PPNA and other UCA congregations and from individual donors. Our financial position is healthy and we feel this is largely due firstly to our focus on our core business: to enable access to Scripture in Indigenous heart languages; secondly, we do respect our donors and consider their reasons for supporting our work; thirdly, we are frugal – it matters to us that we have the money available to organise complicated and often expensive workshops, so we are careful with our spending. For the last 2 years our grant from Synod has been reduced and we have drawn on our reserves. We have made a commitment to financially support the new Nungalinya Diploma in Translation (\$25,000 annually for three years, to be ongoing if evaluation proves to be positive). This could mean that in the future Coordinate may request an increase in our annual grant from Synod.

Events since the last Synod:

There has been no training for translators for many years and in response to calls from the translators it is so exciting to be part of the The Diploma in Translating at Nungalinya which commenced this year with two study blocks in Darwin having been completed with 15 students taught by Lizz Martin and Mally McLellan. After this goes to print we will have completed a training workshop in Maningrida for students not eligible for the Diploma course and another course will be conducted in Alice Springs after Synod. We also chair the Nungalinya steering group that is managing this project.

The Pitjatjantjarra New Testament audio recording completed in 2018 with Faith Comes By Hearing was distributed throughout the APY lands in late 2018. This has been a wonderful collaboration with Bible Society and there were many moving stories of people listening to Scripture in their Heart Language. Sadly we have lost four very significant translators and Scripture in Use workers in the last year. Mrs Wununmurra who worked tirelessly for decades on teaching Dhuwaya in bilingual classrooms and then worked on translating the Gospel of Mark into both Dhuwaya and her clan language Djappu. Dorothy Garawirtja who was working on translating Scripture into Warramiri also passed away last year. Mrs K Armstrong began translating the Bible into Pitjatjantjarra in 1990 working continuously on both the New and Old Testaments. As I wrote this I heard the sad news of the passing of Mary D, a tireless Scripture in Use worker at the Bible

Translation Centre in Galiwin'ku. The legacy of these four women is considerable, may they rest in peace.

Renewing our relationships with our partners after a number of years of turmoil has been a priority for this year. A significant partners meeting was planned at Galiwin'ku and then held at Humpty Doo in November 2018. Out of that meeting came a strengthening of relationships. We recognised a need to concentrate on developing translation work in West Arnhem and strengthening work in Scripture in use throughout the Synod. We also recognised that there is a significant lack of training in Cross Cultural Competance for Balanda staff commencing work in these projects.

In May this year after months of planning we held a wonderful combined Arnhemland workshop in Gove. 16 translators from 9 language groups came together for two weeks to learn about new translation software AdaptIT and to work collectively on their projects. The support from our partner MAF was incredible and the ripple effect of this time is still being felt with renewed conviction and enthusiasm for the work. Significantly a number of experienced translators introduced younger family members to this work and these younger participants engaged with considerable interest and enthusiasm. At the same time we held a celebratory service of dedication for the Gospel of Mark in Dhuwaya, and presentation of the draft of Mark into Djappu and the Gumatj New Testament which is finally being prepared for reprint after a decade of being out of print.

In the weeks before Synod there will have been a 2 week audio recording workshop at Yirrkala/Gove. We pray that this collaboration between Coordinate, GRN (Global Recording Network), Bible Society, MAF and AuSIL will result in Dhuwaya and Gumatj recordings to be published through GRN's 5fish app.

Resources from the projects we support can be found in a number of places:

The renewed Aboriginal Bibles website: <https://aboriginalbibles.org.au/>

The Five Fish App for audio resources supported by GRN:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.globalrecordings.fivefish&hl=en>

The book shop at AuSIL on the campus at Nungalinga for printed material.

The Coordinate facebook page and the Coordinate web page where all our newsletters can be found:

<https://www.coordinate.org.au/>

We look forward with hope and joy to:

- Publication of The Gumatj New Testament reprint
- Publication of the Shorter Plain English Version Bible
- Renewal and development of translation projects in West Arnhem
- Continuing development of community based translation training
- Ongoing strengthening of our partnerships and relationships
- Planning for a promotional tour of southern states next year
- Development of a regional ecumenical Scripture in Use worker network