

Associate Action

Aussie Helps Translation Team in Timor

Three translators are working flat-out to get the Bible translated into the languages in West Timor. They were determined to keep working despite the roof leaks that once filled a 55 gallon drum in just 2 hours; plumbing connections that leaked, worked in reverse, or didn't work at all; electrical outlets that gave only partial power, and switches that caught fire and repeatedly tripped the breaker. These difficulties were discouraging to say the least and a disruption to the work.

Enter a WA funding appeal and a team who came from around the world to answer this emergency plea for help. The team jumped in to do whatever was needed so that translation could continue. They climbed up a rickety water pressure tank to repair the roof, as best they could, with metal roofing so flimsy that it bent under their weight. Then they installed a gutter to divert the water off the roof into an outside tank where it could hold water for use during the dry season.



Noel with the water system

Aussie Noel Simento checked every valve and connection of the water system and designed a way to let water in and keep it in.

The electrician climbed up under the roof to make real connections on wires that had previously been just twisted together. He traced every wire to its energy point to make sure that the sockets would work and the breakers wouldn't trip anymore.

The translators were so happy to be able to live and work in safety and a little more comfort. Imagine how much more translation they can accomplish without having to deal with all these difficulties!



Russell Conrad working on the electrical system

...BUT we also were blessed by serving these translators in West Timor.

Jim Savage

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'We were challenged... we were out of our comfort zone... we were confounded by the way of life...'

2008 in Reflection

Wycliffe Associates has had an amazing year supporting Bible translation in Australia and the Pacific. Thousands of hours of practical support has focussed on the Wycliffe National Centre Victoria, Cairns, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Timor, Papua New Guinea and various missionary homes in Australia.

Associate Action is able to report on just some of the ways Christians with a servant heart have been able to help.
Good works prepared in advance for us to do.
Eph 2:10

This newsletter demonstrates why helping Bible translation is so essential. Let us continue to support our brothers and sisters, who have given up much, that others may have the Bible in their heart language. Is God calling you to join the team?



Special points of interest:

- West Timor Work Party
- Tree Tops Lodge
- Work Party News
- Coming Events

Tree Tops Lodge now is looking Fantastic

What a difference a fortnight makes!

What a tremendous blessing it was to have a team of seventeen Wycliffe Associates from QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and New Zealand come to Cairns to spend two weeks making a huge impact on the 'to do' list. The tasks ranged from: painting, rebuilding a playground, building shelves, repairing fly-screens, electrical work, concreting, pressure cleaning and sewing.

It was a pleasure to work alongside the team and to build friendships as we spent time together. There were lots of laughs along the way. The team worked very efficiently and effectively through the warm days and I would estimate that two years' worth of work was completed (that's what it would take if the staff had to fit it in amongst their other duties). Tree Tops Lodge now is looking fantastic and the staff feel blessed. They are very grateful for the commitment of the Associates, driving for

two days and nights in the bus both to and from Melbourne to be a part of serving in mission in a practical way.

If you guys and gals are reading this we sincerely thank you again for all your hard work and our prayer is that you will be richly blessed for your faithfulness.

Rohan Morrell Manager Tree Tops Lodge Cairns



Painting the Managers house at Tree Tops

Camaraderie in Cairns

Oh, the challenges of mission support...like snorkelling around the outer reaches of the Great Barrier Reef, touring through the Port Douglas area and barbecuing in the Outback. These experiences were all part of the package of my first ever work party trip.

Okay, so it wasn't all that easy. Our leave passes were only valid for the one weekend that bridged our two work weeks. Our primary task was to do maintenance and repairs at Tree Tops Lodge, nestled in the foothills just north of Cairns. The Lodge primarily accommodates missionaries travelling to and from other countries.

While it may seem that Cairns is one of the softer places to spend time in a missionary support capacity, the team's work and achievements were nevertheless solid. My assignment was to work with a room-mate to rejuvenate a children's playground that was suffering from subsidence. Our efforts in the playground over 9 working days saved the Lodge the \$10,000 it would otherwise have cost to buy and construct a new playground.



Brendon working in the children's playground

For me, the most enjoyable aspect of the trip (besides the achievements) was getting to know a group of capable people who demonstrated a humble servant attitude, working together constructively to realise a noble goal. This experience stood in great contrast to the politically treacherous environment in which I spend most of my time in Melbourne. Along the way, I also got to learn some new skills with tools I hadn't used before. My regular paid work is office based!

The trip to and from Cairns was also enjoyable. This included watching shooting stars at 1.00 am in Winton, the place where *Waltzing Matilda* was written, and then seeing a Boeing 747 passenger jet outside the Qantas Museum in the tiny town of Longreach, albeit briefly as we drove by. Having a barbecue in a thunderstorm somewhere literally 'out the back of Bourke' will also be unforgettable.

There is another price to pay for some – time away from family. We were fortunate at Tree Tops to have a wireless internet connection available, so that we could easily and cost effectively stay in contact with the rest of the world.

In my case, separation from the family had an interesting effect. The whole family wanted to be by my side every moment of the day I returned! Later, they also enjoyed looking at the photos and video footage that others had shared with us from the work party. Their initial dismay that I had sacrificed half my annual leave to do something separately from them dissolved.

Overall, if you are not averse to camaraderie and hard work with some interesting sights and experiences, then I would encourage you to consider contributing to a work party of a noble and rewarding kind.

Brendon Rowse

Work Party in Peru

Rob & Phyllis McEwin of the SA branch of Wycliffe Associates followed up a long held interest in Peru by joining a work party there during August/September. Work parties have become their chosen vehicle for using some of their annual leave every year. Last year they worked in the Solomon Islands and next year they will lead a group to Lae in PNG.

The team spent two weeks in Peru working on the construction of a training centre for the Quechua churches. This included a post-construction clean of the accommodation building and helping with earthworks for the foundations of the education building. The highlight of the journey was meeting local Christians and seeing what God is doing in this part of the world.

While Phyllis did the clean up and designed and made a fly barrier for the kitchen and dining room doors, Rob relaid tiles, adjusted the locks, marked the keys and fixed a leaky drain. The team was able to observe a literacy class and health seminar with the people of the mountains.



Rob McEwin working on foundations



Rob delivered the address at a worship service. His talk on Psalm 121 was first translated from English to Spanish and then from Spanish to Quechua.

The literacy program aims to teach people to read and understand the Scriptures in Quechua. It is part of a wider strategy to improve the faith, health and welfare of the people through 'How to' books on real living, animal husbandry, health, relationships, ministry matters and food growing, by introducing the people to literature they can read.

One Quechua word has 39 letters: 'Hamapayaykachipullautakimnapumiraqnik!' means 'You will keep coming to visit me with great courteousness!'

After a wonderful time on the work party Rob and Phyllis agree with that very long word!

PS - An Adelaide congregation recently donated \$350 for Bibles for the Viscochoni church.

The highlight of the journey was seeing what God is doing in other parts of the world

Many other overseas opportunities exist to help Bible translation around the world. For more information contact Peter or Yvonne Gillespie—see pg 4.

Meet the Savages

One of the many ways that Wycliffe Associates are supporting Bible translation is by teaming up with Associates from other countries. Recently there has been a collaborative relationship between Wycliffe Associates Australia and Wycliffe Associates USA. This has been with the support of Jim and Shelley Savage. 'This cooperation is unique and is yielding a huge blessing not only to the volunteers but also to the missionaries they serve,' said Jim.

Jim is the Pacific Area Director for Wycliffe Associates (WA USA). His job is to meet with SIL and Wycliffe Directors and other leaders of partner organisations to assess ways Wycliffe Associates can support the work of Bible translation. This support includes sending volunteers or a work team, or supplying project funding. Jim communicates with WA USA to advertise for volunteers and to locate funding.

Shelley is the USA Site Volunteer Coordinator for the Pacific Area



overseeing the USA volunteers and teams serving in the Pacific. Her primary function is to match service needs with appropriate volunteers. This involves promoting work teams and volunteer needs, seeking approval and coordinating dates and specific details. Shelley also is responsible for orientation, cultural training, and coordinating the logistics of housing, meals and activities. This enables volunteers to serve in a way that is truly beneficial.

Previously the Savages were stationed at Ukarumpa in the Eastern Highlands of PNG, coordinating volunteers and prior to that they managed a Christian campsite in the USA. Jim has also worked in the electrical field and Shelley as a kindergarten teacher.

'Working with Wycliffe Associates is very fulfilling,' said Shelley, 'and we know that each time a translator is assisted in day to day living, more of God's precious Word becomes available in the heart language of the Pacific peoples.'

Please Pray

- That God will send forth workers into the harvest
- That God's Word will become available in all mother tongues
- That we all may be faithful in supporting Bible translation
- That God will raise up workers to fill the vacancies and support all the coming events

We'd like to provide you with prayer points for the work of Bible translation. Please let us know if you wish to receive them.

Vacancies

- Business Manager & Administrative Officer at the EQUIP Training at Kangaroo Ground.
Email: info_equip@sil.org
- Construction Supervisor at Kokopo near Rabaul PNG for erection of training centre. Contact: Peter Gillespie, see below.

Many other vacancies exist. For information refer to the web address or contact the National Office.

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www.treetopslodge Cairns.maf.org.au



Coming Events

Work Parties for 2009

- 6-27 March - Solomon Islands
- 24 April -15 May - Lae PNG
- 1-22 May - Port Moresby PNG
- 7-28 August - Port Villa, Vanuatu
- 1-20 November - Kangaroo Ground

The skills needed for work parties include: handyman, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting, cooking and sewing. But above all a servant heart.

To join a work party or for more information contact: Peter or Yvonne Gillespie.

Red Centre Tour

22 August - 12 September
See advertisement adjacent

Other events are being planned including dinners and maintenance on missionary homes.

24 DAY 2009 RED CENTRE AND WEST COAST TOUR

This is truly an amazing opportunity and one you will never forget. Come and see the Red Centre and West Coast of Australia with Wycliffe Associates Australia on their 2009 Tour.

The tour starts on 22 August from Melbourne. Travel will take you to Adelaide, Coober Pedy, Alice Springs, Uluru through to Katherine and on to Kakadu. From there you will visit Kununurra and travel down the west coast to Perth.

Check out our website:
www.wycliffe.org.au

or contact John Walder
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