

RIMS: Training and Workshops

Overview

As a part of our commitment to Bible translation in our country, Bible Society is supporting the training of local Bible translators through a Certificate IV degree at Nungalinga Theological College in

Darwin and 'In Community' Bible translation workshops.

The Need

The best Bible translations emerge when there are strong relationships of mutual respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations.

Local language speakers (or Mother Tongue translators) are the custodians of their language, it is part of who they are, and this knowledge is crucial to ensuring the key concepts of Scripture are translated clearly and naturally for the culture.

Mother Tongue translators are vital to the success of any Bible translation project – which have the potential to transform communities, breathing new life into languages and Opening The Bible with many people.

Yet, while many translators are passionate about making the Scriptures available in their heart language, they lack essential knowledge and formal training.



Project Goals

In 2022, BSA plans to continue to support the training of Indigenous Bible Translators through our partnership with Nungalinga Theological College in Darwin.

This year Nungalinga College plans to run a Certificate 2 Course in learning to read and write in an Indigenous Language. This course will form an introduction for those interested in training as a Bible Translator, who need help with the literacy requirements of a translation course.

Nungalinga College is also planning to run a Certificate 2 Course in Indigenous Translating. This will be a new course, specifically designed for Bible Translators,

which the college is hoping to run in 2023 and 2024.

At the beginning of 2022, most Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia were closed to all but 'essential workers', so it was difficult to plan community workshops.

However, this year BSA has been able to organise some Translation Consultancy workshops with translators online, which does 'open the door' to future workshops online with experienced and able translators.

Impact

Louise MacDonald, resource worker with the Uniting Church's Coordinate says, "This is an ongoing project to increase the quality of translation work, but also to bring in a new generation, and because the students are usually also key church leaders within their communities, it will increase the profile of Bible translation work within those communities. It's going to be really significant."

Following an 'In Community' workshop in Maningrida, with students from five different language groups (Njebben, Burarra, Kunwinjku, Kuninjku and Djinang), Louise MacDonald reported: "It has been a wonderful week, with all participants returning each day having grappled with the previous days' translation challenges with their families and keen to share."

Testimonies

"The course here is helping me build my capacity. It's helping me build my courage."
- Yurranydjil, a Diploma of Translation student and Wangurri Translator.

Prayer Needs

- Thank God for the desire among our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brother and sisters to be trained and serve as Bible Translators.
- Pray that God will help them as they learn and protect them as they travel from their homes to study at Nungalinga College in Darwin.
- Pray also for Nungalinga College, for their principal Ben Van Gelderan as well as Diploma of Translation Course Coordinator Lizz Martin. Pray that God would guide them as they prepare lessons and for his strength, wisdom and patience as they teach.