

## John Nystrom

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**From:** John Nystrom [john\_nystrom@sil.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 16, 2005 12:32 PM  
**To:** 'Nystrom, John'  
**Cc:** 'Bonnie Nystrom'  
**Subject:** NPU 2005-04-15 What can you learn from a photo?  
**Attachments:** image003.gif; image001.jpg; image002.gif

### The Brief Stuff:

- Uncorrupted chapters received from Arop by email
- John to Arop Tuesday 19 April for two weeks, Bonnie and kids to stay at Ukarumpa
- Adding another language? How can we incorporate the Bai Olo team?
- What you can learn about translation and teamwork from just one picture?
- Our project mentioned in Christianity Today article entitled "Wycliffe in Overdrive"  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2005/002/28.74.html>.

### The Good Stuff:

Dear Praying Friends,

We finally were able to get Genesis 8-11 from Arop by email uncorrupted, but we had to do it in a way that takes more work than that end and on this end. **Pray that while I'm in Arop, I can get this fixed on Emil's computer.**

**Please also pray that Beth Fuller, Emil, and I can get the chapters ready before the translators need them.**

**You can also pray for me as I try to set up five new computers that have been provided for the project.** They must be set up all exactly the same to avoid confusion to the translators and extra 'tech support' work for me and for Emil. This is my last trip to Arop before furlough, so I have to get it right.

## What you can learn from just one picture

In our last translation workshop in January, **the Arop team** (Left to Right: Emil, Peter, Linus) spent a lot of time polishing their translations of certain chapters in Genesis so the other teams could use it as their source text. You can learn a lot from this one photo of them doing that.



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It program mentioned in the P.S. below. Note they are looking at two different computers. The computers are connected via our translation center network. This allows them all to see the same translation comfortably without having to crowd around one computer all day.

2) Translation can be hard work, but they are enjoying themselves, **joking around as they work**. Considering the fact that these three guys have had their interpersonal challenges this last year, this is good to see!

3) Emil is the most knowledgeable team member, but he is not touching the computer, but **giving the other team members a chance to develop their skills**. Where did he get that idea from? Maybe he noticed this is what I have been doing for him for 15 years!

4) I'm the white guy in the background talking to **another language group that wants to join** the translation project. What can we learn from that? I can still help them a lot, but the Arop team can do a lot of good quality translation without my constant input. This frees me up to help other teams, including these guys who speak the Bai Olo language. I guess we could draw an analogy based on the fact that I'm out of focus in the background and they are in focus in the foreground, but we'll skip that!

**Please pray** for Emil, Peter, and Linus:

- That they will work well together, especially between translation workshops, to get their translations ready for others to use. This is absolutely critical for the whole project.
- That they will all grow in the Lord and be godly examples to the other translators.

The Arop community pickup truck is not working right now, so **please that the road will be open and that we can find a vehicle to hire to take us to Arop on the 19th**.

Thank you all again for being part of our team.

Yours in Christ

John Nystrom

**P.S.** Our project was mentioned in Christianity Today's February issue in an interview entitled "**Wycliffe in Overdrive**."

Here's the excerpt where my friend Freddy Boswell, who is now our International Translation Coordinator, mentions the Adapt It program we are now using, and then explicitly mentions our project:

"For one thing, we've implemented some creative strategies in the computer area. We have a new program, developed by one of our entrepreneur linguists in Papua New Guinea, called **Adapt It**. This program helps translate from one language to another closely related language. Instead of having a translator go through all of the exegesis, background, and training in order to get a good first draft, the software helps to generate a first draft. If the grammar is very similar, a translator can be trained to make substitutions. It doesn't give a finished translation, but it does give a greatly speeded up first draft that literally can take years off the translation process.

"We also have a new emphasis on what we call the cluster approach. Historically, the Wycliffe model was one team, one language. 'I, Joe Wilson, am attached to the XYZ language.' Things have changed now. Instead of him just working on one language, we are intentionally planning how to multiply the efforts of one individual.

"Wycliffe translator **John Nystrom** asked us a few years ago to start praying for a few languages on the north coast of Papua New Guinea. He was working in one language, but we

did not realistically envision another Wycliffe member living any time soon among people of the other languages. So John now uses a workshop approach. He gathers people who live in each of these related language groups and, for two or three weeks, they go through the Book of Ruth, bit by bit, having them develop the first draft in their language. Afterwards, they can take this translation back to their communities, read it, get input, get corrections, and go from there." (Emphasis mine)

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