



Papua New Guinea



# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Honourable Nick Kuman  
Office of the Minister for Education,  
Port Moresby, NCD



Dear Minister,

Once again, I take great delight in submitting to you this, the 2017 annual report from SIL-PNG, highlighting the work we undertake in partnership with the National Department of Education and many other partner organisations with whom we collaborate.

During our 61 years of service to the people of Papua New Guinea, SIL has had the pleasure of working alongside more than 400 languages, through linguistic research, literacy, Bible translation, Scripture use and training. As part of this work, the 207<sup>th</sup> New Testament was dedicated during 2017 in the Kasua language of Western Province.

While Bible translation is a key part of our work to see ‘God’s Word, in every language, in every life’, we also place great emphasis on the Memorandum of Understanding that exists between SIL and the Government of Papua New Guinea’s National Department of Education.

This MoU defines three Articles under which we operate. The first Article describes our role in research, translation and materials production. As multilingualism and urbanisation have an increasing impact on the country, we want our contribution to better reflect shifts in the use of appropriate technology, vernacular literacy and translation activities, employing contemporary means of disseminating the materials that result from such research.

The second Article describes our role in assistance to the country. We fulfill this article through educational programs in vernacular languages, the training of teachers, and the development of curricula and literacy materials.

The third Article describes our role in secondment and training. Our commitment to training Papua New Guineans remains a very high value, particularly within the areas of our linguistic expertise.

I hope that you will find the information shared in the pages of this annual report informative and inspiring. It speaks to the real impact we in SIL-PNG have in this country through our long-standing and on-going partnership with your Ministry. Thank you for the opportunity accorded by you and your Ministry to continue in this vital work.

David Tute  
Director, SIL-PNG



## Learning to Read

The last years have been a great journey for the “Amamas long Rit na Rait!” adult literacy method. Four separate literacy courses have touched the lives of over 100 people. The last two courses held this year have instituted a new method and ALL of the people who faithfully came to the classes learned to read and write. The course is held in Tok Pisin and we’ve seen that people are generally able to transfer their knowledge into their own language and start to read the Bible in vernacular.

Besides reading and writing, the participants learn so much more. It changes their lives. They are eager to learn more, develop and grow in their community and in church. They feel more equal and independent, more valuable as a person. Not only do they read the Bible, but they also read books, newspapers and health brochures.

The course textbook (also available in audio format), a class workbook and a course teacher’s guide have all been developed for this adult literacy course. A new, companion course called “Amamas long Tis!” began this past year. In December, eight participants learned how to teach the adult literacy course and we look forward to holding this course several more times throughout the coming year.



***“There is a huge hunger to read the Word of God. I will go back to my village and teach all the women to read and write – to read the Bible, understand the meaning of it and to serve God.”***



# Translation & Production

The dedication of the Saliba Half-New Testament was on Wednesday, 24 May 2017, at Sawasawaga United Church. Representatives of the Kwato and the SDA church on Saliba were present and took part when Pastor Toni Sauleah blessed and anointed the books for the use of the churches. A school girl stood with the leaders as the books were blessed. This was an intentional way of including the younger generation in the ceremony, because the children will benefit most from the books as they will have them almost their entire lives.

Because only 120 copies were printed, the books are intended primarily for public use in church services, devotions and other church activities. We hope that distributing those partial New Testaments will prepare people for the time when the whole New Testament will be available, and create a hunger for God's Word.



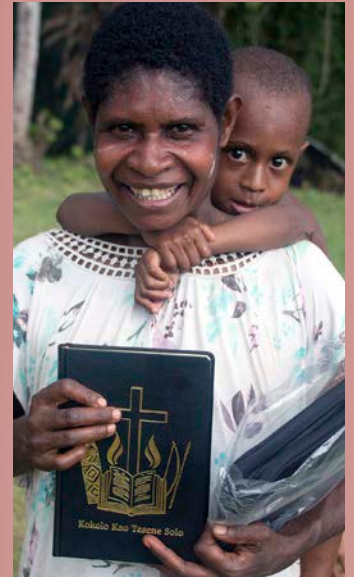
At the dedication of the Barok New Testament in New Ireland, Ed Condra (translation consultant) shared a story of a man who was rescued from a mountain top. The rescuers threw the man a rope and told him to hold on tight so they could pull him to safety. Ed closed by saying,

***“This New  
Testament is your  
rope. Grab the rope.  
Hold on tight!”***





Kasua NT Dedication (Western) in October



75% of the Odoodee NT (Western) in November



Kasua NT dedication (this column)



75% Odoodee NT dedication

## From Rejection to Transformation

“I’m sorry, but we cannot accept your group into our Translator’s Training Course.”

Although the response to their application was very disappointing, the reason given served as a catalyst for something greater. The director of the training course explained, “Since there are 11 of you wanting training, we think you should have your own course there on your island.” Implementing a course was easier said than done, but 18 months later, a Translator Training Course came to fruition on Manus Island.

It became clear that God had something bigger in mind than just training people from this one language group. In fact, 44 people representing 15 languages came to learn the basics of translation. Together they deciphered their own languages to analyze their structures and grammars. They learned translation principles and how to write a key term from the Bible when there is no equivalent word in the local language. They also studied Bible history and geography and learned how to use study helps in translation, including a study Bible.

Their enthusiasm for using the study helps presented a new problem. Because they were not expecting such a large group, the coordinators only brought 18 NIV study Bibles for the group to use. The attendees expressed their concern, “There are 44 of us living in villages spread all over Manus Island. We each need our own study Bibles!” Due to the quick help of a few key people, the Bibles were brought by truck from the highlands of PNG to the coast, then flown on a plane that was scheduled at just the right time to get the books there a day before these newly trained translators returned to their homes.

The course itself brought transformation into the lives of a few of the attendees. One woman was sent by her language group because of her excellent typing skills. During the course she came to understand the significance of Christ’s death and resurrection and to put her faith in him. Another man, a leader of a cargo cult, was also changed. Over the two weeks the group saw a softening in his countenance and heard him begin to apply Scripture to his own life.

As these men and women launch into translation, we pray that they will keep acquiring a fresh understanding of God’s Word and that it will continue to transform their lives and the lives of those in the communities they are serving.



## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

This is a summary of works produced in the past year by personnel of the PNG Branch of SIL and their Papua New Guinea co-workers. This list is not exhaustive. More information is available at [www.pnglanguages.sil.org/resources](http://www.pnglanguages.sil.org/resources).

### VERNACULAR WORK

Bariai – Ninipunga Elementary 1 Aea Tem 3 & 4 and  
Ninipunga Elementary 2 Aea Tem 3 & 4 (literacy  
materials)

Barok – New Testament

Baruga – New Testament audio recording

Bwaidoka – Scripture portions [Genesis]

Doromu-Koki – New Testament with audio recording

Enga – audio recording [Luke]

Abadi – Scripture portions [Mark]

Kasua – New Testament

Kope – shell books (literacy materials)

Korafe – audio recording

Kuot – audio recording

Mato – calendar (literacy materials) and  
New Testament audio recording

Menya – New Testament audio recording

Misima – calendar (literacy materials)

Molata – book of stories (literacy materials)

Nama – audio recording [Mark and songs]

Nukna – Scripture portions [Luke and Acts]  
and audio recording [Luke and Acts]

Odoodee – partial New Testament

Onobasulu – Scripture portions [Luke] and  
audio recording [Luke]

Saliba – partial New Testament

Seimat – audio recording [I Corinthians, II Corinthians,  
Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians]

Tok Pisin – audio recording [‘Amamas long  
Rit na Rait’] and two health videos

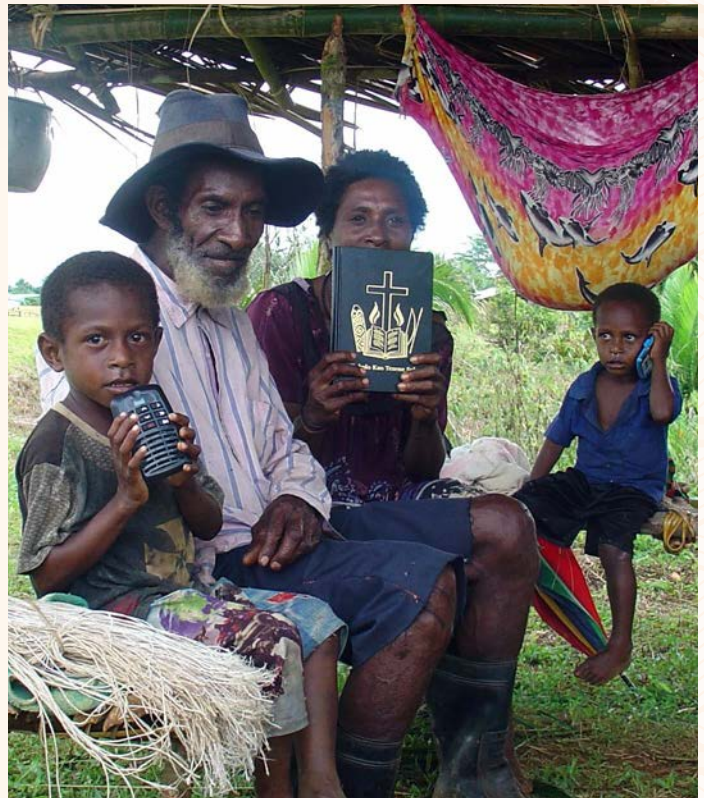
Urim – data papers

Wampar – calendar (literacy materials)

### DECODABLE STORIES

See page 8 for more information on decodable stories.  
Many of these languages have produced multiple  
readers (indicated by ‘x2’).

Agarabi (x2), Alambalak, Alekano (x2), Ap Ma (x4), Awa  
(x2), Benabena (x2), Binumarien (x2), Gadsup (x2), Halia,  
Inoke-Yate (x2), Kairiru, Kamano-Kafe (x2), Kamasau,  
Kanite, Manambu, Nehan, North Tairora (x2), Petats,  
Rapoisi, Rotokas, Sinae-Unggai (x2), Saposa, Sibe, Sos  
Kundi, South Tairora (x2), Teapu, Terei Tokano (x2),  
Usarufa (x2), Watakataui, Yessan Mayo



translation is often available in audio and book form



a few of this year's publications

# Education & Literacy

## Applying Expertise in Partnership

SIL-PNG has partnered with Save the Children and Callan Services National Unit in a new program called Rapidly Improving Standards in Elementary – Papua New Guinea (RISE PNG). SIL has held three workshops helping 30 languages to develop 64 decodable stories in East Sepik, Eastern Highlands, and Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

In addition to developing Elementary material, SIL is pioneering new apps for literacy. Education for Life has been recording the 64 decodable stories and all 30 languages will have talking books available for smartphones and tablets.

RISE PNG is working with the National Department of Education, Provincial Education Advisors, District Education Officers, and other education authorities in Papua New Guinea. RISE PNG will provide training to Elementary teachers along with providing home language literacy materials for Elementary schools and community libraries. The goal is to impact 600 Elementary schools in the three provinces in 2018 and 2019.

SIL's Correna Janzen has been doing translation among the Sos Kundi people of the East Sepik province for the past ten years. During her time there, the vernacular has never been used in the educational system. Through the RISE program, there is great potential for increased production of vernacular materials and for those materials to be widely distributed throughout the language area. This could have a positive impact on language vitality and status. Correna has already seen some positive results:

***“When the two Sos Kundi ladies returned to their village after the first RISE workshop, one of the women was asked by some of the parents if she could teach their children to read in Sos Kundi. She has also been chosen to teach some of the women of her village using the decodable reader that was produced at the workshop.”***



3 years 30 languages 600 schools



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

### DECODABLE STORY

Literacy is taught in stages. Through this method, a letter and sound is introduced to the learner (like 'a' as it is pronounced in the word 'at'). Then, as additional letters are introduced, they are added to what has previously been taught (like learning 'c' and then being able to recognize the word 'cat').

The story is a simple sentence that uses the learned letters and sounds. Simple sentences (like 'The cat is fat.') are used to build simple paragraphs, which make up the decodable story.

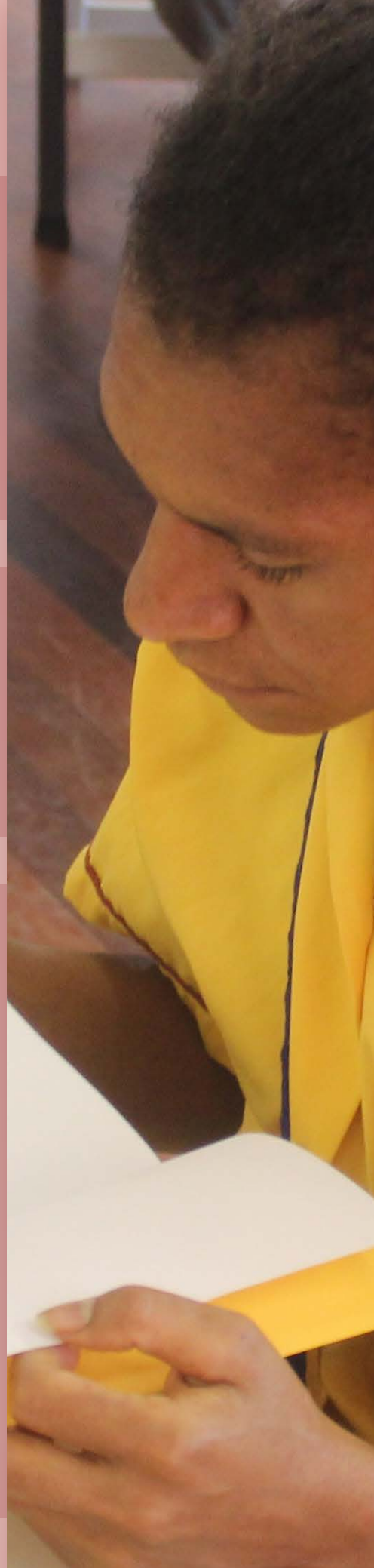
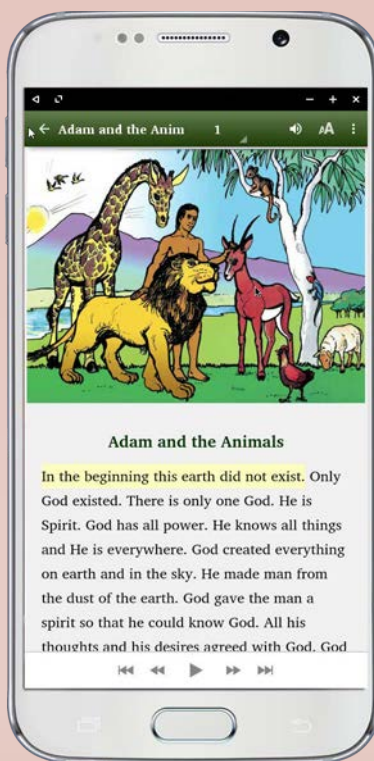
### EDUCATION FOR LIFE

A department of SIL, Education for Life is focused on developing a series of apps for smartphones and tablets that will assist both teachers and students in the area of literacy. Unlike hard copy books, these freely distributed apps can be updated regularly and are simple to distribute as they can be sent out on currently established networks.

### TALKING BOOKS

Is there a simple way to increase literacy skills outside the classroom? These digital books do just that by including an audio version of the text. As the learner reads through the book, the audio follows along and the text is highlighted in sync with the audio. The combination of visual and audio stimuli help learners develop literacy skills faster.

These stories allow the same image to be used in both vernacular and English books, helping create a link between languages in literacy.



# Training & Growth

A broad range of courses are offered both at Ukarumpa and throughout the country. This list includes many of the courses offered this past year. For more information, contact [pilat@sil.ac.pg](mailto:pilat@sil.ac.pg) or visit [www.pngtraining.sil.ac.pg/course](http://www.pngtraining.sil.ac.pg/course).

- Jan – PARATEXT 8;** 6 participants, 5 languages, held in Ukarumpa [*training on updated features and tools*]  
**TRANSLATION CONSULTANT TRAINING;** held in Ukarumpa [*training in the basics of translation consulting*]
- Feb – BASIC EXEGESIS;** 9 participants, 5 languages, held in Ukarumpa [*intro to basic concepts and practices used to interpret the Bible*]  
**PARATEXT II;** 8 participants, 5 languages, held in Ukarumpa [*intermediate level training in the Paratext software for Bible translation*]
- Mar – TRANSLATOR’S TRAINING COURSE (TTC) WORKTIME;** 12 participants, held in Manus [*time geared towards completing TTC assignments*]
- Apr – TTC MENTOR TRAINING;** held in Ukarumpa  
**TTC PRE-COURSE ENGLISH ENRICHMENT;** 11 participants, 3 languages, held in Ukarumpa [*an English refresher course*]  
**TTC I;** 13 participants, 3 languages, held in Ukarumpa [*intro to translation, focusing on Genesis*]  
**TTC II;** 13 participants, 5 languages, held in Ukarumpa [*continued translation training in the Old Testament, including some Hebrew*]
- May – PARATEXT I;** 11 participants, 4 languages, held in Kokopo [*intro to the Paratext software for Bible translation*]  
**PARATEXT I;** 20 participants, 10 languages, held in Alotau
- July – APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY;** held in Ukarumpa [*covers topics such as kinship, social structure, exchange and worldview as they relate to working in PNG*]  
**BACK TRANSLATION;** 16 participants, 6 languages, held in Ukarumpa [*strengthens skills in creating back translations for consultant checking*]  
**VERNACULAR CREATIVE PHONICS;** 14 participants, 2 languages, held in Kokopo [*training in teaching vernacular through a phonics-based system*]  
**PARATEXT I;** 17 participants, 9 languages, held in Manus  
**TTC II;** 21 participants, 6 languages, held in Alotau
- Aug – BASIC COMPUTING;** 12 participants, 9 languages, held in Ukarumpa [*intro to foundational skills of using a computer and desktop publishing*]
- Aug – DISCOVER YOUR LANGUAGE;** 28 participants, 10 languages, held in Manus [*helps students investigate the grammatical structure of their own language, in order to better understand the process of translation*]  
**DWU TRAINING;** held in Ukarumpa [*training administrators in the creation of talking books and in the creation of content for e-learning*]  
**HEBREW I;** 11 participants, 9 languages, held in Ukarumpa [*intro to Biblical Hebrew*]  
**PARATEXT I;** 13 participants, 7 languages, held in Ukarumpa  
**PARTICIPATORY METHODS FOR ENGAGING COMMUNITIES (PMEC);** held in Ukarumpa [*training in how to facilitate discussions with groups of people so that they have the capacity to make plans for the development of their own language*]  
**VERNACULAR CREATIVE PHONICS;** 13 participants, 8 languages, held in Ukarumpa
- Sept – PROGRAM PLANNING;** 22 participants, 5 languages, held in Alotau [*helps translation teams plan out their programs with long-term strategies*]  
**TRANSLATION COMMITTEE TRAINING;** 18 participants, 7 languages, held in Madang  
**TYPESETTING;** held in Ukarumpa [*basic training in migrating translation from Paratext to InDesign in preparation for publication*]
- Oct – DISCOVER YOUR LANGUAGE;** 3 participants, 2 languages, held in Ukarumpa  
**RISE WRITER’S WORKSHOP;** 15 participants, 7 languages, held in Wewak [*production of vernacular elementary stories*]  
**RISE WRITER’S WORKSHOP;** 18 participants, 9 languages, held in Buka
- Nov – AMAMAS LONG TIS;** held in Ukarumpa [*trains participants to teach Tok Pisin literacy*]  
**RISE WRITER’S WORKSHOP;** 28 participants, 14 languages, held in Ukarumpa  
**VERNACULAR PATH TO ENGLISH (VPE);** 17 participants, 16 languages [*trains national Elementary teachers how to bridge to English from their foundation in vernacular literacy*]

## Training the Translators

Papua New Guineans in every province of PNG are dedicated to translating God's Word into their own heart language. In July and August, 21 of these faithful men and women, representing six languages, spent five weeks away from their families so they could receive intense training in Bible translation at a TTC II course in Alotau.

Students learned translation principles, grammar, and the art of writing a sentence that flows smoothly and naturally, yet remains true to the original meaning. Through drama and role play, they experienced the excitement of crossing the Red Sea, the hope revealed in the Passover meal, and the joy of writing songs of victory.

All six of the language groups represented – Buhutu, Ghayavi, Kaninuwa, Misima, Saisai and Uare – already have some Scripture in their language, ranging from two books to the entire New Testament. Each of the participants translated some portions of Genesis and Exodus as part of their training. Most of them plan to continue in New Testament translation as well.



One of the participants, named Vetari, told why he was happy to attend the course. He explained,

***“At this time,  
most of our pastors are  
from other language groups so when  
they preach it is in English or in the Motu  
language and it is hard for us to understand.  
It is much better for us to translate the  
Word of God into our own language  
so our people can understand it  
and use it in their lives.”***

These participants have now returned to their home provinces better equipped to carry on the task of Bible translation. They are just a few of the many Papua New Guineans who embrace the fact that God's Word was written for them and was meant to be understood by all people in all languages, including theirs.



God's Word  
in Every Language  
in Every Life



Papua New Guinea

