

Call to Prayer

March – April 2010

परमप्रभुको निम्ति कुनै कुरो
paramprabhuko nimti kunai kuro
The LORD, for anything

औधी कठिन छ र?
audhi kathin cha ra?
too hard is?

Genesis 18:14, Nepali

is anything too hard for the LORD?

■ **Mon 1 Nepal:** Two people died and 14 were wounded in a **bomb attack** on a church last year, and the brains behind the incident was imprisoned. Of the 500 other prisoners, 150 have professed faith and are attending Christian meetings. After being visited by someone from a nearby church, this man also turned to the LORD. Let's pray for his spiritual growth and witness (Phil 1:14), and for the protection of Bible translation from the activities of religious and political militants.



Himalaya, Nepal "If you have faith...say to this mountain, 'Move!'" Matt 17:20

■ **Tue 2 Colombia:** Bible translation is progressing steadily among the K people, despite strong **resistance to all outside influence**, including modern education and health care. The culture is extremely authoritarian, and the community leaders insist that everyone must follow the religion of their ancestors. In October, **33 Christians were imprisoned** in order to

force them to conform. "Ah, Sovereign LORD, nothing is too hard for you!" (Jer 32:17)

■ **Wed 3 Brazil, Audrey Taylor:** "Last year, **drugs-related violence and killings** in one Kaiwa community reached an all-time high. There was vandalism outside the church, and division within it. Brazilian missionaries were expelled from another Kaiwa village. But in a third village near the Paraguayan border, 23 young Kaiwa men were delivered from alcohol addiction and baptised."

■ **Thu 4 Cameroon:** A mother-tongue translator who has worked diligently since 1994 has **taken a second wife**. The local translation association cannot expect to retain the support of the churches while employing a polygamist. Pray that God will work this out for good (Rom 8:28), and that it will not lead to recriminations and lawsuits, which could threaten the continuation of the translation project.

■ **Fri 5 Malaysia:** Religious disputes have strained relations between Malays, Chinese and Indians in recent years. In January, the High Court ruled in favour of a Malay-language Christian newspaper using 'Allah' for 'God', but the government argued that this could re-ignite racial conflict. Following the court ruling, a large church was firebombed. Discussing how to translate **key biblical terms like 'God', 'Holy Spirit'** etc. often inflames opinions. (news.asiaone.com)

■ **Sat 6** Youna, a member of Global Bible Translators, was teaching children from minority language groups in **Bangladesh** to read until a few months ago, when she needed **major surgery for cancer**. One of her colleagues writes, “From the start, her contagious joy made

this a happier place. We are trusting God for healing. She believes that, whether she dies now or lives another 50 years, the pain is just ‘a passing thing’. Youna is living in the peace that passes understanding.”

Global Bible Translators (GBT)

■ **Sun 7 Korea:** GBT was formed in 1984 and is **the largest national Bible translation organisation in Asia**, with 193 members and 23 more in training or on short-term assignments. Pray for encouragement and good progress on the 44 current language projects.

■ **Mon 8** Praise God for 17 people who joined GBT in 2009! In February, 30 GBT members completed their training. Some are seeking **God’s leading and provision for future service overseas**, while others will start their training in March.

■ **Tue 9 Stephen Levinsohn** is leading **two linguistics courses** at Handong (Christian) University from 5 April to 20 May, assisted by Dr Kim Dae-won, a very gifted man with experience in Bible translation. “Although the students are not being taught in their own language, pray that they will grasp the concepts clearly and be able to relate them to the task of Bible translation.”



Stephen Levinsohn with Korean students (9 Mar)

■ **Wed 10** Chung Je-soon writes, “GBT always need three things from the Lord: wisdom to run a **training** programme that is relevant to the needs of Asians; the right **students** with the vision and the spiritual and mental qualities for this work; and enough **staff** with the technical knowledge and the ability to relate to students on their level. Whenever you think of us, please pray for these things.”

■ **Thu 11** The **12th New Testament** that GBT members have helped to translate has been launched in the UK by Christians from the same part of Asia. Christians in the South Domani homeland face many restrictions. Pray for widespread distribution through internet downloads, as well as print copies where possible. Now that a significant part of God’s word is available, pray that people will be drawn to the truth, edified and encouraged.

■ **Fri 12** The **first Bible** produced with help from GBT (North Domani) has been published in



Chung Je-Soon (10 Mar)

West Asia. Pray that God will open doors for distribution. *“What he opens no-one can shut.”* (Rev 3:7) Pray that believers in the homeland and in other countries will be strengthened.

■ **Sat 13** Now the Domani translators are working hard to **complete the OT** by October. They have also committed themselves to **start** translating the Bible into **two more languages** spoken in the country. *“I am the Beginning and the End.”* (Rev 21:6)

■ **Sun 14** Pray for opportunities to report the exciting news about Bible translation among the **churches** in Korea, and to challenge many more **young people** to dedicate their lives to the work. GBT’s faith goal is that, by 2025, some of the 58,000 churches will commit themselves to supporting **300 new language projects**.

■ **Mon 15 UK, Wycliffe Centre: Fifty Korean church leaders** from across Europe are meeting for their annual conference. Pray for a time of renewal and encouragement, and that they will hear God calling them to reach out to other Asian communities in Europe and to the 2,300 language communities worldwide that do not have the Scriptures in their language. May the Holy Spirit open their eyes, fire their enthusiasm and harness their wills.

■ **Tue 16 Seo Cheong-il, Wycliffe Centre:** “May God give the **80+ Korean churches** in London and elsewhere a vision to get involved in Bible translation! Please pray for good communication skills for building relationships, God-given opportunities for challenging them, and good English for communicating with the natives on these islands!”

■ **Wed 17 (cont)** “After two years encouraging other Koreans in the UK, a big encouragement for us: in April we will be **taking 10 Koreans to see a Bible translation project** in a sensitive country for themselves. Pray that this will give them a vision for helping others to have God’s word in their language, and a better understanding about what part they can play in the process.”



Presenting the challenge of Bible translation to Korean Christians (15 Mar)

twelve new testaments in one year!

■ **Thu 18 The NT in 12 more languages of Papua New Guinea!** The Lote NT was launched on **9 January**, preceded by the Jesus Film. At one stage in the translation process, the roof of the Wycliffe couple’s house was blown off. Pray that the Holy Spirit will blow through the Lote community as they open their minds and hearts to God’s word.

■ **Fri 19 On 26 February** it was the Miniafia people’s turn. Three times during the translation process, the Wycliffe linguists had to leave, but Stanley Oyabua and Josiah Jaeve, members of the PNG organisation BTA*, **soldiered on**. Despite sickness, bereavement, spiritual attack and financial struggle, they completed the NT 20 years later. Pray that the Miniafia Scriptures will strengthen the believers too.

*Bible Translation Association



Just finished reading through the Lote NT for the last time! (18 Mar)

■ **Sat 20** Every time Scripture is published, the printed copies have to be delivered to the people, usually by **light aircraft**. Our reliable and resourceful team of pilots and mechanics serve the needs of communities beyond mountains, rivers, swamps and sea. In the past year they flew **2,500+ hours** and transported **6,400+ people** and **430,000 kg+** of cargo. Mountain and ocean weather conditions can be erratic, and take-off and landing conditions are sometimes precarious. This calls for prayer, faith, skill, courage, dedication and good team work.

■ **Sun 21** Abraham Vaelani and a team of Polynesian translators hope to launch the Takuu NT at **Easter**. This depends on the printed copies arriving from Sri Lanka, sufficient funds being raised for transporting them **925 miles by sea** to their tiny Pacific atoll, and a ship being found—all at the same time! God's timing is perfect, and so is his peace! (Isa 26:3)

■ **Mon 22** The revised Ama NT will also be launched at **Easter**. A previous version was published in 1990, but a revision is now needed, using **contemporary language** that the younger generation can understand. Meanwhile, the Wycliffe linguists who worked on both translations are learning another language and helping local people to translate God's word. There are still 300 language groups in PNG without God's word!

■ **Tue 23 (cont) Kate King:** "Translating God's word for all these groups so that it shoots their stomachs* involves **tremendous challenges**—a decline in recruitment from the USA and Europe; funding issues; effective partnering with other organisations; multi-language workshops; producing audio Scripture for oral communities; providing technical training for local translators with only very basic education... (*'sutim bel' (Tok Pisin: 'speaks to the heart'))"

■ **Wed 24** Please pray that printed copies of the Haruai NT will reach the people by **mid-2010**. This is the third NT that **John and Maila Davies** have helped to translate. Since 1997, thousands of Haruai, Kobon and Minimib children have learned to read and write in their own language in Living Word Schools, and 200 adults have been trained to run them. This year 89 more are being trained. People who were bitter enemies are now working and learning together. God's kingdom is coming, founded on his word in the mother tongue! (christcm.com/PNG.htm)

■ **Thu 25 Drugs and drunkenness** among Mandara younger people were having a destructive influence on the whole Mandara community, but the power of God's word in their heart language has dramatically transformed the lives of many of them. Pray that the NT will reach the people in **May**.

■ **Fri 26** The Molima NT was **typeset upside-down!** The typesetter was suffering from some kind of vertigo virus, so he had to work on it lying



Now they can sing to God in Takuu (21 Mar)

horizontal—a last-ditch attempt by the enemy to prevent the Molima people from receiving and understanding the good news of salvation? The NT should be published on **27 July**. “My word will not return to me empty.” (Isa. 55:11)

■ **Sat 27** Just before the typesetting of the Yopno NT and Psalms, the Reeds’ children were going through a difficult transition from PNG to their parents’ homeland, so Wes and LeeAnn were torn between their responsibilities and feelings for their children and also for the Yopno community. But God cares for everyone. They finished the NT, and the launch will take place on **7 August**. Everyone finds **transition** hard—going or coming, married or single—and it doesn’t get easier.



Learning together in our own language (27 Mar)

■ **Sun 28** “I spent three days in sin,” wrote Don Hutchisson, while searching for the best way to

translate 102 **key biblical terms** into Sursurunga. “I dabbled with being unclean, defiled, and impure. I took a look at hell. I had to deal with evil spirits and Satan, judgment and condemnation...” Following the NT launch in **August**, pray that the Sursurunga people will understand the full meaning of key terms like holiness, purity and God.

■ **Mon 29** Delivering God’s word to the Malei people has been like a **relay** race, until the Lindstroms finished the last stretch. On **11 December**, the baton will be passed to the Malei people. “Impress (these commandments) on your children...” (Deut 6:7)

■ **Tue 30 Lynn Wood**: “A few years ago, a Japanese colleague working with the Ata people **died suddenly** in Japan, leaving his wife Chiyoko and two teenage children. Instead of remaining in Japan and leaving the Ata NT to others, they returned to PNG, since this was now the children’s home, and kept going. I have tried to encourage and support Chiyoko and her colleague Nozomi ever since. The launch is scheduled for **January 2011**.”

■ **Wed 31** If Sael had not dedicated herself 100% to translating the Nehan NT, her family could have expected a high ‘bride price’ for such an attractive and gifted girl. Sael and her brother Barry hope to have the NT ready for **typesetting this month**, and for publication in **January 2011**. Getting to the island can be dangerous; another boat went missing recently.

april

what about those who have never heard?

■ **Thu 1 Ghana**: When the Chumburung Jesus Film was released, 2,600 people in 3 villages came to see it and **670+ believed!** Pray that the 90+ people who have been trained will be

faithful in discipling them, and in showing the film in the 41 other villages. **Keir and Gillian Hansford** write, “This is the greatest turning to Christ we have heard of in all the 33 years we

have been associated with the translation programme.”

■ **Fri 2** The Monsoanka, Biafada, and Kobiana language groups are some of the smallest in **Guinea Bissau**. They have heard very little of the gospel and hardly any are believers. Traditional religion has a strong following and there is intense persecution against new Christians. The Mansoanka translators have just finished Luke’s Gospel and the **Jesus Film** script.

■ **Sat 3 Guinea Bissau, Audrey Skinner:** “The **One Story** method is an effective way to teach thematic Bible stories to communities who speak an unwritten language (onestory.org). Recently nine people were trained to craft and tell stories. Three showed remarkable ability, but one repeatedly experienced spiritual attack—like being beaten about the ears. **Pray that God’s powerful word will defeat the spirits.**”

■ **Easter Day, Brazil:** “Ohhhh, Great Chief. It’s you! Oh wow!” Pray that Mary Magdalene’s joyful recognition of the risen Christ will impact the Apinaye people who hear the **audio recording** of the Easter story on MegaVoice audio players, especially today. These were distributed in January.

■ **Mon 5 Brazil:** Good readers are needed to help record **66 NT stories** on MegaVoice players in May. God’s word is for nonliterate too! “The translation must be tested among old and young, educated and illiterate. There are new concepts that are hard for some people to understand, given their worldview and customs. Pray that God will open their hearts and let his light shine.”

■ **Tue 6 Mark Datson:** The Jula **Radio Drama** Team produces dramatised Scripture recordings for broadcasting via 50 radio stations to 1 million+ Jula people in **Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast** and **Mali**. They dream of having their own recording studio, in order to house the recordings already made, and to be able to continue producing drama that reaches many

non-Christian homes not reachable in any other manner. (malidreams.blogspot.com)

■ **Wed 7** (cont) Siriki Sekongo, Director: “We have recorded a new set of **30-minute dramatised stories** from Genesis to Acts. ‘Joseph’, one of the actors we hired, was deeply touched by the love and forgiveness the real Joseph showed his brothers, so he **accepted the Lord Jesus Christ!** He took copies of the ‘Joseph’ recordings, and we pray that his family and friends listened to them. May the Holy Spirit illuminate and direct him on the Way to the Truth and Life.”

■ **Thu 8** (cont) “**Listeners love the stories about OT characters** like Noah, Abraham, Moses and King Solomon, since they have heard about them from their own religious leaders. Pray that they will read the much fuller account in the Bible, and understand the meaning behind it.”

■ **Fri 9** (cont) Pray for ongoing discussions between the Jula team and a **major Christian radio network** about broadcasting some of the radio dramas they have produced over the last eight years throughout **West Africa**.

■ **Sat 10** (cont) “Try hard to understand the full meaning of the text... Put yourself in the shoes of your character... Think of their personality, their temperament, their behaviour... What do they like?” These are some of the **tips for actors** compiled by the drama team from their long and wide experience. Pray that God will inspire and mobilise other Christians to produce dramatised Scripture for **recording or live performance** in local languages.

■ **Sun 11** (cont) The drama team’s current priority is to record the Kouya translation of Luke-Acts for distribution on MegaVoice players in **Ivory Coast**. **Philip and Heather Saunders** write: “The Kouya NT was published at the start of civil war in Ivory Coast. Kouya territory straddled the front line, hampering Scripture distribution and literacy teaching. Please pray

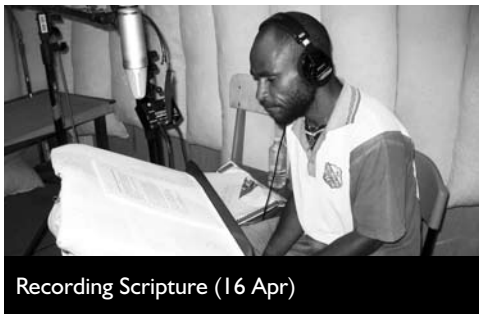
that hearing God's word in their own language will have a huge impact."

■ **Mon 12** (cont) In Kouya communities, as in many others around the world, **information is normally shared orally**. Thanks to gifts from believers in N. Ireland, each Kouya village will receive three players, under church supervision. Pray for the formation of **listening groups** and the training of group leaders. Groups will meet weekly to listen to Scripture, discuss, ask questions, and apply the teaching to their lives. Pray that the fire, hammer and sword of God's word will work as never before. (faithcomesbyhearing.org)

■ **Tue 13 Cameroon:** Over 22,000 people in Mofu villages are meeting regularly to hear and discuss dramatised recordings of Mofu Scripture, and **125 people have professed faith in Christ!** There are more groups in urban areas. Pray for fruit that lasts. (John 15:16)

■ **Wed 14 Ivory Coast:** Music has a prominent role in Kru society. Now that Mark and Luke have been translated into three Kru languages, a workshop is being planned to encourage translators and musicians to develop songs based on the Kru Scriptures, in the Kru music style. Pray for songs that communicate at the deepest level.

■ **Thu 15** Translators working on a **cluster of Asian languages** are preparing Scripture portions for distribution in **audio and video formats**. Pray that in this way God's word will reach people who otherwise may never know the truth because of distribution restrictions or



Recording Scripture (16 Apr)

illiteracy. Scripture portions in one language are already being broadcast by radio.

■ **Fri 16** (cont) Recording in another language is complicated by the difficulty of finding enough clear and expressive voices for the wide variety of roles. Some people may be **afraid that their voices will be recognised**. Pray that God will move people to commit themselves to working intensively and long-term.

■ **Sat 17** (cont) A third translation team would like to record some of the Psalms in short clips for distribution to **mobile phones**, with music in the local style. Gifted and versatile **musicians** are needed, and a producer who will take responsibility for this project.

■ **Sun 18** Some have never heard because they are Deaf. For them, reading Scripture in the national language does not have the same impact as seeing it in their mother tongue—a sign language. A new website presents Scripture in **animated signed form**, both in **Spanish SL** and **Catalan SL**. Pray that people who use these SLs will visit this website and experience the life-changing impact of God's word. (biblialsesc.org)

■ **Mon 19** Deaf Bible translators and potential translators from 13 Latin American countries were excited to meet and enjoy fellowship at a conference in Colombia. "This was a **tipping point for Bible translation in the sign languages of Latin America**," says **Geoffrey Hunt**. "Let's pray that they will continue to encourage one another, and not be overly influenced by the words and grammar of spoken languages."

■ **Tue 20** (cont) During the conference, **two Deaf participants and an interpreter gave their lives to Christ!** "*He even makes the Deaf hear and the mute speak!*" Matt 7:37

■ **Wed 21 Kenya:** Pray for the completion of a Bible translation and training centre, that will accommodate up to 100 people working simultaneously on 10 **SL projects**. Deaf Opportunity Outreach is a key partner in Bible translation for the Deaf. (doorinternational.com)

healing the wounds of the heart in the language of the heart

■ **Thu 22 Margaret Hill:** “Wycliffe is involved in **trauma healing** around the world at the request of church leaders. There are many causes of trauma—war, criminal activity, natural disasters... The teaching materials follow good mental health principles within a biblical framework. We need wisdom in planning how to respond to the many needs.”

■ **Fri 23** Twenty-one church leaders and Bible translators from seven language groups were invited to the first trauma healing training workshop in **PNG** in February. They started translating the training manual into all seven languages, so that it can be used to help people traumatised by the ten-year Bougainville civil war, in which **10% of the population died**.

■ **Sat 24** A workshop was held in Wau, Southern **Sudan**, in February. Church leaders were trained to hold healing workshops for the thousands of victims of **war and famine**. Some of the participants are translating the manual into their languages for use in these workshops.

■ **Sun 25** (cont) The NT has been published in three languages spoken around Wau—Ndogo (2001), Luwo (2003) and Dinka Rek (2008). Pray that, as a result of the trauma healing workshop, Christians will learn to **use God’s word** in their own language in order to **find answers** to problems.

■ **Mon 26** A trauma healing book for children has made a big impact in **Uganda, Liberia** and **Thailand**. Funds are needed to give this training to more people working with children in churches. At a recent course, one boy in an

orphanage, who had been angry, aggressive and mainly silent, was finally able to talk about his anger and his whole attitude to life changed.

■ **Tue 27 Nigeria:** Groups of Christian leaders have been trained in trauma healing over the last few years. There is an increasing need for training following the **murder** of pastors and other Christians, and the burning of churches and homes. Pray for good co-operation between organisations seeking to help.

■ **Wed 28** Trauma workshops all need **funds** for accommodation, travel, materials and equipment. Some participants come from areas that have been devastated. A table tennis tournament at the Wycliffe Centre, UK, last November raised £204 for this purpose.

■ **Thu 29** Members of other agencies sometimes come to training workshops and then hold workshops for trauma victims where they work. An agency which has been helping victims of the **Boxing Day Tsunami** will hold the first training workshop in **Malaysia** in June. About 30 people are expected. Pray that they will have the vision and ability to lead healing workshops in their home areas. Pray that the ripples from this workshop will reach where the need is greatest.

■ **Fri 30 UK:** Please pray for the training workshop at Bawtry Hall (24 – 28 May) for people involved in giving **pastoral care** and helping **refugees** and **asylum seekers**. Pray that the staff will be sensitive to the participants’ needs, and that those who have received much will give much.